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FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

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WESTERN INTERIOR

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Lake Lucille Lodge

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Wasilla, Alaska

13

October 16, 2003

14

8:30 o'clock a.m.

15

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17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18

19

20 WESTERN INTERIOR

21 Ronald Sam, Chair

22 Angela Demientieff

23 Benedict Jones

24 Emmitt Peters

25 Jack Reakoff

26 Michael Stickman

27 Robert Walker

28

29

30 Regional Council Coordinators: Vince Mathews

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Wasilla, Alaska - 10/16/2003)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can everyone hear me?

8 Okay. If everyone could find their seats, I would like

9 to proceed at this time. Call the meeting to order.

10 Vince, can you take the roll call.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Emmitt

13 Peters.

14

15 MR. PETERS: Here.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff.

18

19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Robert Walker.

22

23 MR. WALKER: Yes.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Micky Stickman.

26

27 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: Yep.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

38

39 MR. JONES: Here.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman and Council

42 members, if those headsets aren't working, we may need to

43 do some adjustments. So try the headsets out. We had a

44 little trouble with them day before yesterday. So can

45 you guys hear me on the headsets.

46

47 MR. JONES: Yes.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you. So you

50 had eight of -- seven of the nine members. Carl Morgan

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1 is absent.

2

3

CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl asked a couple of our Council members that he be excused. He is pretty busy, and he will be pretty busy until the 27th and 28th of this month in preparation for upcoming State Legislature. So he asked to be excused. And the record will note he is excused.

9

And just before we start, again we do not -- we usually do not have invocation, because it never was part of our agenda before until we come to the villages where we recognize elders. However, if we do want invocation, Benedict Jones is willing to give it.

15

16

What's the pleasure of the Board?

17

18

MR. STICKMAN: Go ahead.

19

20

CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Benedict, give a brief invocation, please.

22

23

MR. JONES: Yeah, thank the Lord for this day for our gathering here, the Western Interior Region, and those that attending, the agents and the Staff that guide us, Lord, through this day, to our subsistence way of life, for our fish and game, and that in the future that we work for our childrens. So bless us, Lord, for this day, and thank You. Amen.

29

30

31

CHAIRMAN SAM: Just before we convened, Angela asked that we have a moment of silence for all the people within our region, everybody throughout the State, we have relatives throughout the State, so a moment of silence. For many of you who weren't here before, we are missing one of our long-time Council member. He's been secretary, chairman, everything to this Council. So in our moment of silence, I would like you to all remember and pray for quick recovery for Ray Collins, so with that, we'll go into a moment of silence.

41

42

(Pause)

43

44

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, thank you for bearing with us.

46

47

Hopefully this will be a short day. Before we go into the agenda, you will note that you have a new two-page one in front of you on its own. There has been some changes, and a lot of that is to accommodate a

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1 lot of our agencies and their reports, that we receive
2 these reports while the directors of our national
3 wildlife refuge and all that while are present. And I
4 see Vince has his hand up, so I hope this is house
5 cleaning, because a lot of us are mistaken as to whether
6 we leave tonight or should we pack up and everything.
7 Vince.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, before I
10 get to that, I didn't get a chance to get to the
11 presenters. For those that are presenting the items
12 under Office of Subsistence Management reports,
13 regulatory cycle review, predator management, et cetera,
14 the timing is you're going to do them here first, then
15 you're going to go to Eastern, and then to Yukon-
16 Kuskokwim in the afternoon.

17

18 We also moved up the proposals for
19 fisheries that you deferred to here. They're going to be
20 coming up first here, and those staff will then go to --
21 well, they won't need to go anywhere, but anyway, if
22 there is any overlaps, we're trying to make all the
23 overlaps start here and then go to the other Councils,
24 because they have a lot more on their agenda.

25

26 For the staying where, the people that
27 need to pack up or check out, I suppose is another way of
28 saying it, today would be Jack Reakoff for this Council,
29 because he has an early morning flight. And then we're
30 going to transport him and other members from other
31 councils to Anchorage so they can catch their flights
32 tomorrow morning. So Jack needs to check out. The rest
33 of you, and we're working on Angela's, we may need to do
34 some adjustment on Angela's, but for the rest of you, we
35 need to leave here tomorrow morning by 7:15, so you've
36 got to be pretty much all packed and out front so we can
37 get a huge contingent of you guys to the YRDFA meeting
38 which starts at 9:00. So the rest of you do not need to
39 check out today, just Jack does.

40

41 And then once we get the bugs ironed out
42 on the van schedule, which will probably be after lunch,
43 we'll hand you a sheet that will show you which van
44 you're going to go to. And so we'll work that out.

45

46 So that's all the housekeeping that I had
47 for here, unless other Staff know of any other
48 housekeeping items. I don't see any.

49

50 So again, to Staff, be flexible we're

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1 trying to move things around as efficiently as we can,
2 but Eastern Interior does have a whole bunch of overlap
3 proposals with Southcentral and Yukon-Kuskokwim needs to
4 deal with those Kuskokwim proposals. So please be
5 flexible. The easiest way to do that is to work with the
6 Chair on the best schedule. And, sorry, there will be
7 other different presentations here later in the day that
8 will come up, and that will come up on the agenda.

9

10 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

11

12 Oh, finally, the agenda was on the corner
13 over there. It has a date in the upper corner, so if you
14 want to know which one's most current, it says 10/16/03,
15 and try to follow that one. But this Council's pretty
16 efficient, so it's not critical, but if you're bouncing
17 between the rooms, try to get the agenda that's dated
18 10/16/03.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: I got work from Mr.
23 Bergstrom I think or maybe Ms. Klein, that the YRDFA
24 meeting is at the Holiday Inn, is this correct? Because
25 if we are -- those of us who are slated to stay at the
26 Millennium, it will be pretty costly to run back and
27 forth.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Right. We're lodging those
30 coordinating fishery committee members and the chairs at
31 the Millennium. YRDFA asked for those to attend the
32 first day of their two or three-day meeting. So you will
33 be there tomorrow for the YRDFA meeting, and then after
34 that then you will be departing from the Millennium,
35 using their van schedule. And YRDFA's meeting at Holiday
36 Inn downtown. So we'll be using those vans back and
37 forth, to get you back and forth.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 And Don might have an update on that.

42

43 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, Don Rivard with
44 the Office of Subsistence Management. We saw this a
45 little while ago, a day or so ago, talking with Jill
46 Klein, and the folks that are going to be attending the
47 YRDFA meeting on Friday are going to be staying at the
48 Holiday Inn, right where the meeting is going to be. So
49 you're not at the Millennium, you'll be at the Holiday
50 Inn.

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for that
4 clarification. If there's nothing else at this time, we
5 would go to -- go right down the agenda. I think most of
6 us have expressed our concerns, and the topic that we
7 want to, however, at this time, if you do have a topic or
8 concern that concerns Western Interior only, you do have
9 the opportunity at this time to state them. Anybody.

10

11 (No comment)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you all.

14

15 And just for your information, under A,
16 topic 7, you have before you Proposal 4, and I believe
17 that we were all in agreement to do away with topic 4
18 which deals with the Y-K Delta, even though we do have
19 Aniak within our region. So I believe that for my
20 clarification, I think we requested that it be on our
21 next agenda for our March meeting. Is this correct?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. For the record it
26 is clear.....

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: It was tabled.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, it was tabled by Tri-
31 Council, so it needs not to be on there. However, at
32 this time I would like to interject I think it's Proposal
33 5, our drift gillnet -- drift net fishing. We need to
34 amend it, so at this time we'll just briefly go into -- I
35 don't think we have to go through the books, just add
36 this -- just amend it under topic A -- I mean, topic 7.A.
37 I'm getting ahead again.

38

39 And going into the Chair's report, I do
40 not have much to report other than what I directed Vince
41 to get out to our Regional Council members as quick as I
42 could get to Vince, and he's been at most of our
43 meetings, so I do not have a real report of any type at
44 this time. I think we covered all those as agenda items.

45

46 Again, Regional Council member reports,
47 none showing.

48

49 Review and adoption of agenda. Other
50 than that Proposal 5 instead of 4.

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1 We did not discuss State proposal 168,
2 however, Eastern Interior is taking it up and I think
3 they are moving on to the Board of Fisheries with this
4 proposal. This deals with the allocation of fish from
5 the mouth of the Yukon all the way up, so I will leave it
6 up to the Council members as to whether we want this on
7 the agenda or not, because at some time later if we want
8 to go through it, right now just glance through it, and
9 see what it's all about it, and if you want to get it on
10 the agenda, just interject the Chair at any time.

11

12 Is that fine, clear with everyone?

13

14 MR. JONES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I just
15 want to add amendment to the drift netting proposal when
16 it's time.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict, and I
19 think that we are aware of it, so it will be quick, short
20 action. So it's on the record, and we do not forget.

21

22 At this time the Chair will entertain a
23 motion to adopt the Agenda.

24

25 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

28

29 MR. JONES: Second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Benedict
32 Jones. And as you know, we are flexible. We have
33 always been flexible. We accommodate all agencies,
34 especially those under time restraints or time
35 constrictions. So without further adieu, all those in
36 favor of adopting the agenda as amended at this time,
37 signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Those opposed, same sign.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Item 5,
46 approval of meeting minutes for March 18th and 19th. And
47 this is our Aniak meeting. We have it?

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It's
50 under Tab B if you want to take a look at them. They

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1 were mailed to you all, so.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair would entertain
4 a motion to adopt the minutes as presented.

5

6 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack. We did
11 have some time to go through this. We had preliminary
12 meeting minutes sent out to us, and I appreciate Staff
13 getting this out to us, so that we can streamline our
14 meeting procedures. There is a motion to adopt the
15 minutes of the March 18th and 19th Aniak meeting of
16 Western Interior.

17

18 It's already been seconded.

19

20 Any further comments.

21

22 (No comment)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions.

25

26 (No comment)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Corrections.

29

30 (No comment)

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question has been
35 called. All those in favor of adopting the minutes
36 signify by saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.
45 Correspondence received and sent. I believe, Vince,
46 these are already handed out, and these are mostly
47 information and for our review, is this correct?

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have a
50 summary under Tab B, and we can get copies if you want to

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1 look at them. Generally speaking on most of the items
2 you're sent copies if the Chair directs, so that's it.
3 The summary is there. If you have any questions, we'll
4 obtain copies. It's under Tab B, the last page.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: What are the wishes of the
7 Council, should we just go ahead on -- go on with the
8 agenda? We do have it for our review.

9
10 (No comment)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hearing no direction, the
13 Chair will go into topic 6.A. Oh, go ahead, Robert.

14
15 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair, on the meeting
16 here, where they call it to order, under roll call, they
17 have it Robert Walkers. There's a correction there.
18 It's not Walkers, it's Walker. So how many of us are
19 here?

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you get it, Vince?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll
24 correct that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The record will
27 show that it has been corrected. Topic 6, item A,
28 briefing on regulatory cycle review. When you come up
29 here, remind us of which tab and what page, please.

30
31 MR. RIVARD: Yes. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don Rivard.

34
35 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair, Don
36 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management, and
37 good morning to the other members of the Western Interior
38 Council. I'm going to be giving a short briefing on the
39 regulatory cycle review. That's under Tab E, page WI-
40 65.

41
42 After the spring Council meetings this
43 past year, in 2003, our office conducted a review of the
44 Federal Subsistence Management Program regulatory cycle
45 process. And the review committee was comprised of a
46 regulation specialist, a Council coordinator, our
47 publication team members, an anthropologist, a couple of
48 biologists, some of the leadership team members, a Staff
49 Committee member, and a representative from the
50 Regulatory Coordination Protocol Committee. All work was

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1 conducted by consensus.

2

3

4 The committee examined the historic
5 timing of Regional Council and Federal Subsistence Board
6 activities and identified what is currently working well,
7 and where improvements are needed. Alternatives were
8 developed to address issues and concerns. Each
9 alternative was evaluated in terms of effectiveness,
10 efficiency, cost, risk of compromising quality or
11 customer service, the ramifications for other subsistence
12 program elements, and other considerations. We
13 identified.....

13

14 I was part of that committee, and it was
15 led by Tom Kron who is also here today.

16

17

18 The committee received comments from a
19 number of Federal Subsistence Management Program Staff,
20 and all of the Regional Council Chairs. Some of the
21 issues and concerns including the timing of Regional
22 Council and Federal Subsistence Board meetings, the need
23 to make the regulations more understandable, the limited
24 time available for all of the steps in our regulatory
25 cycle process, the review process for proposals and
26 staff analyses, and a need to reduce paper and paperwork.

26

27

28 So we went through this whole -- had the
29 Staff Committee look at it, and then it went to the
30 Federal Subsistence Board, and the recommendations from
31 the team that were accepted by the Federal Subsistence
32 Board are on the bottom of page 65 there. And one is to
33 extend the regional Council meeting window later into
34 October, schedule spring Federal Subsistence Board
35 meetings earlier in May and move the December meeting to
36 mid January, provide more time for mail-out of the fall
37 Regional Council books so they get into your hands a
38 little bit sooner and you have more time to look at them
39 before your meetings, make regulation books more user
40 friendly, readable and understandable, shift effective
41 date for fish regulations from March 1st to April 1st.
42 In addition to paper copies, make the Regional Council
43 and Board books available on line and by compact disk,
44 CD.

44

45

46 And we determined that it would be good
47 to reexamine our regulatory cycle process every three
48 years to see what other changes may need to be made.

48

49

50 And that's the extent of the briefing.
Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Don
2 Rivard.

3
4 (No comment)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I think that the
7 effort spent on this issue is well spent, because even
8 after being in operations for quite a few years, we still
9 have some questions on how fast we move our proposals on,
10 and how fast we get them on the table. So thank your
11 committee for going through this cycle process.

12
13 MR. RIVARD: I will do so. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Draft predator
16 management policy. Do we have.....

17
18 MR. LaPLANT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
19 members of the Council. My name is Dan LaPlant. I'm the
20 wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
21 Management. I'm the liaison to the Alaska Board of Game.

22
23
24 And I've got a briefing for you this
25 morning on the draft predator management policy. It's
26 behind Tab E in your book, page 41 I believe is where the
27 specific draft policy that I'm going to be discussing.
28 There's also an analysis in there, a complete analysis of
29 the issue, and I believe that starts on page 43. And
30 there's an executive summary if you want the short
31 version. I believe that's on page 39. But the policy
32 itself is on page 41.

33
34 The Federal Subsistence Board over the
35 years have received several proposals to liberalize the
36 harvest of predators for various reasons. Some of them
37 specifically state that it's for predator control, to
38 minimize the number of wolves or bears specifically for
39 the increase in wolves -- excuse me, the increase in
40 moose and caribou or other prey species. And the Board
41 has said in the past that they don't have the authority
42 to carry out predator control. It's not one of the
43 responsibilities given to them by the Secretary, and they
44 have declined to deal with those. Other times they've
45 received requests to liberalize the harvest for -- of
46 predators for subsistence use, specifically for customary
47 and traditional use of hides, meat, and parts of
48 predators, and they've acted on those requests. And some
49 of the proposals they received have not been clear as to
50 what the specific purpose was, so there's been some lack

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1 of clarify in what the Board could or could not do in
2 response to those proposals. So the Board has decided
3 that they needed a policy statement to clearly explain to
4 the Councils and to the subsistence users as to what they
5 can and cannot do in relationship to predator control and
6 management of predators. So they've asked for this --
7 they've asked the Staff to develop a predator management
8 policy.

9

10 The Board met last August, August of --
11 excuse me, the previous August, August of 2002, and they
12 reviewed a lot of the background information relative to
13 predator management, predator control. They looked at
14 the regulatory authorities that they have,
15 responsibilities that are stated in ANILCA. They looked
16 at previous program guidance concerning predator control
17 and habitat management responsibilities, because predator
18 management a lot times -- or predator control is
19 referenced the same as it's referenced as habitat -- the
20 same as habitat management is referenced in some of the
21 regulations. They looked at these, and the draft policy
22 was developed out of that review.

23

24 The influencing factors in that review
25 that led to the policy was basically Section 802 of
26 ANILCA, which talks about the Board's responsibility to
27 provide for subsistence harvest or subsistence use, and
28 then in Section 803 that has the definitions that defines
29 subsistence use, as subsistence take as needed for
30 subsistence use as the direct take for personal and
31 family consumption.

32

33 So considering that, plus in the
34 environmental statement, in the record of decision that
35 was developed back in the beginning of the program in
36 1992, that draft environmental impact statement
37 specifically says that predator control is not part of
38 the Federal Subsistence Program. It says that that -- it
39 says that predator control is the responsibility of the
40 individual Federal agencies, and again the same as
41 habitat management is the responsibility of the
42 individual Federal agencies.

43

44 So the Board decided they needed to
45 differentiate between predator control and predator
46 management. Predator management being a more
47 comprehensive approach to dealing with predators. Part
48 of that is providing for the subsistence take of
49 predators for customary and traditional use. And
50 predator control is the direct controlling of the

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1 predator population for the benefit of the prey
2 population, which the regulations guidance shows that
3 they do not have the responsibility for.

4

5 So if you look at the policy on page 41,
6 again this is a draft policy, and I want to state that
7 this was presented in a discussion to the Board by the
8 Staff in August of this year and they looked this policy
9 over, and generally thought it was good to move forward
10 with. But before they do adopt this policy, they wanted
11 to make it available to the Councils to review and
12 comment on. And they'll take this policy up at their
13 December meeting and consider what comments the Councils
14 have before they take any action on it. So that's why
15 it's before you here today.

16

17 But if you look at that policy, the first
18 couple paragraphs there are the introductory paragraphs,
19 and I've kind of paraphrased those already, but the meat
20 of the policy, the paragraphs A and B state that, first
21 of all, the Board will, in paragraph A, consider all
22 Federal proposals to regulate seasons and dates, methods
23 and means, harvest limits, and customary and traditional
24 use determinations for the subsistence take of fish and
25 wildlife. It says, the Board will ensure that the
26 primary effect of its decisions is to provide for
27 subsistence take and use of the subject species. The
28 Board will also take into account approved population
29 objections, management plans, customary and traditional
30 uses, and recognized principles of fish and wildlife
31 management. so this is the Board's role in predator
32 management.

33

34 Under paragraph B, it says the Board will
35 direct the Office of Subsistence Management to return to
36 the proponents all Federal proposals that specifically
37 indicate that the reason for the proposed regulations is
38 to reduce the predator population to benefit populations.
39 In other words, predator control. Proposals returned to
40 the proponents will include an offer of technical
41 assistance from OSM staff to promote understanding of the
42 Board's role in the management of predators. Proponents
43 with predator management -- or excuse me, predator
44 control objectives will be referred to the appropriate
45 Federal land manager or the Alaska Board of Game to seek
46 resolution of their concerns. And then it goes on to say
47 that, however, the Board will monitor actions taken by
48 the agency to address such concerns, and will provide
49 appropriate support where necessary to ensure the
50 continuation of subsistence harvest opportunities.

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1 What that means is, again, the Board is
2 looking at the fact that they have a role in predator
3 management, and predator control may be part of that
4 overall predator management strategy. An example would
5 be the 40-Mile Caribou Herd recovery. The Board had a
6 role in that recovery plan to make adjustments in seasons
7 and harvest limits of caribou, and I'm not sure if they
8 modified the seasons for wolves, but they had a role to
9 play in there in adjusting subsistence harvest. The
10 predator control components of that plan, the
11 sterilization, the relocation of wolves, that was carried
12 out by the State. So the Board is saying they don't have
13 a role in predator control, but in overall predator
14 management they do have a role to play, and they will
15 monitor such efforts, and where they do have a role to
16 play, they will take on their responsibilities.

17
18 So that's basically the predator
19 management policy, and the Board has said that they
20 believe this predator management policy will provide
21 clarification to Federally qualified subsistence users
22 and others regarding predator management
23 responsibilities. And they said that the anticipated
24 benefit of a clear policy will be more consistent
25 expectations by those requesting predator management
26 actions and a clearer understanding of factor that
27 they're going to be considering when they receive these
28 proposals. So this predator management policy really
29 isn't anything new. It just states clearly what
30 authorities they have, and how they will respond to
31 requests in the future. And basically it's the same as
32 what they have been responding in the past. It's just
33 put into a policy statement at this time.

34
35 I want you to understand, it didn't
36 express what the Board feels, you know, in favor of or
37 opposed to predator control, it just states what
38 authorities they have and how they will respond to
39 requests in the future.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I didn't get
44 your name?

45
46 MR. LaPLANT: Dan LaPlant.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Thank you for all
49 the effort again that you've directed to this issue. I
50 believe that ever since we were seated on this Council,

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1 we're besieged statewide to address this issue. And I
2 would like to commend the Federal Subsistence Board and
3 OSM to -- commend them for recognizing that we do play a
4 role somewhere along the line in the predator management.
5 And I really think that this is a step in the right
6 direction. I think that all along we've been seeking
7 ways or means to address this issue. Throughout the
8 years, all we've been told is we'll have to take this up
9 with ADF&G. So I would like to commend all of you for
10 addressing this issue.

11

12 Any Council comments.

13

14 (No comment)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, thanks for
17 addressing this issue and getting this on line and just
18 keep us informed on any changes and everything else on
19 this, any new developments. Robert.

20

21 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 Don, back here it mentions, I was reading here, something
23 about the State may issue permits. Is OSM, are they
24 going to issue permits on BLM land, any kind of Federal
25 land that -- for wolf predator control in any near
26 future?

27

28 MR. LaPLANT: Mr. Chairman, excuse me,
29 Member Walker, the State again, as the policy states,
30 that the State of Alaska has the predator management
31 responsibility. And they -- excuse me, the predator
32 control responsibility. And they have been moving
33 forward with predator control efforts in the State in
34 several areas. The State's procedure is that the Board
35 of Game develops a predator control plan, and it
36 recommends implementation of it, and then the
37 Commissioner, Fish and Game Department Commissioner, has
38 to approve that plan and carry it out. They have
39 predator control plans that have been approved by the
40 Board of Game in Unit 13, Unit 19(D) east around McGrath,
41 and Unit 20, some parts of Unit 20. Those predator
42 control plans have various methods of implementation.
43 Some of them involve shooting wolves from snow machines,
44 and as far as aerial shooting of wolves, the State can
45 implement that method also. But it can only be done for
46 management purposes. They can't allow that for sport
47 harvest. So for management purposes, that can be used as
48 well.

49

50 The Federal lands within those areas all

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1 have specific regulations as to what can be done on
2 Federal lands as far as chasing of wolves with snow
3 machines or pursuing them with helicopters and so on.
4 Most of the State predator control programs specifically
5 say that they do not apply to Federal lands. I don't
6 believe the Unit 19(D) East plan excludes Federal land,
7 so there may be a conflict there. Some of the techniques
8 that might be used might put the user, the subsistence
9 user or the hunter in jeopardy of violating a BLM
10 regulation perhaps. But I think in most other State
11 predator control plans, they specifically state that
12 these plans don't apply to Federal lands.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15

16 MR. WALKER: Yes, Don, it will be quite a
17 while before we can ever get a helicopter.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?

20 Vince.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Dan, I was doing other
23 things. Did you need action from this Council on this?
24 I thought you mentioned comments, but I want to make sure
25 that -- because the Board's taking this up in December,
26 correct? The policy?

27

28 MR. LaPLANT: That's right, Vince, the
29 Board is planning on taking this up at their December
30 meeting, and they said they would consider any comments
31 that Councils have at that meeting, so if the Council
32 wishes to, you know, make some comments on the record,
33 pass a resolution, whatever, that will be presented to
34 the Board at their December meeting for them to consider.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I believe that
37 we have introduced quite a few resolutions through our
38 individual villages, and we were also cautioned quite a
39 number of times never to introduce any proposals or
40 recommendations with the words predator control within
41 the request, that in so many words, I think that we have
42 already made this recommendations by having -- or our
43 recommendations are recognized by having this draft
44 predator management policy being put in place. We
45 haven't really seen that -- I don't think we've seen the
46 whole policy other than just brief synopsis. And at some
47 time down the road, I would like to give the Council time
48 to add or delete on this. I think that while there's no
49 action on this yet, we still have time to make
50 recommendations before the December meeting, right?

00017

1 MR. LaPLANT: That's correct, Mr.
2 Chairman. The Staff Committee that meets prior to the
3 Board meeting where a lot of the information is
4 summarized and put together in the Board books, that
5 meeting is on November 12th through 14th, so if you have
6 comments, it would work best if it came by that time. It
7 would enable us to get that information into the Board
8 books prior to the Board meeting.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maybe to expedite, many of
11 you know that for any kind of controversial issues or
12 anything of that nature, I've been on the phone with
13 Vince Mathews for a huge volume of time at times, and at
14 one time we did succeed in having a teleconference just
15 before -- a teleconference with OSM and Vince just before
16 Federal Subsistence Board deliberation. So one avenue we
17 have in front of us is to set one up sometime in November
18 or early December. So at this time I would direct Vince
19 to look into it, to give us some -- and give us some lead
20 time if that is at all possible. Vince.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, that's
23 an option, but the function of it would be just
24 individual comments, because the only time you can make
25 recommendations is at a public meeting. So I'm not
26 saying you need to take action now, I'm just saying that
27 if we go with the teleconference mode, it has to be done
28 through a public meeting for recommendations. If you
29 just want to teleconference to come up with comments as
30 individuals, I think we can arrange that. Does that make
31 sense? Because if you get into recommendations on the
32 teleconference, we wouldn't be able to accept them,
33 because it hasn't been publicly noticed.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions,
36 comments from the Council.

37
38 (No comment)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I ask that -- I
41 will direct Vince to pursue this issue, because it is
42 important, because every time I go home or go to any one
43 of our individual village, like I said, I am besieged in
44 some of this problem, so at this time I think that the
45 only thing we're qualified is to have our coordinator
46 move it along.

47
48 As for my comments on this, full speed
49 ahead. Any further comments.

50

00018

1 Micky.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: Well, Ron, I was wondering
4 if it would be just more appropriate just to approve the
5 draft or the concept anyway with being on record that we
6 are going to be taking a closer look at it and adding our
7 comments.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. I think
10 that would be appropriate at this time. Quite
11 appropriate. So was that a motion?

12

13 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second that we
16 approve the concept of this draft predator management
17 policy.

18

19 MR. WALKER: I'll second.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved and seconded that we
22 approve the initial draft of the predator management
23 policy. Any further discussion.

24

25 (No comment)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor of the
28 motion signify by saying aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
37 you.

38

39 MR. LaPLANT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mick. Next
42 item on our agenda is the Interagency Staff Committee's
43 role. And as many of you know, we had quite a discussion
44 yesterday on our feelings on how OSM dealt with other
45 agencies, the Federal Subsistence Board, and us. So
46 without further ado, I'd like to recognize Rod Simmons.

47

48 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
49 members of the Council. For the record, my name is Rod
50 Simmons with Fish and Wildlife Service, and I serve on

00019

1 the Interagency Staff Committee.

2

3 And the Board has asked me to brief you
4 on several important topics, the first being the role of
5 the Interagency Staff Committee and its relationship to
6 your council. I'd like to refer you to Tab E, page WI-
7 61.

8

9 Last May the Federal Subsistence Board --
10 at a Federal Subsistence Board meeting the Board Chair
11 entertained a discussion on the appropriate role of the
12 Interagency Staff Committee in the decision-making
13 process. He acknowledged Council perceptions that the
14 Staff Committee is having undue influence on the Board,
15 the decision-making process and the resulting rule-
16 making. Subsequently he directed a review of the Staff
17 Committee procedures.

18

19 Basically the Staff Committee provides
20 policy, procedural and technical support to the Federal
21 Subsistence Board, including a forum to discuss agency
22 differences. The Board Chair directed a review to be
23 conducted of the Staff Committee's role in the regulatory
24 process.

25

26 Both the Board and the Staff Committee
27 have acknowledged these perceptions articulated by some
28 Councils. And the Board is offering a series of proposed
29 changes in the role of the Staff Committee and the
30 decision-making procedures at Board meetings.

31

32 The Board invites the Councils to offer
33 other suggestions as appropriate.

34

35 On page 61 towards the middle of the
36 bottom of the page are a number of proposed changes or
37 options for your council to consider on the role of the
38 Interagency Staff Committee.

39

40 The first is upon request by the Council
41 or Council Chair at Council meetings, Staff Committee
42 members will offer policy, procedural and technical
43 perspectives to the Councils as they develop their
44 proposals for changes to the Federal regulations. So in
45 other words, this particular option would allow you the
46 opportunity of engagement with Staff Committee meetings
47 that are at your meetings in terms of any concerns or
48 help we might be able to offer relative to your drafting
49 of proposals.

50

00020

1 Number 2, at the bottom of that page, is
2 the Staff Committee will develop talking points on
3 proposals and other issues for representatives to take to
4 the Regional Council meetings. At the Regional Council
5 meetings, the Staff Committee will dialogue with the
6 councils and provide policy, procedural and technical
7 perspectives as the Councils develop their
8 recommendations on proposal analyses. So this option
9 would allow some interaction or engagement with Staff
10 Committee members on their initial review of proposals,
11 much as you do in your deliberations, so any particular
12 concerns or issues that Staff Committee have seen with a
13 proposal, there would be some amount of dialogue relative
14 to some discussions while you're -- during your meetings.

15
16 On page 62 is the third option, and that
17 is following Regional Council meetings, the Staff
18 Committee will review information on proposals with
19 Council Chairs, ADF&G at the Staff Committee meetings.
20 This has already begun to occur. Generally during Staff
21 Committee meetings, we've invited Council Chairs in the
22 effected regions to teleconference in with Staff
23 Committee meetings, and these are following your Council
24 meetings. So any updated information that comes in
25 following your Council meetings, at least the Council
26 Chair has an opportunity to listen in to the Staff
27 Committee meetings, and provide the Council Chair a bit
28 more understanding on how some of the Staff Committee
29 decisions are derived.

30
31 Option 4, or recommendation 4, is for the
32 Staff Committee representative to conduct briefings to
33 the Councils on issues when the Board is seeking Council
34 comments, very much like I'm doing to you right now,
35 relative to any updates on protocols or any other Board
36 level decision that's come, such as Dan LaPlant just gave
37 the one on the predator management policy. So a bit more
38 engagement relative to Board actions with Staff Committee
39 delivering those results.

40
41 And the fifth option is Board meeting
42 procedures are modified to focus communication between
43 Council Chairs and Board members, and emphasize
44 compliance with ANILCA 805(c) and 815. And under that,
45 prior to board meetings, the Staff Committee will brief
46 Board members on the results of discussions held during
47 the Staff Committee meeting. The Board book will include
48 Interagency Staff Committee analysis of the issues and
49 the proposals. The desired effect will be that it will
50 eliminate the Staff Committee recommendation. The Staff

00021

1 Committee is not positioned at the same level as the
2 Regional Councils.

3

4 I think there's been a tendency for Board
5 members to gravitate towards Staff Committee
6 recommendations rather than the recommendations of the
7 councils, and so this particular option would set in
8 motion -- well, it would set -- motions would revolve
9 around Council recommendations rather than Staff
10 Committee recommendations as they relate to proposals.
11 So that's pretty much what that particular option is
12 about.

13

14 And so in summary, the Federal Board
15 would like to hear input from your Council relative to
16 whether -- your feeling relative to whether the
17 Interagency Staff Committee has been an hindrance to your
18 process, your recommendations, and what you think about
19 some of these proposed options or changes.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Rod. Before
24 you go, this quick briefing, you know, we have expressed
25 our displeasure with some of the interactions between
26 Staff Committee and Federal Subsistence Board, and I
27 think this where this clarification process came about.
28 And as far as I'm concerned, every time we express
29 displeasure or dissatisfaction, something positive always
30 did come out of this, and I think this is one of those
31 steps that do -- that did come out of this.

32

33 Under item 3, both Robert and I not only
34 listened in on OSM meeting, we actually participated.
35 And that was just -- I thought that was very relaxed,
36 informal, and productive. We felt part of the process.

37

38 And as far as item (b) under five, even
39 with the Council Chairs before Federal Subsistence Board,
40 we were having problems on how we go or how we introduce
41 different proposals or recommendations. At that time,
42 Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board simply stated
43 that when we do introduce proposals before the Federal
44 Subsistence Board, he will introduce them as Western
45 Interior Regional Council recommendations, or the
46 respective Council's recommendations rather than Staff
47 Committee. And I think that clarified and alleviated a
48 lot of our feelings on the relationship between OSM and
49 the Federal Staff.

50

00022

1 Again, I believe this is a positive step
2 forward, and I would like to commend you. Jack Reakoff.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I personally
5 like to see what the Staff recommendations are. I'm not
6 led around with a ring in my nose. And sometimes I
7 endorse the Staff's position and sometimes I don't. But
8 I do like to know what the Staff's position is on the
9 proposal. And the Staff brings out certain different
10 angles of light on an issue. So I would not like to have
11 that eliminated. But that's up through the Council
12 process. As far as going into the Board, I don't know
13 that that's really necessary to go beyond. But I enjoy
14 knowing what the Staff's thinking.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comment.
17 Vince.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Jack, I might be a little
20 confused on what you were saying there, and Staff will
21 correct me. The preliminary conclusions from Staff will
22 always be before the Council. So that is not on the
23 table.

24
25 What is being discussed is when -- if you
26 substituted for Ron to go to a Board meeting, there's
27 generally -- and I don't remember which page, it's the
28 first or second page, is the Staff Committee
29 recommendation. So you will always see the preliminary
30 conclusion. That's not anywhere in this discussion at
31 all.

32
33 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: So you'll have that, and I
36 know Pete does it, I know Pat and all the other ones do
37 it. If you're a key person in that proposal, they'll be
38 calling you up with drafts and stuff earlier, so that's
39 not going to change unless I've been misinformed.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I, too,
42 do not want to see that eliminated, simply because a good
43 part of the time I don't do my homework, and it does --
44 gives a quick synopsis and all that, so -- Jack Reakoff.
45 Rod.

46
47 MR. SIMMONS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 And, Vince, thank you for that clarification. The Staff
49 Committee will still be making recommendations in terms
50 of an analysis and recommendation in the Board book. It

00023

1 just won't be so prevalent relative to the Staff
2 Committee recommendation being presented to the Board.
3 It will be more on the level of say ADF&G's
4 recommendation. It will be there in the book, but it
5 will be the Council's recommendation that the Board
6 reacts to. So some of this is optics and so forth, but,
7 you know -- well, I'll just leave it at that, that the
8 Staff Committee recommendation will still be forwarded,
9 it just won't be highlighted so much, and the Board will
10 not be making its motions based on the Staff Committee
11 recommendations. They'll be based on the Council's
12 recommendation, or you may see modifications in a Board
13 member's motion to the Council's recommendation, but
14 nonetheless, it will be -- your Council's recommendation
15 will be the focus of Board action.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

18

19 (No comment)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I sure appreciate
22 this effort, and what this also does is make me feel like
23 that I contribute more, and it does alleviate other
24 displeasures I had before. They weren't real
25 displeasures, just a matter of -- they weren't -- as I
26 said, they weren't real displeasures. It was the way
27 that things were presented and all that. It just
28 sometimes left us out completely. And I sure appreciate
29 the effort on our behalf.

30

31 Thank you, Rod.

32

33 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
34 Chair, if you'd like me to continue, I have a second
35 briefing for you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this the non-voting
38 State?

39

40 MR. SIMMONS: That's correct.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go -- keep going.

43

44 MR. SIMMONS: All right. I think many of
45 you are aware that the Secretary of Interior received a
46 letter from Governor Murkowski issued on July 17th
47 requesting that the Secretary of Interior appoint a State
48 official as a non-voting member to the Federal
49 Subsistence Board. Governor Murkowski further requested
50 that the appointee be the Commissioner of the Alaska

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1 Department of Fish and Game or his or her designee.

2

3 In considering the request, we reviewed
4 the record of decision for the Federal Subsistence
5 Management Program on the topic of Board membership. The
6 record of decision provides for a State liaison to the
7 Federal Subsistence Board to be nominated by the Governor
8 and appointed by the Secretary of Interior, so the record
9 of decision that came out of the original EIS did speak
10 to this issue as it relates to a State liaison.

11

12 This is the first time that the Governor
13 of the State of Alaska has elected to nominate anyone for
14 such an appointment since 1992 when the record of
15 decision was issued. Currently Staff members from the
16 Alaska Department of Fish and Game provide comments on
17 regulatory proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board,
18 but do not actively deliberate with the Board unless
19 specifically questioned by a Board member.

20

21 Operating under the record of decision,
22 the Board has some administrative flexibility in how it
23 conducts its meetings. For example, the Board may change
24 the Board meeting procedures to allow a State liaison, as
25 well as the Regional Advisory Council Chairs additional
26 latitude in deliberating on regulatory proposals.

27

28 The Office of the Secretary has requested
29 that the Board meet as soon as possible to discuss the
30 Governor's request. The Board met in an executive
31 session on September 26th, and during the meeting the
32 Board recognized that this is an issue of importance to
33 the public. And as such, the Board refrained from making
34 recommendation at this meeting, and will take this issue
35 up in a public forum. The Board has scheduled a work
36 session for November 5th to develop their recommendation
37 to the Secretary. This will be a work session, and will
38 be open to the public. However, because it is a work
39 session, there will not be opportunity for public
40 testimony unless a Board member so chooses.

41

42 It is my understanding that Regional
43 Advisory Councils, or the Chairs of the Regional Advisory
44 Councils will have an opportunity to teleconference in
45 for this meeting.

46

47 We are providing this information to the
48 Regional Councils so that you are aware of this request,
49 and how the Board is handling it, and if you have any
50 comments or recommendations you wish to provide to the

00025

1 Board, this would be an ideal opportunity at this time,
2 Mr. Chair.

3

4

Thanks.

5

6

CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Before we go
7 any further, I can see a lot of discussion up and down,
8 number 1 being that if you appoint the State Board of
9 Game Commissioner, he wouldn't be a liaison, would he,
10 and stuff like that that we have to go through. And I
11 think that I would go along with Mr. Simmons at this time
12 that we do make a recommendation as far as the seat goes.
13 We could do it by quick motion in support of it or
14 against it. So what's the pleasure of the Council? I
15 think that we should make a recommendation here and now.

16

17

One, we could express our displeasure at
18 the Federal management, Federal D.C. management that we
19 started out as being subsistence only, but our Councils
20 will now seat a commercial entity by the end of this
21 year, or by our next cycle. And now we're going at the
22 Federal Subsistence Board, even though it is non-voting,
23 so -- any questions or anything?

24

25

Jack.

26

27

MR. REAKOFF: The State has
28 representation at the Board meetings every time anyway,
29 don't they?

30

31

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Reakoff,
32 that's correct. It's -- I think some of this is related
33 to perhaps stature at the meetings. Currently the State
34 operates more at a Staff capacity, and it's my
35 understanding that this request focuses on either a
36 liaison statute as described in the record of decision
37 that would be, it is my understanding, more equivalent to
38 the Councils' position at Board meetings, or the other
39 option of a non-voting member. So those sort of two
40 subtleties there, or nuances associated with
41 considerations in this request. The record of decision
42 does speak to a State liaison, however, the Governor's
43 letter requests a non-voting member, so there's a little
44 distinction there.

45

46

CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky, you had something,
47 too.

48

49

MR. STICKMAN: Am I going to say
50 something, like.....

00026

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, sure. Yeah, before
2 you do, are you done, Jack?

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: I don't have a problem with
5 the State being present at the meeting. I would not like
6 them to be overbearing at the meeting and dominating
7 issues. And so a non-voting position accommodates their
8 interest, but I would not like to see the Board
9 controlled by State interests.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: In a minute or two I'll
12 ask that a motion be introduced, but before I go any
13 further, as Chair I would like to recognize Tanana
14 Chiefs' Mike Smith.

15
16 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
17 the record, my name is Mike Smith from Tanana Chiefs
18 Conference. Tanana Chiefs Conference and virtually every
19 native organization in the State is firmly opposed to the
20 State getting a seat on the Board. They have never
21 availed themselves of their liaison position that they
22 rightfully had all these years, and we just don't feel
23 that they need a position elevated more than that. They
24 currently have the option to be a liaison, which is the
25 same as the Chairmen of the regional RACs have with the
26 Board. The same relationship they have. Additionally,
27 like Jack pointed out, their Staff is always there
28 providing information and input into the Board process.
29 So I think I can safely say that virtually every native
30 organization in the State is going to be opposed to this,
31 and request that the RACs oppose it as well.

32
33 Oh, and secondly, just a quick comment in
34 regards to the presentation prior to this in regards to
35 the Staff protocol arrangements and stuff. What was kind
36 of interesting from our perspective I guess is that we
37 talked about proposals that were submitted to the Board
38 from, you know, organizations and fish and game
39 proposals. What concerns Tanana Chiefs is the
40 development of protocols that the Feds are currently
41 working with the State on. There are issues surrounding
42 salmon management policies, the establishment of
43 biological escapement goals, the establishment of amounts
44 necessary for subsistence, things of that nature, that we
45 don't really get to see until it is submitted to the
46 Regional Advisory Councils as proposals. And at that
47 point we either have to reject it or argue against it or
48 what have you. And we just feel that a process that
49 would allow native participation into those things prior
50 to those coming to the Board or the RACs as proposals

00027

1 would be more beneficial to the process.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. If you
6 wonder about my indulgence or my recognition of Tanana
7 Chiefs, there's about four or five of us Council members
8 called Vince ahead of time prior our Tri-Council meeting.
9 We requested the presence of Tanana Chiefs, so that -- I
10 believe that every time we recognize Tanana Chiefs that
11 we are in order.

12

13 Any further questions for Mr. Simmons.

14 Micky.

15

16 MR. STICKMAN: So if I understand you
17 correctly, the position was already there from the
18 beginning of the program?

19

20 MR. SIMMONS: That's correct, Mr. Chair.
21 However, the Governor's Office has not elected until date
22 to formalize the process.

23

24 MR. STICKMAN: I was wondering, did the
25 Governor give you a reason why the sudden State interest
26 in the position that was there forever and not filled?

27

28 MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Stickman, I
29 couldn't speculate on that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM:

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, to alleviate
38 that, we have copies of the letter if you want to read it
39 yourself. It puts Staff in a difficult position to
40 interpret for the Governor.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, again, if we do
43 anything, it will be only a recommendation. That's all
44 we're doing. We're not -- we probably won't influence
45 anything. As I kept stating throughout our Tri-Council
46 meeting, all we're doing is making a recommendation.
47 We're not making the final decision, and so that's -- we
48 can go up or down, and that's what I'm looking for right
49 now to go forward.

50

00028

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
6 make a motion to oppose a Board seat on the Federal Board
7 by the State of Alaska, but that the State of Alaska
8 should exercise their liaison option, and to -- as a
9 voice focal point.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

12

13 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

16

17 (No comment)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, this is nothing
20 more than a recommendation. Where it goes from here is
21 beyond us. Seeing no further questions, all those in
22 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
31 you, Mr. Simmons. At this time we'll take a five-minute
32 break just to get coffee. Five minutes, then we'll keep
33 going. I'd like to reconsider some stuff after.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (On record)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Testing one, two, three.
40 If our Council members would find our seats, I'd like to
41 proceed. I'd like to reconvene the Western Interior
42 Regional Subsistence Council meeting. Before we go into
43 item A under item 7, I would like to call our prior
44 presenter back up to the table for clarification. Is he
45 available? Yes. Okay.

46

47 Rod, there is some confusion, because we
48 were going to amend our last motion, but understanding
49 that we do have a liaison on the State Board? What is --
50 go ahead, explain that clearly to our Council.

00029

1 MR. SIMMONS: I'll do my best, Mr. Chair.
2 For the record, Rod Simmons.

3
4 There is a liaison coordinator position
5 that currently operates at our Board meetings. However,
6 it is my understanding that the record of decision is
7 relative to a position that's of slightly higher statute
8 relative to -- it would be more equivalent to your own
9 position.

10
11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He's asking about
12 our liaison to the State Boards.

13
14 MR. SIMMONS: Oh, I'm sorry.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think the question was
17 do we have a liaison officer within the State's.....

18
19 MR. SIMMONS: Yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM:ADF&G.

22
23 MR. SIMMONS: Yes, we do, Mr. Chair.
24 It's Dan LaPlant for wildlife and Pete Probasco for
25 fisheries.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Does that
28 satisfy all our Western Interior Council members
29 concerns.

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: When I was at the Board of
36 Game meeting, Dan LaPlant was -- the Board would ask him
37 the Federal position, and that was -- there was, you
38 know, real nice discussion between the State Board and
39 the Federal Liaison. I'm not opposed to the State having
40 that same option at the Federal Board. But I don't think
41 that it's necessary to have a seat there.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. That clarifies
44 our standing on everything. Any further questions.

45
46 (No comment)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, thank you again,
49 Rod, for that clarification.

50

00030

1 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
2 members of the Council.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The next item on
5 the agenda is not so much a reconsideration, but an
6 amendment to Proposal 5 of the Federal Subsistence
7 Fisheries proposals. As you recall, Western Interior
8 passed this proposal to allow drift net fisheries in the
9 middle Yukon, and after we researched Proposal 5, we
10 noted that there wasn't a mesh depth within the
11 requirements and restrictions. And so at this time the
12 Chair would entertain a motion to incorporate within the
13 proposal -- within Proposal 5, wherever it fits, the
14 requirement for 35 mesh deep requirement. Is there a
15 motion to that effect? We're just amending it, kind of
16 more friendly, but we want to go on record as amending
17 it.

18
19 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair, I made amendment
20 to the restriction on the drift netting be extending from
21 Cone Point to Yuki River, but due to the Federal waters
22 only go as far as Galena, so this would extend drift
23 netting only 20 miles of Federal waters, and yet 30 miles
24 should be the State waters from Galena to Yuki.

25
26 My amendment is to -- the drift netting,
27 the mesh size, new amendment, mesh size, seven-inch by 35
28 mesh deep, and up to 150 feet long or less. And the
29 amendment adds that no commercial fishing drift netting
30 in this extended drift netting, gillnet area.
31 Subsistence fishing only. Just seven-inch mesh will
32 allow the bigger chinook to get to the spawning area.

33
34 As in the past, I have used this seven-
35 inch mesh for the last 10 years, and during that time I
36 caught very few six or seven-year-old kings with this. I
37 use a 29-inch mesh depth net. And the only people that
38 catch the seven or six-year old are the people that use
39 the eight-inch mesh, and 45-inch mesh deep. So this will
40 give more escapement for the spawning fish to the
41 spawning stream upriver from Koyukuk all the way spawners
42 streams in Tanana and the Yukon River, and the Chandler
43 River.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

50

00031

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack. Okay.
2 This friendly amendment, addendum, to Proposal 5, if I
3 understand it right, just addresses the restrictions on
4 net size, and that's all it does is up to 150 feet and up
5 to 35 mesh deep. Is that clear, Benedict?

6
7 MR. JONES: Yeah, to restrict it down to
8 seven-inch mesh, too.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So there's two
11 changes then, and these are restrictions to --
12 restrictions to the seven-mesh, and up to 35-mesh deep,
13 is that what it.....

14
15 MR. JONES: Yeah.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further
18 questions for Benedict. Emmitt Peters.

19
20 MR. PETERS: Yes, and he clarified it
21 real well that my understanding yesterday, I was
22 confused. I didn't know it was on State water. But he
23 explained it well, so to extend it all the way to Yuki,
24 and I'm very satisfied about that.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince. Yeah, but before I
29 go to Vince, I will also note that within that motion,
30 that it should be clearly interjected some place within
31 the proposal that this is for subsistence use only, and
32 that this does not create commercial interest. Is that
33 understood, Vince.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'll
36 wait for the plane. Mr. Chairman, the question I had is
37 these were taken up kind of as a group with the State
38 proposals. So you would like this comment to go to the
39 State Board, too, and then I'll just need to go after an
40 answer to that just through a series of questions that I
41 would anticipate that the Staff Committee and others
42 might have with this amendment.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: I think Ben and I, that's
47 clear that we would like both the State and our Federal
48 proposals amended to see that those are incorporated into
49 both, what do they call those, amended State proposals
50 anyways, RCs, and so they would have a better chance of

00032

1 passing, would address those issues that those other
2 Council members had about intercepting large female fish.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.
5 Did that satisfy your question, Vince?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm doing a couple of
8 roles here at once, and I did consult with Pete, I
9 haven't consulted with other Staff. A question will come
10 up, is that a common gear type that is used in the area.
11 Remember, your recommendations when they go to the
12 Federal Subsistence Board have to pass those three tests:
13 substantial evidence, match wildlife conservation
14 principles, and is not detrimental to subsistence. So
15 when we change a gear type, we always investigate does
16 the gear type put an additional burden on subsistence
17 users. And I don't drift net, so I don't know what net
18 size is commonly used in that area.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: If I remember right, this
21 gear type is already being used from Koyukuk on down, and
22 whether this seven-inch mesh creates another argument is
23 there to be argued. Whether they recognize it or not
24 will be up to them if I believe right. And again, this
25 gear type is already being used. We are not discussing
26 gear type, we are discussing expansion of that fisheries
27 on Federal waters and that is it.

28

29 Micky.

30

31 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
32 you know, just talking about the effect on subsistence
33 users, I believe that the amendments that Ben made are --
34 is a good amendment, because like Ron said, the gear type
35 that we use right now, you know, it would have no effect
36 on the subsistence users except for maybe spreading out
37 the length of the river that we have subsistence
38 opportunity on, so I would speak in favor of this.

39

40 Thanks, Ron.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Any
43 further discussion. Does that satisfy Staff?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's exactly what we
46 want on record, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: That's exactly it. Thank

00033

1 you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Without further
4 ado, all those in favor of the amendment, or it may be
5 considered an addendum, signify by saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
14 you. Next item on the agenda. Deferred topics from the
15 Tri-Council meeting. You know, we -- proposals -- State
16 Proposals 160 and 164 were deferred to Western Interior.
17 Do we have enough people here to handle this?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we can get
20 people here to handle it, but I think once we introduce
21 them, I think it will become clear. Do you still have
22 that big thick packet of all the State proposals? If
23 not, I can find other copies of it.

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Let me look in my
26 box.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Half-way to the lot,
29 already.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we've -- we're going
32 to be talking after this meeting amongst the Staff how to
33 better handle some of this volume of paperwork, and so
34 hopefully we can come up with something, but if you ever
35 have any suggestions, please let us know, because we're
36 also struggling to go through this stuff. The reason I
37 do that is just to give fairness to the State process and
38 to the proponents that submitted these proposals. Okay.
39 I'll go right ahead.

40

41 Proposal 160 was submitted by the Koyukuk
42 River Local Advisory Committee.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: For expediency sake, do we
45 have to consider both, or could we just consider one?

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Both.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Jack clarified it.
50 We will have to consider both proposals. Go ahead,

00034

1 Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman. I hope
4 you all have found it. It's on Page 159. We can get
5 biologists over here. I mean, there's no problem with
6 that if you want. I don't mean to speak for them. I'm
7 just sensing that you already know the issue here. If I
8 am incorrect, we'll get Staff here.

9

10 It was submitted by the Koyukuk River
11 Local Advisory Committee, and basically their problem is
12 inability of subsistence users to adequately meet
13 subsistence needs for fresh water species during salmon
14 management. What they're recommending to do is -- well,
15 I think Jack can kind of probably better explain this
16 than I can, so it might be better to have -- if Jack is
17 willing, to explain that proposal as well as the next
18 one, which I believe he's the author of, and that way we
19 can have a better record.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

22

23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, this proposal
24 at the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee, local fishers in
25 Allakaket were very distraught with being cut down.
26 They're allowed to use small mesh gear for white fish
27 fishing, but their days of fishing were cut down to just
28 some very short periods with a larger mesh gear that they
29 utilized to catch sheefish. And sheefish go up the
30 Koyukuk River and go right by Allakaket and they go up
31 the Alatna River. And they were not being able to have
32 enough harvest opportunity to catch sheefish with larger
33 mesh gear, even though people were -- there were very few
34 chums left passing by there. And so this proposal would
35 allow people to put out a net, if they caught more than
36 five chums, then they'd pull their gear. And this
37 proposal is primarily to target sheefish in that one area
38 there around Allakaket. And so they -- that's where this
39 proposal came from. I'm in favor of this proposal,
40 because have had a hardship trying to obtain subsistence.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't know if you can
43 address this, Pete, but isn't this already in effect, 24-
44 7, up on the Koyukuk? I believe it might be.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: We'll have to get someone
47 here, because it -- to address that, unless there's.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Fred, do you.....

50

00035

1 MR. MATHEWS: Fred might be able to.
2 Thank you, Fred.

3
4 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, you're
5 correct, the Koyukuk -- the Board of Fish recognizes that
6 difficulty in fishing efficiency on the Koyukuk, and so
7 Koyukuk is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day
8 normally for salmon. In times of conservation we have
9 emergency authority to reduce fishing. The last couple
10 years we have -- there has been instances where we've cut
11 that fishing time in half down to three and a half days,
12 but it is open. We have allowed small mesh gear and to
13 be open seven days a week even during the salmon
14 concerns.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that was the
17 clarification I was asking for. I believe that we
18 already have 24/7 in effect and I think we are restricted
19 to four-inch mesh at this time. Do you have that exact
20 number in front of you?

21
22 MR. BUE: Yes, we have used four and a
23 half inch mesh restriction in times of conservation. And
24 with -- for seven days a week, we've used that as a
25 maximum limit on mesh size. Is that what you're looking
26 for? I'm sorry.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. And this includes
29 the salmon harvest.

30
31 MR. BUE: Yes, the mesh restriction is to
32 protect salmon, but you can keep whatever salmon you
33 catch with that four-inch mesh.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I thought, so
36 I already -- I mean, my first recommendation is to just
37 write this off as cycle, because we do have it in place.
38 That's the clarification I wanted. Do you have anything
39 else.

40
41 (No comment)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think this passed at --
44 we were in a rush to get it through two or three years
45 ago at KRAC, and I think it went straight to the Board
46 and was passed at the time. It is already in effect I
47 believe.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, this is an
50 old proposal. It was in response to more restrictive

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1 fishing times. They -- if we were to go back to more
2 restrictive times, there was -- there were individuals
3 that testified that they were not able to harvest
4 sheefish with that small of gear. And so that's -- I
5 still feel that this mechanism should be in place for --
6 but that's my opinion.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: So is there -- my question
9 then is, is there any need for action at this time? Do
10 you feel a need? Speak on the record.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: As you're living closing to
13 the resource there, if you don't feel that this proposal
14 is necessary at this time, then I'm willing to let it --
15 to table it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time we don't have
18 a motion or anything before. I think we're just -- all I
19 was addressing is that it is in place already, and I keep
20 telling people, don't count those fish. But they do, and
21 if it's in place, what -- if it's already in place, do
22 you think that we should go ahead and -- if we
23 reintroduce it, I think all we would do is create more
24 misunderstanding. I think we'll have to go up the
25 Koyukuk River and explain that. I keep explaining it,
26 but apparently I'm not getting through. Fred, you had
27 your hand up.

28

29 MR. BUE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We do
30 recognize the problem and the difficulty that
31 particularly the Allakaket folks have. Fishing
32 efficiency is poor, and they do want sheefish. They
33 don't want those old chums at times, and so we recognize
34 that, but I have authority for time, area and gear types
35 to some extent, and so I am willing to work with people
36 if they can come up with ideas, places to avoid where
37 they think that there are, you know, a good chance of
38 catching chum, you know, maybe we could avoid some of
39 those places if people could be specific, but I'm willing
40 to work with people there to work around that problem,
41 Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Because of the
44 shape that chums come up -- I mean, when they come up
45 here, because of their shape, people usually pull their
46 net when they catch too many of them. They don't have
47 dog teams or anything any more, so if they get too many
48 of them, they usually pull their net and try a different
49 size net or different eddy or different fishing site for
50 broads and sheefish. So I don't think the salmon issue

00037

1 -- salmon is any issue here if we've got 24/7 in place
2 already. But is this coming up for readoption or
3 reauthorization? Is that why it's on the book?

4

5 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman, I don't think
6 it's that. It's a proposal to the Board of Fish, and
7 it's -- there's already 24/7 in place, but what they're
8 -- the proposal to me is asking to allow the fishermen
9 discretionary -- use their discretion even in times of
10 low salmon abundance to be able to fish with large mesh
11 nets regardless of what we think or our concerns for
12 salmon, and to leave it up to the fishermen in times of
13 conservation.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I make a
18 motion to adopt this proposal. I think it would give
19 subsistence users use of a customary practice of if they
20 catch too many chums, they move their gear anyway,
21 because they're trying to target broad whitefish and
22 sheefish, and so I feel this proposal still has merit.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was that a motion.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is there a second,

29

30 MR. JONES: I second the motion.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. The motion is to
33 move this proposal on and bring it up for further
34 discussion before the Board of Fisheries if I understand
35 this correct. Is that correct?

36

37 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. All those in favor
40 of the motion signify by saying aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Proposal
49 164. I think this is yours Jack.

50

00038

1 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I proposed
6 this Proposal 164 to the State Board of Fisheries. This
7 proposal would allow subsistence use to target primarily
8 freshwater species of whitefish and grayling, and
9 subsistence has been closed in the Dalton Highway
10 corridor area for many years, and people would like to
11 have opportunity to harvest. We've tried to -- it's not
12 possible to get a Federal proposal, because on BLM land
13 they cannot have subsistence fishing in -- associated to
14 BLM lands there, so this has to go through the State
15 system.

16

17 There's one mistake that I made in here,
18 and it's unclear on the -- this is for the South Fork and
19 the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk, and my intention is
20 strictly within the Dalton Highway corridor, not in the
21 whole South Fork drainage.

22

23 And so I would like to make a motion to
24 adopt Proposal 164 with an amendment that this is
25 strictly on the Middle Fork and South Fork within the
26 Dalton Highway corridor which is now closed area.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further discussion.

33

34 (No comment)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Again I
37 misunderstood the intent of this proposal, and I think
38 that's why at our CFC meeting I didn't do anything except
39 to forward it on to this Western Interior deliberation.
40 Again, you know that we do have 24/7, and I think I would
41 like to thank Jack for that clarification. And if we do
42 pass this motion, it would then -- only then target the
43 Dalton Highway -- the Koyukuk River system within the
44 Dalton Highway corridor. Is that clear to everyone.
45 That's what I didn't understand.

46

47 Any further discussion.

48

49 (No comment)

50

00039

1 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question's been called
4 for. All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying
5 aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank you
14 for your presence, Fred.

15

16 At this time I think that I would like to
17 scan the Western Interior Council on whether you want to
18 address Proposal 168. I think that addresses the
19 allocation on the Yukon River, upper versus lower. Yeah,
20 I think that's what Virgil said, and this -- I know
21 Eastern Interior is taking this up, and whether you want
22 to take some time on this, or spend some time on this, is
23 pretty much up to you. I do know that it is being
24 deliberated and will move forward. Without biologists
25 and somebody that knows these numbers and what they mean,
26 I would feel that I wouldn't total understand the
27 formula. Vince.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just
30 caution you, don't let the staffing influence how you
31 take up. We can get people here. They're in different
32 rooms.

33

34 The other thing is this is a commercial
35 proposal, but your free to bring it up. We'll just
36 advise you that, you know, it is a commercial fisheries
37 proposal, but you would probably bring it up as a
38 biological concern. And if you did take action on this,
39 this just empowers your person that sits with the Board
40 of Fisheries to take your comments there. So it's a
41 commercial proposal, but you can employer, and there is
42 Staff available we can get here, so -- I mean, they're
43 just on the other side of these walls. We'd just have to
44 see what they're doing at this moment.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, did you have a
47 recommendation or any feeling?

48

49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, my initial
50 feeling on this proposal is that it's intent is to spread

00040

1 commercial harvest more equitably up the Yukon River, and
2 my -- which would benefit as it's been stated multiple
3 times in this Tri-meeting, that revenues from commercial
4 harvests by rural residents allows them to continue --
5 those revenues allow them to pursue other subsistence
6 activities. And if that indeed is the intent of this
7 proposal, I'm in favor of spreading those harvest more
8 equitably throughout the whole Yukon system instead of in
9 one area, and so that would be my current position.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack, I think
12 that if we were to take action, it would only be directed
13 towards what Jack said, to distribute commercial
14 activities up the river and empower our representative at
15 the Board of Fisheries, and to testify on behalf of this
16 proposal. Is this correct, Vince?

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and I'm
19 sure that State Staff will inform you that the Federal
20 program doesn't have authority over commercial fisheries,
21 but the main thing is it allows your person there to
22 share your comments on this issue is all that I meant by
23 empower.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maybe not our comments,
26 but the comments that are developed up and down on this
27 proposal at that Board of Fisheries meeting, and I think
28 that if it doesn't work in our favor or his favor, that
29 he should be allowed to stay out of this deliberation if
30 he so desires. So we could do this by consensus, not by
31 motion, not by action. That by consensus we would ask
32 our representative to pursue, listen in to and -- I mean,
33 listen in to, pursue and comment on this allocation
34 issue. Would that be legal then?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you've got to give
37 them something to pursue. I mean, there has to be some
38 specifics there, because he or she has to have that
39 information of what your feelings are on this. I
40 understood what Jack was saying, but that was just Jack.
41 So, anyway, it would be best if the full Council -- he
42 best way to go would be to have some kind of motion
43 explaining feelings on this proposal, or action to
44 support, reject or amend.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. If I understand
47 right we do have a motion on the floor and concurrence
48 with -- on, we don't? Okay. Jack.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to

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1 make a motion to adopt Proposal 168 which reallocates how
2 commercial fishing is distributed throughout the fishing
3 districts of the Yukon River. And I feel that this would
4 benefit the subsistence users of our region by having a
5 commercial opportunity to allow them income for other
6 subsistence activities.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

9

10 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

13

14 (No comment)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, all those in favor
17 of the motion signify by saying aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed same sign.

22

23 (No opposing votes)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. We have
26 some direction.

27

28 The next item on the agenda, item 8,
29 subsistence wildlife issues. Vince.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll
32 point it out in the book. I don't know, we've handled
33 this different ways, and the most recent say that you've
34 handled it is Staff points it out to what pages in the
35 book, and you look it over. I don't want to downplay it,
36 but this is basically a requirement in law that the
37 Secretary -- well, the Secretaries respond to you or the
38 Board respond to you on your recommendations that go
39 before the Federal Board, and in writing they explain why
40 they would reject your recommendations.

41

42 We've expanded that as a program to
43 explain how your recommendations, ones that the Board
44 agreed with are in there. So it's under Tab C, pages 15
45 through 20 and I can either summarize it or you can just
46 look at it. My memory bank's getting a little low at
47 this time, but I believe this has all been mailed to you
48 also earlier. That's not to put you off or anything,
49 it's just to inform you that you may have seen it
50 earlier, and if you have any questions on this, to let

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1 Staff know.

2

3

4 It's given for two reasons. Besides the
5 law, it's to inform you what happened, but it's also to
6 give you an understanding of what happened, so if you
7 wanted to submit proposals, you could, based on the
8 Board's actions. You would understand that the Board
9 accepted something or rejected it, and then you could
10 develop a proposal, because these actually address
11 wildlife, and we're now in the call for wildlife
12 proposals. So I'll stop there, and seek direction from
13 you.

13

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any feelings from the
16 Council one way or the other? Do you need a few more
17 minutes to look through? I think that I've had ample
18 time to look through it. Any questions.

18

19

(No comment)

20

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, while we're
23 discussing subsistence wildlife issues, I see a State
24 proposal for brown bear, and call for wildlife proposals.
25 Do we have to go through this agenda line-by-line? I
26 think it would be simpler.....

26

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it would be wise to
29 do that, because the State's working on some
30 simplification for proposals, and we do have a proposal
31 that I handed out yesterday. And the representative from
32 Ruby Local Advisory Committee would like to testify. I
33 just didn't pass it up here yet, because you're moving
34 faster than I'm thinking, but he would also like to
35 testify about moose concerns. And that would fall
36 underneath when we look at different proposals.

36

37

38 Let me explain it another way. We don't
39 have any proposals submitted to date other than the one I
40 passed out yesterday, so you may want to look at it. You
41 cannot take action on it. You can just discuss it so
42 those that are going to write up the analysis would have
43 a better understanding at this point how you perceive
44 that proposal.

44

45

46 We don't have any potential regional
47 proposals I don't believe, Pete, but we have some carry-
48 overs from last cycle that are -- yeah, we have that one
49 that was submitted we'll discuss, and then the half-mile
50 restriction that Mr. Benedict requested some time ago be
51 lifted on the winter hunt in 21(D), and then we've had a

00043

1 request over time to align our descriptions of the
2 Koyukuk -- is that what it's called? Yeah. Koyukuk
3 Controlled Use Area. And those are in your book.
4 They're just proposals that we need to see if you want to
5 have them submitted to the Federal Board.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: That didn't clarify much.
8 So I guess we'll have to go through this line-by-line,
9 right?

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, you mean in the 805
12 letter?

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, this -- everything
15 under topic 8, subsistence wildlife issues.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: It would be best if you
18 went down there, because it's been requested. I think
19 you've already completed the 805 letter. Then you would
20 go -- Roy Nowlin has a presentation on the simplifying
21 brown bear in the Interior.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. We'll call Roy
24 Nowlin. I think that we had ample time to go over past
25 proposals, or proposals that were acted on already, so
26 we'll go into B, State proposal, Roy Nowlin.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: I think you'll need that
29 true five minutes again to set up here, because he's got
30 a Powerpoint presentation that the minute we say it takes
31 30-seconds, it takes longer to set up.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Five minutes or
34 less.

35
36 (Off record)

37
38 (On record)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll call the meeting
41 back to order. So we have Roy Nowlin simplifying brown
42 bear. So without further adieu, would you state your
43 name and your organization, all that? Thank you.

44
45 MR. NOWLIN: Yes, thank you, Mr.
46 Chairman, members of the council. My name is Roy Nowlin.
47 I'm with Alaska Department of Fish and Game out of
48 Fairbanks. I'm the regional management coordinator for
49 Division of Wildlife Conservation.

50

00044

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proceed. Go ahead.

2

3 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah. Thank you for -- I
4 realize you've got a very busy schedule here, and I
5 appreciate you giving me some time to do this. I can say
6 that I should be finished with this in about 11 or 12
7 minutes, so I'll keep it real short.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Don't worry. Let's keep
10 going. Thank you.

11

12 MR. NOWLIN: Okay. Thank you very much.
13 What I'd like to talk about is Interior Alaska
14 brown/grizzly bear seasons and bag limits. And we feel
15 that we've got a problem with the regulations with these
16 brown/grizzly bear regulations in the Interior. And what
17 we've -- what's been building for a long time is a
18 feeling amongst people, and also amongst Fish and Game
19 staff that these regulations are really overly
20 complicated. We've got to the point where the public is
21 having difficulty understanding them, and also our Staff
22 is having real difficulty trying to explain this to the
23 public as well.

24

25 And in addition we've -- through almost
26 30 years now, since Statehood actually, of experience
27 with managing grizzly bears in the Interior, we've come
28 to feel that our management is also very conservative.

29

30 What has happened as a result of these
31 two problems is that, as I said earlier, we've got a lot
32 of hunter confusion going on out there. And it's
33 disturbing to me when people come to us, and we get these
34 calls and they don't seem to be able to understand what
35 these regulations are about or adequately interpret them.
36 And then when our -- the people at our information
37 counter in Fairbanks and Anchorage for Department of Fish
38 and Game have trouble trying to explain these things to
39 people. And it makes you wonder whether there's
40 something that we should do here to try to help the
41 hunters out, help hunters out, and the people that are
42 using this resource.

43

44 The conservative -- the other thing
45 that's happened here as a result of our conservative
46 approach to brown bear/grizzly bear management is that we
47 feel that we've got a lot of lost hunting opportunity out
48 there. That the seasons are shorter, bag limits are more
49 conservative than what they really need to be. And once
50 again this is a result of our experience in the Interior

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1 for almost 30 years now.

2

3 And what are some of the solutions to
4 these things? Well, as regards this hunter confusion
5 that I was talking about, I think we can simplify.
6 There's room in there to do that and still protect this
7 brown bear resource and manage it properly.

8

9 The other thing I think that's important
10 is that we make an effort to coordinate State/Federal
11 regulations, and that's why I'm here today, because I
12 wanted to give you folks a head's up about the direction
13 that we're headed with that, because if we don't achieve
14 some coordination here, I think that we're going to wind
15 up with a complicated situation again that's going to
16 continue to confuse people.

17

18 As regards lost opportunity, that
19 particular problem, I think there's opportunity to
20 liberalize bear seasons, and I'll go over that in a
21 little bit more detail in a minute, so if you could kind
22 of just hold that thought.

23

24 In the process of liberalize, we feel
25 that we're probably going to get some increase in
26 harvest, yes, we're going to have more bears that are
27 going to be taken. But we don't think that it's going to
28 cause a decline in bear populations. So with this
29 concept here that I'm talking about, it's not -- this is
30 not a brown bear reduction program. It's not a predator
31 control program. What we're talking here is
32 simplification and providing more opportunity for
33 hunters.

34

35 And right now what we're doing is seeking
36 comments on this concept. And we've got a draft State
37 proposal, and, Vince, has that been -- okay. You've got
38 it in front of you there. You'll see a draft proposal.
39 This is State codified. You know, the State legal
40 language. And that covers the entire Interior, and it
41 actually covers the eastern North Slope as well, so it
42 does actually extent out of the Interior a bit. And
43 we're seeking comments from various groups around the
44 State. Primarily we're working with the fish and game
45 advisory committees, but also primarily working with you
46 folks, because we like to hear what you think about this.
47 And we're moving towards finalizing this as a Staff
48 proposal for the Board of Game by the December 5th
49 deadline that we have for submission of proposals. So
50 that's what we're about right now, and we expect that

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1 there will be some proposal before the Board of Game when
2 they meet in February on this.

3

4 The other part of this, of course, is
5 trying to achieve some coordination with the Federal
6 system. And what we'd like -- what we want to do is put
7 in a Federal place holder proposal as well before your
8 deadline, which I believe is the end of next week. And
9 so I don't have something for you right now, because I'm
10 still working on parts of the explanation of this thing,
11 but we will have something in, and that will give you the
12 opportunity to consider this along with all the other
13 proposals that you may have, and by the time it comes up
14 for our consideration again, I believe that the Board of
15 Game will have met, and so you'll have an idea of what
16 happened on the State side, and getting this in will give
17 you an opportunity to take a look at it on the Federal
18 side as well.

19

20 Why do we think that these regulations
21 have become complicated? That is, the brown bear/grizzly
22 bear regulations, why have they become complicated?
23 Well, one of the main reasons is that over the years we
24 have liberalized bear regulations in order to benefit
25 moose and caribou. There's been places where we felt
26 that predation by grizzly bears was a problem for moose
27 populations where those were low, and so around the State
28 we've had various places where we have liberalized. And
29 in an attempt to try to relieve some of that predation.

30

31 Some of the things that's happened, we've
32 gone from -- we have statewide standard bag limit of one
33 bear every four years, and that has been changed as part
34 of this liberalization to one bear per year. And I've
35 got another map here that I can show you what this looks
36 like in your area of jurisdiction. And so we've gone to
37 this one bear per year, and in further complicating this,
38 the one bear per year in some areas counts against the
39 statewide bag limit of one per four, and in other areas
40 it doesn't. So, you know, this is part of it.

41

42 Another thing that's happened as part of
43 this is that generally when you take a bear you can
44 complete the sealing process, you know, putting the tag
45 on the thing, the hide, anywhere. But in these units
46 where we liberalized in response to concerns about
47 predation, we've in several cases required hunters to
48 seal within that unit before they take it out, or to not
49 take to take it to closer towns. For example, if you
50 take a bear in Unit 20(E), a grizzly bear, you've got to

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1 have it sealed in Tok, and so you can't go very far with
2 it. Once again, this is another complication that has
3 occurred.

4

5 We've also lengthened seasons in units,
6 so that's produced a patchwork of different season
7 lengths across the Interior. This is a result of what's
8 happened, and this will give you some idea. It was
9 pretty tough to try to capture this on one map, this
10 situation, but for the Eastern Interior, these -- these
11 areas that are striped, like up here in 25(A), that's one
12 bear per four years. The same in 25(B). You drop over
13 into 25(D), it winds up being one bear per year. And you
14 know, drop down into 20(E), it winds up being one bear
15 per year. So -- and 12 is also one bear per year. the
16 same thing with 20(D), and then you drop over in here
17 into the rest of Unit 20, and it's one per four again.
18 Well, if you take a bear in 20(E), you've got to seal it
19 in Tok before you can go any further with it. 20(D),
20 you've got to seal it in Delta. And in 25(D) we have the
21 same in-unit sealing requirements.

22

23 And you could also see here that we've
24 got here these different seasons that are color-coded
25 here. What have we got, six, seven different season
26 lengths scattered around the Interior.

27

28 So it's a complicated situation. And
29 when you start -- particularly when you start moving from
30 one place to the next, trying to decide, well, okay, it's
31 one per four over here, and I'm going to go to one per
32 year. What does it mean I can really do? I got one last
33 year. I'm going into a one per four. This just keeps
34 going on and on and on. And I don't think it's serving
35 us very well.

36

37 The other part of this is why do we think
38 that our current regulations are conservative. Well, we
39 have right now harvest in most of the units is below six
40 percent of the estimated population. And that's what --
41 that harvest rate is what we've applied historically.
42 And that's what we felt was -- if you went above six
43 percent, we felt for a long time that that could
44 potentially produce problems for you. And like I say, we
45 can considered that historically to be our sustainable
46 harvest rate. Now we've -- after years of experience
47 with this, we've come to think that six percent is pretty
48 conservative. And that's based just upon some research
49 work that was done in Unit 20(A), just out of Fairbanks,
50 where we purposefully reduced an experimental bear

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1 population to see what kind of harvest it could take.
2 And, you know, there's certainly a possibility that it's
3 greater than six percent, but the verdict isn't in on
4 that yet.

5
6 And I think most telling here is where we
7 have -- I explained to you earlier that we liberalized
8 seasons and bag limits, and this was in units to try and
9 benefit -- reduce bear populations to try to benefit
10 moose and caribou. Well, what's happened to us when
11 we've done that is in the rural units now, we haven't
12 really been successful at influencing the harvest. We've
13 lengthened it out, we've gone to one bear per year, but
14 it hasn't really made much difference in bear harvest.
15 And we've lengthened the seasons in those places. We've
16 changed from one bear -- from one bear per four to one
17 bear per year, and in addition to that -- well, like I
18 said, we've done it to benefit moose and caribou. But we
19 just haven't been really able to increase harvest. And
20 the key here to remember is that these are rural units
21 where this is not -- where we haven't increased harvest,
22 like in 20(E) is a good example. We've got a long
23 history there of trying to influence bear populations in
24 Unit 20(E) without success.

25
26 That doesn't show up very well, but I've
27 got a caution down there at the bottom of the next point,
28 because understanding that it's rural areas that -- where
29 we've not been successful with this is important, because
30 near urban centers like south of Fairbanks, yes, when we
31 liberalize seasons, we were able to reduce bear
32 populations. Down in the Delta area in southwestern
33 20(D), we have been successful at reducing bear
34 populations to benefit ungulates there. Moose and
35 caribou. Now, whether that's actually resulted in more
36 moose and caribou yet, well, that's an open question.
37 But the fact is that if you have a large number of
38 hunters that are near these bear populations, and you
39 liberalize, yes, you can influence them. And you'll see
40 in a minute why that's important with this proposal.

41
42 This gives you an idea of what's
43 happening with brown bear harvest. You know, I mentioned
44 earlier that six percent of the population is what we
45 guessed or estimated, best professional judgment is
46 important. And we also have some -- we have data to back
47 up that six percent from various places. But the key
48 here with this is you see that these lighter colors here
49 are where the percent harvest, the shades of yellow and
50 gold here, are where the harvest is below six percent,

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1 and you can see that there's a broad band here all the
2 way around the Interior where that's occurring. So in
3 addition to six percent being conservative in the first
4 place, we're not even harvesting up to that right now.
5 So we could take more bears in a lot of the Interior, and
6 it's not going to make much difference for those bear
7 populations.

8
9 The exception here as I mentioned before,
10 you see this 20(B). Fairbanks sits right here. 20(B),
11 and that's a high harvest rate. We're up pretty high in
12 there right now. And if you look down here, down in the
13 Delta area in 20(D), the same thing there. That's a very
14 high harvest rate. But this area, particularly in 20(D)
15 has been identified for intensive management, and the
16 Board of Game has specifically had very liberal seasons
17 in there in an attempt to reduce the bear population.
18 And our expectation is that population will be reduced.

19
20 And so down in here in -- more out in
21 your area here, 19(C) and 19(B) is the -- again you can
22 see there's a higher harvest rate in there. But through
23 all of this in this area in Interior, 24, 21, 19(D),
24 19(A), harvest rate is still below six percent. So
25 really conservative out there.

26
27 Now, what are the solutions to the
28 problems that I mentioned, this hunter confusion and
29 reduced opportunity? Well, for hunter confusion, again
30 simplify these regulations. One of the things we could
31 do is go standardize bag limits over the entire Interior,
32 and also eliminate this in-unit sealing requirements
33 where hunters don't have to worry about when they kill a
34 bear getting it sealed in the unit where they killed it.
35 Make seasons as standardized as possible over large
36 geographic areas. Again, coordinate State and Federal
37 Regulations.

38
39 For this problem of lost hunting
40 opportunity, I think we have the -- we can liberalize
41 bear regulations and -- for example, we can go to one
42 bear per year through the entire Interior, and we would
43 make that not count against the Statewide bag limit of
44 one to four, so we'd eliminate that complication. Also,
45 have consistent, longer seasons where we can.

46
47 Now, the proposal, this is back to what
48 we currently have again. I just wanted to put this up
49 here for you for comparison, and we've already talked
50 about this. Now, this is what would happen if the

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1 proposal, the draft proposal that I've circ -- that
2 you've got in front of you was adopted. And what we
3 would do here is in your area, the major changes for the
4 Western would be we would wind up going from one bear per
5 four years to one bear per year in most of Unit 19. We
6 already have one bear per year right here in 19(D).
7 21(D) has one bear per year, 24 has one bear per year.
8 All the rest of this would go from one in four to one
9 bear per year.

10

11 In addition, the seasons would be
12 lengthened in all of Unit -- let's see, in all of Units
13 21 and 24, and then in 19(A) and 19(D). And they would
14 be lengthened from -- or lengthened out to August 10 to
15 June 30. Now, there are shorter seasons in all of that
16 area currently. And you can take a look at your codified
17 there that I passed out, and you can see exactly. If
18 you're interested in a specific area, you can see exactly
19 what the proposal is for change.

20

21 Let's see, the other thing that would
22 happen is down in the Western Alaska Brown Bear
23 Management Area, which is right in here. We would have
24 -- right now that is already a one bear per year bag
25 limit, but we would change that so it doesn't count
26 against the statewide one per four. Again, eliminate a
27 complication in there.

28

29 The result of this proposal if it's
30 passed would be, once again, reduced hunter confusion,
31 and we expect it would be increased hunter opportunity,
32 because we would have longer seasons. We'd have one bear
33 per year bag limit over the entire Interior.

34

35 There's going to be some additional
36 harvest of bears, that's true. But we don't think we're
37 going to see any decline in bear populations. And if we
38 do, if we start seeing problems, what we'd like to do is
39 handle it through shorter seasons if we need to, or if we
40 need to go to a permit hunt to protect a bear population,
41 we can do that.

42

43 So we don't think this is going to cause
44 any conservation problems for bears, but if they do
45 develop, we'll be prepared to respond.

46

47 That's all I really appreciate your
48 attention and if I can answer any questions, I will.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

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1 MR. REAKOFF: One thing that wasn't clear
2 to me is in the Northwest Brown Bear Area, the bears, you
3 don't have to have the bears sealed, and you can -- as
4 long as the bear stays in the unit, you don't have to
5 have it sealed. Would that be still retained in those
6 units?

7
8 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah. We're not planning on
9 any change to how those brown bear management areas would
10 be -- the conditions of those. You'll see that there is
11 a change in there to -- for administrative. There is an
12 administrative change, because what we'd like to do is
13 instead of running those permits, I think the northwest
14 -- I don't know whether Glen has those. Glen probably
15 has those permits in Galena and they're available in
16 other places, but Glen would run the Unit 24 and 21(D)
17 part of that where that hasn't been the case in the past.
18 And the season would be longer. There would be no change
19 in there otherwise. You still wouldn't have to seal.
20 Let's see, what else? I guess we have salvage
21 requirements in there. None of those things would
22 change. Just the season length, so there would be more
23 opportunity.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
26 Robert.

27
28 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
29 see that it goes onto 21(E) all the way up in Region 6
30 and the Western Interior, the change from four to one.
31 Aren't you going to get any input from the local advisory
32 boards from this area, here, Roy, or are you just going
33 to go ahead and present this here without concurring to
34 what they have to have input on this?

35
36 And my second question is that you change
37 it from four to one, I would have this feeling that the
38 State wants to do some culling here. I mean, you say six
39 percent, but you know that there's some guides out there
40 that have 20, 30 people that they bring out or more, and
41 two or three. So I'm kind of like reluctant to -- your
42 six percent. It should be a little bit higher than that.

43
44 MR. NOWLIN: In response to your first
45 question about the advisory committees, yes, we are going
46 to be discussing with all the advisory committees that
47 meet. And they'll actually have two chances. WE're
48 trying to do it now at the -- well, potentially they'll
49 have two chances, but we're doing it now, bringing this
50 proposal before the advisory committees, collecting

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1 comments. And then we'll pull all those together the
2 first week in December, and decide what changes we should
3 make to the proposal. Then once the proposal goes in,
4 the advisory committees will have another chance at it
5 when it's out for comment, for public comment, so there
6 will be two. And we've -- I think we've contacted three
7 or four advisory committees around the Interior, and
8 we're -- and we've also discussed it with the 19(A) and
9 (B) planning group last week in Aniak. And with the
10 Central Kuskokwim Committee in Aniak last week.

11

12 In response to your other question, just
13 so that I understand this, you're concerned that --
14 you're concerned about the bag limit and with the bag
15 limit that the guides would have, is that correct?

16

17 MR. WALKER: Yes.

18

19 MR. NOWLIN: Okay. Well, you know, when
20 we have -- in our experience, when we've changed this bag
21 limit, and we did it in Unit 19(D), in your area, and we
22 had a lot of experience with it also in the Eastern RAC's
23 area in Unit 12 and Unit 20(E), and we have a lot of
24 guides working in Unit 12. It just hasn't made a
25 difference. And the reason is there's only so many bears
26 that people are interested in taking. And I understand
27 your concern that they may bring in a lot of people, but
28 that hasn't been our experience in other places. And
29 we're well below in 21, you know that one diagram I
30 showed you about how low. I think the harvest was down
31 around -- I could get it back up again, but down around
32 two percent I think there of our estimate. And we feel
33 we could go up to six percent and probably even higher
34 than six percent before you start influencing those
35 populations. So we're so far below what we feel is
36 sustainable on these bear populations, and as I said,
37 we'll be watching the harvest. We get good reporting
38 from these guides on this bear harvest.

39

40 I think we've got a pretty good handle on
41 what the nonresidents are taking out there, that if we
42 start to see a spike, then we would come in with more
43 conservative regulations. But what we would probably do,
44 rather than going to -- back to a one per four, you know,
45 one bear per four years, is we'd probably want to go back
46 to -- we'd probably want to reduce the season down, if we
47 saw there was a bear conservation concern, just to keep
48 this simple. Because as we've gone down this road with
49 one bear per four years, it's gotten so complicated that
50 it's -- people are just having -- it's just a nightmare

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1 thing to try to deal with. I hope that answers your
2 question, Bob.

3

4 MR. WALKER: Yes.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: In Unit 24, don't we
7 already have a one bear per year with that liberal season
8 and no sealing requirement? Don't we already have that
9 in place?

10

11 MR. NOWLIN: In Unit 24, yes, you do have
12 a one bear per year already. You -- it depends on if you
13 hunt under the subsistence permit, hunt the registration
14 permit hunt, then you don't have to seal a bear. But if
15 you under general season, then you have to do that, but
16 the bag limit is still one per four, one bear per year no
17 matter which way you go, whether you hunt under
18 subsistence provisions, or whether you hunt under the
19 general provisions, general season.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Is there a sealing
22 requirement for bears taken in defense of life and
23 property, which I think is the most utilized out there.

24

25 MR. NOWLIN: Yes, there is. If you had
26 -- this again is a little complicated, but if you had a
27 permit, you know, one of the subsistence permits, then
28 you could take that bear under that subsistence permit
29 assuming the season were open, and you wouldn't have to
30 have it sealed. But if you took it in defense of life or
31 property, that presumes that you don't have a permit in
32 your hands, and in that case, yes, you would have to have
33 it sealed, and you'd also have to surrender the hide and
34 the skull to the State under that circumstances. If it
35 was -- if you didn't have one of those permits or, you
36 know, the season wasn't open, and you couldn't do it
37 under regular normal season and bag limit.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does a brown bear or
40 grizzly about a mile and a half away constitute -- no.
41 Jack.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, excuse me.
44 In the upper part of the unit where I live, there are
45 some guides guiding there, and I asked them how many bear
46 hunters they're taking, and so forth, and they tell me
47 they have a real hard time booking bear hunters. There's
48 very few people that want to go grizzly bear hunting.
49 There's lots of demand for coastal brown bears. But --
50 and so then I was talking to the area biologist, Glen

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1 Stout about the harvest of bears along the Dalton
2 highway, and in our unit in general, Unit 24, and he told
3 me that there's a few bears are harvested on the Dalton
4 Highway, but the harvest in our unit is only around half
5 of what could be harvested, so I don't see any
6 conservation concerns with this, and I would like to see
7 more standardization of the seasons and simplification,
8 so I would encourage the Department to submit a proposal
9 to the Federal program, and let's see a nice clean
10 overall season on this. And I'm in favor of this
11 concept.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Roy. If we
14 were to make a motion in favor of this draft, would
15 proposal would it be? I see a whole bunch of numbers,
16 but it doesn't mean anything.

17

18 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I think
19 just a -- this is in draft form, and I'm not sure that
20 you need to take any formal action at this point, because
21 you will have a proposal before you as part of your
22 normal cycle to look at, and the expression of support
23 that you've given so far is encouraging, and that Member
24 Walker gave of concern. I'll carry those forward and
25 that would be -- that is really at this point as much as
26 I would need, and I certainly appreciate your.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

29

30 MR. NOWLIN:right here.

31

32 MR. WALKER: One more question, Ray.
33 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have ADF&G did any studies on
34 bear movement with collars or anything in Region 6 here?

35

36 MR. NOWLIN: We don't -- let's see, the
37 only place where we have information from collared bears
38 is in 20(A), south of Fairbanks, in the Interior. We may
39 have some from the North Slope, but out in the western
40 area we don't. Oh, wait a minute. Wait a minute. Hold
41 on. We do as a result of our efforts last spring in
42 McGrath. We had some collared bears. Those were bears
43 that we removed from that experimental management area
44 outside of McGrath where we moved those bears to try and
45 see if we could improve by reducing the number of bears
46 in that area, see if we could improve the survival of
47 moose calves. But that's very early on, and I -- we were
48 interested there in trying to determine how quickly those
49 bears got back to McGrath after we'd moved them, and how
50 many came back. So that's the only thing we've got out

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1 west as far as monitoring movements.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

4

5 Benedict.

6

7 MR. JONES: Yeah, has -- how fast has
8 that bear population increased the last 20 years? I know
9 50 years ago we never seen a brown bear or grizzly track
10 in our area. All at once there was an explosion in
11 population, and how often do they reproduce?

12

13 MR. NOWLIN: That's a tough question for
14 bears. You know, we feel -- we've got places where we
15 have done surveys on bears to estimate the population,
16 and there's -- increasingly there's more of those around
17 the State. And it's very expensive. And we've -- the
18 most recent one we did was in 26(B) on the Slope. And we
19 did it down in 20(A) out of Fairbanks. But in answer to
20 your question about how recently they've increased, our
21 impression is -- I mean, we don't have any real -- any
22 historical data like from 30 years ago about how many
23 bears there were. I mean, we had a lot less information
24 back then than we do now. And so we don't have much of a
25 comparison, and think your impressions about what's
26 happened from what you've seen and what people have seen
27 on the ground historically is -- agrees with what we
28 think has happened. We think that bear populations are
29 healthy, and there's lots of bears, and where we have
30 done estimates of actual numbers, then we've found often
31 that our estimates are pretty darn -- you know, what we
32 thought, and then when we went and actually did surveys
33 with airplanes to try and look around, see what was
34 there, that our estimates were pretty darn good. But,
35 you know, in answer to your first question about, geez,
36 you know, when they increased, all of our -- the
37 information that we have indicates that we've got very
38 healthy bear populations, and people are telling us
39 there's more and more bears, and they're seeing more and
40 that's part of what prompted this proposal, is because
41 just think we're being very conservative with bears, and
42 that we can take more, and the population can take more
43 harvest. That was kind of a long-winded answer. If that
44 doesn't satisfy you, please tell me.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

47

48 MR. JONES: Yeah, how often does a female
49 have calves -- cubs.

50

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1 MR. NOWLIN: Well, the reproductive
2 interval for bears is at least two years, and depending
3 on food supply it could be more. It could be two to
4 three. That is, you know, they keep cubs for a couple of
5 years, and when the cubs are at their side, they're not
6 going to breed again. And the males tend to -- during
7 that time, the males will kill cubs, too, during that
8 time. And it will make the females come into season and
9 then they'll breed. So, you know, that happens a lot.
10 But in the research in the Interior, I'm sure it's two to
11 three -- every two to three years is when they breed.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Roy. People
14 must have been pretty tired of talking about fish. Just
15 before you go, I see Terry Haynes up front. Was there a
16 reason, Terry.

17
18 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Terry Haynes with the Department of Fish and Game. If
20 the Council was generally supportive of this concept I
21 was going to ask Vince if there might be a mechanism for
22 the Council to get its comments to the Board of Game,
23 because I believe the Board of Game will meet before your
24 Council meets next, so I think it would be useful if
25 there was a mechanism for the Council to get its comments
26 to the Board of Game. And I'm not sure how you would do
27 that, but -- since we don't have an official proposal out
28 yet.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks for that
31 clarification, Terry. Robert.

32
33 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Roy, the proposal here for the hunting season and bag
35 limits for brown bear. They're classified as two bears,
36 right, the grizzly bear and the brown bear. And in Unit
37 21(E), we don't have brown bears, we have grizzly bears.
38 Now, this draft proposal states that you're hunting
39 brown, and if somebody kills a grizzly bear, they've got
40 to turn it over to the State? Surrender the hide, or --
41 because -- I need some clarification here.

42
43 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, Member Walker, that is
44 confusing, but under State regulations, and I'm sure the
45 Federal regulations are the same, grizzly bear and brown
46 bear are considered the same. And people have used --
47 yeah. You know, they've -- like on the coast, you know,
48 they call them brown bears there. They're bigger, they
49 eat fish, so they put on more size. And in the Interior,
50 grizzly bears tend to be smaller. But it's the same

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1 animal, and covered under the same regulations. I think
2 that -- maybe we should fix that, too, try to eliminate
3 that confusion, but, yeah, it's just -- and I think Boone
4 and Crocket in their -- I think they have separation
5 between those two as well in trophy, so -- but they are
6 considered the same animal.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Roy. Did you
9 have a mechanism in place, Vince?

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, there's
12 a couple of things that come to mind here, and one is
13 that this is the first time your Staff has -- your
14 support Staff have seen this proposal, so we really don't
15 know all the implications of it compared to Federal
16 seasons. So I think your mechanism that would be in the
17 middle of the road would be that you support
18 simplification as long as it maintains the existing
19 subsistence opportunity. I know that's kind of shmoozing
20 the words there, but we haven't had a chance to see if
21 this on in effect on the Federal side, if there's a
22 reduction or increase. On the State side it's clear by
23 Roy's presentation it is. But we haven't had a chance
24 really to look under Federal. Unless Pete wants to -- it
25 puts us in an awkward position right at this moment. You
26 don't have another time to meet unless you meet -- the
27 Board of Game starts February 23rd, right?

28

29 MR. NOWLIN: Yes.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: So you'd have to meet
32 before February 23rd to play that, or take the chance
33 with their road map. And that's very risky to meet while
34 the Board of Game is meeting and then assume that they
35 stayed a road map, and you can get your comment. Because
36 we can obviously fax it to them. So there's a bit of a
37 calendar problem here.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. If I
40 understand our operation correctly, as long as you leave
41 out predator control out of our proposals or motion, we
42 should be in safe waters, right?

43

44 Jack.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would like
47 to make a motion to adopt the position.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Draft position.

50

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1 MR. REAKOFF: Draft position to simplify
2 the brown/grizzly bear regulations at least affecting the
3 Western Interior that do not reduce or affect subsistence
4 in any lower opportunity. But I'm in full favor of the
5 simplification of the regulations.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Is there a
8 second.

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. It's moved and
13 seconded that we approve of the draft recommendations,
14 and at this time it is only draft recommendations as
15 presented by Roy Nowlin. Any further question
16 discussion.

17
18 (No comment)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions.

21
22 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah. Roy, like Ben I
23 agree with -- like Ben, you know, even though I live
24 right close to a spawning creek where there's all those
25 high concentration of big animals and small animals, and
26 historically we never ever saw them come to the village.
27 And I would say in the last 10 years though that they
28 have -- unless they get squeezed out by the larger ones
29 and they're looking for their own territory to claim,
30 they've actually been coming in to the Village of Nulato,
31 so there is a safety concern for the tribe there.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Was that
34 motion seconded?

35
36 MR. STICKMAN: I did.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Seconded by Micky.

39
40 Any further discussion.

41
42 (No comment)

43
44 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: The question's been
47 called. All those in favor of the motion signify by
48 saying aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if you're
8 still in session and if Roy can, it would be nice to hear
9 when you present to Eastern Interior, what actions if any
10 they take on this. It wouldn't take long to report back,
11 since this is a cross regional action.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

14

15 MR. WALKER: Yes, Roy and Vince here, the
16 deadline for a proposal is October 24th, this year,
17 right? Let's say we want to put a proposal in there from
18 the tribal government in 21(E), that stated they want to
19 hunt four bears per year on Federal land, I mean what
20 kind of concussions or percussions would this have with
21 the Federal C&T versus State?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'll try and then --
24 he mentioned in the beginning of his presentation that
25 they're going to submit a placeholder proposal to the
26 Federal side which will give you latitude under the
27 amendment, modification when it comes up to you to
28 address it. You have full opportunity now to submit a
29 proposal on the Federal side to address a bear issue in
30 your area if you want to.

31

32 If you get it on the record -- let me put
33 it another way, you don't have to worry about writing the
34 proposal in great detail at this point. We can help you
35 at that. What we need on the record is that you want X
36 proposal done. And then it's before the 24th date, so
37 we're okay.

38

39 MR. NOWLIN: I don't have anything to add
40 to that. I would.....

41

42 MR. WALKER: That's four bears per year?

43

44 MR. NOWLIN: Yeah, that would -- I think
45 that that would cause us to reanalyze the information
46 that we have and look at it -- at potential impacts on
47 the bear population. I think we would be -- my guess is,
48 if we did something like that we would be potentially
49 outside of what we discussed here on this draft proposal
50 because the concept here is that this is not going to

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1 cause a reduction in the bear population. We are going
2 to get a few additional bears taken as a result of this,
3 we just don't think it's going to have an impact. Now,
4 potentially what you described would and right now in our
5 discussions this -- a bear reduction is really not a part
6 of what we're discussing with this proposal.

7

8 And the Board of Game may want to go
9 there in some places, it's possible. And there is on the
10 call for the Board of Game meeting, there is sale of
11 hides and skulls and so there are some things that
12 potentially could increase harvest and, you know, we've
13 messed around with bag limits for bears and haven't had
14 much of an effect on harvest. But potentially and I'm
15 not making any endorsement or anything here of any
16 particular approach. But potentially if someone has an
17 economic incentive to take the bears, you might have a
18 bigger effect on bear populations than just -- because
19 that's what that would do. I mean the sale of hides and
20 skulls would potentially give people an economic
21 incentive. If you can make some money off of bears then
22 I think you would probably see some additional taken.

23

24 But I think in terms of scrutiny from --
25 nationwide scrutiny, from various groups that making a
26 move like that is going to be highly controversial.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Roy Nowlin.

29

30 MR. WALKER: You answered my questions
31 before I asked them. Thanks Roy.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Going on with the agenda,
34 we have call for Federal wildlife proposals and summary
35 of wildlife proposals. I have a dilemma here. We have
36 Ed, are you still here -- where do we fit him in, Vince?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: I think this would be a
39 very appropriate time because you have a strong
40 relationship with your local advisory committees and I
41 think that will bring you right into the proposal that I
42 passed out yesterday.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Call for proposals, right?

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. At this time I
49 would like to recognize Ed Sarten from Ruby.

50

00061

1 MR. SARTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Council. Please bear with me I'm new at all this. So
3 basically I just wanted to bring up some comments about
4 our moose hunting situation in Ruby. Our harvest is
5 going down and I was just basically wanting to comment
6 that we are looking for a way of making a proposal to the
7 State that will be in line with the Federal, and
8 basically I was just looking for suggestions and comments
9 from your Council on how we should approach, perhaps
10 reduction in hunting seasons for outside hunters or
11 whether we should go Tier II or any other suggestions
12 that the Council may have for our area in 21(D), maybe
13 21(B), which is our immediate area and open that to
14 discussion to you guys so I could go back to Ruby with
15 some type of information so we can go somewhere with it.

16

17 So basically I just wanted to ask what
18 the Council thought of restricting some type of outside
19 hunting in our area, and that's basically all I'm asking.

20

21 Thank you for my comments.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ed. It usually
24 works the other way. You, as an individual, or you, as a
25 community can introduce any proposals in any way, shape
26 or form, to both the Federal system and the State Board
27 of Game. All they can do with it is fine tune it, vote
28 it down or move it up. And within those proposals you
29 can request anything that's reasonable. If it's
30 unreasonable all it can do is get voted down.

31

32 We have addressed some of your issues,
33 especially the transporters within the Koyukuk, Nowitna
34 Wildlife Refuge system.

35

36 One of the problems that is continually
37 being addressed, is the granting of permits to more and
38 more transporters within this area instead of lessening
39 this effort. I think at one of our most recent meetings
40 we addressed this issue and asked that these transporter
41 permits be cut down annually until they come up with an
42 optimal figure.

43

44 At this time I cannot see where we could
45 advise an individual or a community on which way to go.
46 We will take into consideration anything that you put
47 before us.

48

49 Does that answer your question?

50

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1 MR. SARTEN: Yes. Thank you, very much.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could you sit down, Ed,
4 Jack wants to -- Ed -- Jack.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'm looking
7 at our Western Interior map here and Ruby has a lot of
8 State control of lands around it. There's very little
9 Federal lands around near the village of Ruby. So the
10 problem with the Federal system.

11

12 If a village is in the middle of like a
13 wildlife refuge or something, we've got quite a bit of
14 control there, as far as reducing outside hunters. But
15 on the State land, then we get into a whole different
16 ball of wax where you have to -- near all Alaskan
17 residents are subsistence under their regs. And so in
18 your position you're going to have to basically work
19 through the State Board process.

20

21 MR. SARTEN: Most of our -- not most, but
22 a lot of our hunting is done on the Nowitna Wildlife
23 Refuge and there is a lot of concern with the people
24 there that there are too many hunters in the area. They
25 say that you go around ever bend there's a camp, a lot of
26 high speed boats, just a lot of interference with the
27 moose hunting for that population, which is -- I believe
28 that's 21(B), am I correct? And a lot of hunters go in
29 that area from our village there and they've expressed a
30 lot of concern and they're really trying to figure out a
31 way to reduce that hunting pressure.

32

33 So that's basically the concern I'm
34 trying to express for Ruby. And if there's any kind of
35 recommendations on that Federal land, then I would
36 appreciate comment on that.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: What threw me off is you
43 included 21(D), which is down river from there. Yeah,
44 you can submit a proposal to somehow come up with a way
45 of reducing outside hunters and, you know, I'm not sure
46 how you would do that. The Federal Subsistence Board
47 could possibly entertain some exterior hunting.

48

49 But in the Koyukuk Controlled Use area
50 Refuge, when we worked on that one, everything below the

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1 mean high water mark gets into State control again. And
2 so that's why we had to basically work through that moose
3 hunter working group to get a State plan that covered
4 everything, and then that's how we signed on to that one.

5

6 MR. SARTEN: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ed. Pete
9 DeMatteo. Just sit down Ed, there's more.

10

11 MR. SARTEN: I'm new at this so excuse
12 me.

13

14 MR. DEMATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
15 Sarten if I could add a bit to this, beings that you're a
16 resident of Ruby, the community of Ruby, since it's a
17 sole community advisory committee, you have the option to
18 meet, okay, and put in a proposal to the Alaska Board of
19 Game to address the outside hunters that hunt on the
20 Nowitna River.

21

22 Because as they mentioned to you, you
23 have the situation where you have -- and you know from
24 the Slatna on down, most of the hunting occurs below the
25 ordinary high water mark. So putting a proposal just
26 into the Federal Board will not address your concerns in
27 its entirety. So the best recommendations that Staff can
28 give you is to put in a proposal to the Alaska Board of
29 Game to more clearly address your concerns.

30

31 As Mr. Reakoff said, on the Koyukuk
32 River, they had a similar situation and that was an
33 effort in coming over many years and eventually the State
34 initiated a planning process that involved all the
35 interested parties. But you're not there yet. But that
36 would be the best advise we could give you.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just for your information,
41 though, Pete, a lot of their concerns is the Nowitna
42 Wildlife Refuge and we can address those issues and
43 whatever is within our powers.

44

45 And Just for the public's information, we
46 did schedule this meeting to be held at Ruby and I would
47 like to apologize to you and Emmitt for not meeting at
48 Ruby, I understand they had everything all set up at Ruby
49 for this meeting. So it will be in our best interest
50 that we hold our next meeting at Ruby to make up for lost

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1 time. Again, if you have anything to add, you're free
2 to.

3

4 MR. SARTEN: Thank you, that's good.
5 Going back with that information will be good so I thank
6 you all very much.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: And thanks for coming here
9 and spending all this time with us to express your
10 concerns, and that is appreciated and like I said,
11 hopefully our next meeting is at Ruby.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. SARTEN: Thank you, very much.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, summary of wildlife
18 proposals.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We did
21 have the one I passed out yesterday from George Yaska,
22 Sr., if I got it correct, from Huslia. I'm not saying
23 you have to take action on it. We provided it to you.
24 It kind of looks this way, we're just giving you -- I'll
25 just go through it, it's there before you. What am I
26 trying to say, that the analysis will come at the next
27 meeting. You just need to be aware of this, that Mr.
28 Yaska, Sr., is requesting that in Unit 21(D) and 24 close
29 bull moose hunting season on September 20th to all
30 hunters. And you can see part of his discussion on there
31 in the proposal.

32

33 This will go to the Federal Board. It's
34 my packet to meet with our regulation persons on Friday
35 and this will be published in the book, and I assume Pete
36 will be doing the analysis on it and it will be back
37 before you at your winter meeting.

38

39 So that's the summary of proposals unless
40 Pete knows of any others. I've not heard of any others.
41 He doesn't know of any others that are submitted.

42

43 A lot of people target, you know, the
44 couple days before the October 24th, so we just don't
45 know of any proposals right now. But there should be
46 some more coming in by October 24th, but they'll be back
47 before you when you get the full proposal booklet in the
48 mail and then the analysis for your next meeting.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: So at this time we can

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1 only acknowledge what's before us, that we have before us
2 and we are not taking any action at this time.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. They're just
5 informational so you're up to speed and then that way
6 when you go back home and talk to different people you
7 can get more information from your perspective on this
8 proposal and then share it with Pete and share it at the
9 next meeting.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Potential
12 Regional Council proposals. Vince.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: That was my thing. This
15 agenda was developed months ago and we just keep that in
16 there because as you know in the past Pete has worked on
17 alignment proposals and that and I think we got that all
18 pretty much worked out so there's none there but then we
19 have the two that you requested some time back,
20 proposals, if you want to talk about those, they're under
21 -- they're in your book and I can direct you if you'd
22 like that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time we're down to
25 the bottom of the page but I was approached by Sandy
26 Rabinowitch and Fred Andersen of the National Park
27 Service, and I understand they were under some time
28 constraints, is this true?

29

30 MR. RABINOWITCH: We're here for as long
31 as you need us, now or later.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's see, a consensus of
34 the Board, later?

35

36 MR. WALKER: Tomorrow.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MR. WALKER: They could be here as long
41 as they want.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: Let's do them now.

46

47 MR. STICKMAN: Ron.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

50

00066

1 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. On the one where it
2 says for potential Regional Council proposals. I would
3 think that I would be trying to draft up some kind of a
4 proposals for the Kaiyuh Flats. It's northern Innoko.
5 There's concern from the tribal members there in Nulato
6 that when the local residents that just moved to Nulato
7 in the last 10 years is bring these family members out
8 hunting in the Kaiyuh Flats and, you know that's given
9 the subsistence people there competition, you know,
10 there's a conflict there because it's not really a big
11 area and there's not really a lot of moose there and just
12 with the bulls only harvest it makes it even harder for
13 the local residents to obtain their subsistence needs.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would you like to address
16 to Pete, can you generate or investigate the
17 possibilities to this issue?

18
19 MR. DEMATTEO: Yes, Mr. Chair, we will do
20 that and we will work with Micky on that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Any
23 more?

24
25 MR. STICKMAN: No, thank you, Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks, Micky. I'm
28 glad you interjected at the right time. As long as we're
29 with proposals on Page 2 of our agenda -- before I go
30 further I would like to put National Park under Item 10
31 along with -- I see them under 10E, is that fine with
32 you, on the second page of the amended agenda?

33
34 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, for that
37 clarification and indulgence. On Page 2, we have an
38 alignment proposals with the state of Alaska regulations,
39 Pete or Vince.

40
41 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. As Vince
42 Mathews just mentioned that was put on the agenda some
43 months ago sort of as a placemaker in case that we
44 needed to bring that up at this time. But as Vince also
45 mentioned, is that, it looks like we've pretty much got
46 the regulations cleaned up in the past several years.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks. I believe that we
49 have been doing this, even item by item under our agenda
50 in every one of our meetings, so I think that's -- I

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1 think you are correct in that aspect. And with that,
2 we'll go into Item B, removal of half-mile restriction
3 winter hunt in Unit 21(D).

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that was one
6 that Benedict brought up some time ago and it is an
7 alignment proposal to align with State regulations to
8 remove that half-mile restriction within Unit 21(D) and
9 you can look at the proposal on Page 23. You've had it
10 before but we just didn't get around to seeing if you
11 wanted to resubmit it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: It seems to me that we did
14 already, we approved of this proposal, didn't we?

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: You approved me to write
17 it. You didn't approve to submit it. And so we didn't
18 get to the submittal phase.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wasn't this already dealt
21 with with the State approval of this proposal or the same
22 concept, I think that they did remove it?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: The State side did, we
25 didn't. The Federal side did not remove this half-mile
26 restriction so it is an alignment proposal that you asked
27 us to write before and it's just not been submitted to
28 the Federal Board.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we didn't -- I thought
31 we did. I was positive that we did, but to expedite --
32 Benedict.

33

34 MR. JONES: Yeah, I think it should be
35 submitted to the Board because I didn't see it in the
36 last season in the book, regulation book on State and
37 Federal land, it wasn't in there.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: So was that a motion?

40

41 MR. JONES: Yeah, I make a motion to
42 resubmit it to the Board.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I will go along with
49 the motion and the second. But I still feel positive
50 that we took action on it before, but to alleviate that

00068

1 problem. Any further discussion.

2

3 (No comment)

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called
8 for. All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying
9 aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank
18 you. Item C, modifying management area descriptions.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, my
21 understanding of this one is that it's more of a
22 housekeeping one but I don't know the whole background of
23 it. But my understanding is that the description for
24 the controlled use area in Federal regulations does not
25 align the State description of the controlled use area.
26 And so I put this placeholder in there for you to
27 consider submitting to the Federal Subsistence Board to
28 get that language cleared up. And I think Geoff is still
29 here, Beyersdorf, if there's some other reasoning for
30 this, he did talk to me about this, but I'm perceiving it
31 from before as a housekeeping one, but I think there may
32 be other reasons.

33

34 But, again, what's before you is do you
35 want to submit this to align description of the
36 controlled use areas, yes or no, and before you get to
37 yes or no, maybe Geoff could explain why this is
38 necessary.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I think it is
41 necessary at this time because you know we have a
42 controlled use area and we have Koyukuk and Kanuti
43 controlled use area which are not the -- which do not
44 have the same boundaries as the Koyukuk National Wildlife
45 Refuge and the Kanuti Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge.
46 They are, what, 90 percent, of both controlled use areas
47 are within the wildlife refuge system. There are quite a
48 bit of area left out of the controlled use area. Is this
49 why this was brought to our attention, Geoff?

50

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1 MR. BEYERSDORF: For the record, my name
2 is Geoff Beyersdorf with the Koyukuk National Wildlife
3 Refuge. And I was hoping Roy was going to be here to
4 speak to this because he's aware of it, but before the
5 Board of Game meeting two years ago there was an
6 adjustment to the KCAU boundary, and my understanding --
7 I talked with Glenn before I left the other day, the
8 northern portion of the boundary has been adjusted but
9 it's come to our attention that the State, there are some
10 discrepancies on the eastern boundaries so the State is
11 working on that.

12
13 My recommendation is that we'll align
14 with the State, but we're just waiting for the State to
15 actually come up with those boundaries on the one end. I
16 guess that's where it stands at this point.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: So at this time there's no
19 real action. Is there any way we can expedite movement
20 on this or it's more regulatory process than anything
21 else?

22
23 MR. BEYERSDORF: My recommendation would
24 be to support the Federal and the State are in alignment
25 on the boundaries so that we have the exact same
26 boundaries in regulations for the Federal and State
27 hunting regulations. My only caution at this point is
28 just to be aware that the State is still working one of
29 those boundary points. Once they develop that, I think
30 all we need to do is just make sure that the Federal is
31 in alignment with that, which we're willing to do.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So all we're doing
34 then is approving State action on which one, Kanuti or
35 the Koyukuk, that's already approved?

36
37 MR. BEYERSDORF: It's for the Koyukuk
38 Controlled Use Area, and I don't know if Pete has
39 anything else to add to this or not.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete.

42
43 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. I can say that
44 without description of this boundary adjustment, if you
45 were to support it at this point, an adjustment to the
46 boundary will not restrict subsistence opportunity. It
47 will not affect that, no, but it may improve subsistence
48 opportunity because of restrictions that may be in place
49 on outside hunters. But I don't know without seeing it,
50 but that's one possibility.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that was my
2 intention. Did you have something to add, Vince?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In the
5 past you've put in proposals similar to this, and then if
6 you find out later that it's not all aligned, you just
7 withdraw it. So this would be submitted to the Federal
8 Board. So you don't have to make the decision to agree
9 to the boundary change, you just have to make a decision
10 do you want a proposal put in for people to look at
11 aligning those boundary descriptions. And then after
12 Pete and others analyze it, then you would make your
13 recommendation and the Board would take it up in May.
14 And we'll, by then, sort out, if there's any changes on
15 the State side.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, my questions for
18 Geoff then, is that, do we have a proposal submitted at
19 this time?

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: We have a very rough one
22 here that I -- on Page 25. When I typed it up, quite
23 some time ago, it was -- I just need more time to type it
24 up so you'd have to empower Staff to complete this, is
25 all I'm trying to say. You'll see on the bottom line it
26 says, consult State regulations. When I was typing this
27 up I just -- it became too difficult so.....

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. MATHEWS:I don't mean that
32 negative to the State, it's just that when you get into
33 these latitudes/longitudes, I needed more time.

34
35 MR. WALKER: You got lazy.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: I got lazy, yeah. For the
38 record, it's the intent, and then we will -- you will, if
39 you agree, empower us to get the right language here, and
40 that's the whole point of this here, and then we will
41 have it cleaned up if you agree and it will be put in the
42 book and back before you, with analysis, at your
43 February/March meeting.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
50 make a motion that Staff promulgate a proposal that will

00071

1 align the Koyukuk Controlled Use area boundaries to match
2 the State's description and at that time, this spring, we
3 will analyze whether those are advantageous to the
4 subsistence users.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

7

8 MR. JONES: I second the motion.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

11

12 (No comment)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, these are usually
15 quick and fast and Vince stated, we can withdraw and move
16 in another direction, too. Robert.

17

18 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
19 thought Jeff Denton was going to do the 100-yard dash up
20 here, maybe you should ask him if he has anything to say.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jeff Denton. The other
23 Jeff.

24

25 MR. DENTON: Yeah, you just mentioned, I
26 misheard who you were calling for is all. It sounded
27 kind of like me is all. I didn't have anything to add to
28 this one here. Thanks.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks. So in other
31 discussion, we are only addressing the Koyukuk Controlled
32 Use Area which has pretty much been approved by the State
33 then, right, okay then any further.....

34

35 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called
38 for. All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying
39 aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Okay, do
48 w have to address the Kanuti Controlled Use Area at this
49 time? Do you have any idea Bob?

50

00072

1 MR. SHULTZ: (Shakes head negatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Pete, do you think
4 that any motion up or down would help or hurt any efforts
5 on the Kanuti Controlled Use Area?

6

7 MR. DEMATTEO: I don't think I follow you
8 complete, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would a motion to align
11 with the State's definition of the Controlled Use Area be
12 all right at this time or should we wait?

13

14 MR. DEMATTEO: Mr. Chair. Not knowing
15 the specific boundaries of the Kanuti Controlled Use
16 Area, are you saying that the Federal definition of the
17 boundary and the State definition are different?

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: If there is because, if w
20 moved on the Controlled Use Area in part of the Western
21 Interior, I would like to move in the other or pursue the
22 other. Bob Shultz.

23

24 MR. SHULTZ: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Bob
25 Shultz, Refuge Manager. My reading of the two
26 descriptions are the same for the Kanuti Controlled Use
27 Area, so there's no need. They both read identical. So
28 there's no need for any action to align the boundaries.

29

30 I believe where this came up with the
31 Koyukuk was the State Board of Game realigned it to make
32 a better, clearer definition so that hunters would know
33 if they were in or outside of the Koyukuk Controlled Use
34 Area. The State realigned it and the Federal government
35 just didn't catch up with the new definition of where
36 that boundary was and that's what we're doing.

37

38 There has been no change to the Kanuti
39 Controlled Use Area so there's no need to change it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks. I really
42 appreciate your statement because I was pursuing some
43 action on this.

44

45 Seeing that there's no action needed, it
46 is now 12:06, what's the wishes of the Council, keep
47 going.....

48

49 MR. STICKMAN: Lunch break.

50

00073

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lunch break, until when,

2 1:00?

3

4 (Council nods affirmatively)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: 1:00, 1:15, no later than

7 1:15.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

12

13 MR. WALKER: That's good.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (On record)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we could come back to

20 our seats we will reconvene.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call the
25 Western Interior Regional Subsistence Council meeting
26 back to order. The next item on the agenda is the annual
27 report.

28

29 Vince.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That's
32 under Tab D, and it starts off with a copy of your report
33 which you are very familiar with, and the topics that you
34 had in the report. But I think you really need to focus
35 starting on Page 31, which is the Board's response to
36 your report.

37

38 Many of you are aware of this but just
39 for the record, the process is it starts at this meeting
40 with you submitting topics and then you draft, we draft
41 together an annual report that comes to you in March and
42 then from there it's finalized and sent to the Federal
43 Subsistence Board, they review it in the summer and then
44 they write a response.

45

46 So the response to your 2002 report is on
47 Page 31.

48

49 I don't know if I'll go over each of the
50 items but I do want to point out that under Issue No. 2

00074

1 law enforcement decline in Unit 24, the response from the
2 Board is they would like more details on specific
3 locations and enforcement concerns. So I don't know if
4 you'll want to address that or not.

5

6 I'll just stop here but you should focus
7 on the letter of August 7th on Page 31 and see if you
8 understand the responses and then if there's any further
9 action that's needed.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: I believe that we should
12 pursue law enforcement decline in Unit 24, especially the
13 Upper Koyukuk. I think Jack has the number, he lives
14 right next door to Coldfoot where we have an enforcement
15 person there. Is he still there or was he totally cut
16 out, Jack?

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. The
19 enforcement officer hurt his back about a year and a half
20 ago and he returned in July and his presence was -- he
21 was in the area, it had an effect on the hunters in the
22 area. But he's just spread so thin. He's got the 73,000
23 square mile area from Barrow to Walker Lake to the Yukon
24 River, the whole northeast corner of Alaska. That's the
25 Fish and Wildlife protection officer for that area.

26

27 There were lots of things that happened
28 at the Yukon River Bridge. There were hunters coming
29 from down in the Koyukuk and down river with boat loads
30 of moose horns and no meat, there was no enforcement --
31 he's stretched out so thin he can't be there to check
32 these hunters. He's up chasing caribou hunters in the
33 Arctic or something. And there was boat -- I have two
34 different -- the truck stop owner down in the -- or
35 manager down in the Yukon River told me about that boat
36 load of moose horns coming up with no meat -- very little
37 meat there. So there was no -- there's still a lack of
38 enforcement.

39

40 It's impossible for one officer to cover
41 that kind of country and the agencies need to be also
42 present and lend a hand, you know, and if they have --
43 they should work with -- it's not even Fish and Wildlife
44 protection anymore, the current State administration's
45 changed it to the Bureau of Wildlife something, and
46 they're even stretched even thinner, these enforcement
47 officers.

48

49 So there's still a need. It's as in Fish
50 and Wildlife protection -- you're doing detective work

00075

1 and these things are in -- it's all during the hunting
2 season and throughout the whole region we have problems
3 and we need more enforcement officers.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: So your recommendation is
6 that we resubmit this with those issues defined with our
7 next annual report or do we ask for specific issues at
8 this time.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Your mike.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry. Well, Mr. Chairman,
15 yes, this is the time now to start the cycle over again.
16 If you feel that the August 7th letter, I don't want to
17 say meets your needs, but is understandable, and that,
18 and then we can move into topics for 2003 and I would
19 work with Jack on the specifics as the Board's requested.

20

21 We can put that in the annual report.
22 I'm trying to think here what would be the best. What I
23 mean by that is you wouldn't review that until March,
24 well, put it this way, the Board wouldn't really take it
25 up until next July. So I suppose another way of handling
26 it would be to do a selective letter return on that
27 response if you wanted it sooner. I don't know the
28 fiscal years for -- well, I do know for the Federal but,
29 anyway, I don't know the budgetary process because I
30 think you're dealing with staffing budgeting. Is it
31 worth waiting until next July for the Board to take it up
32 or should it be taken up through a separate letter?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would direct us to both.
35 Because I think that the sooner we get something in, the
36 faster response -- any kind of response would help us by
37 the next -- at least, hunting cycle.

38

39 Jack you had something?

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: No.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

44

45 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
46 still got Stanley's Pruzinski -- I still got his card, it
47 has, like Jack said, they don't have a law enforcement
48 anymore, did anybody take Stanley's place since he
49 retired -- US Fish and Wildlife Service?

50

00076

1 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if there's
2 someone here who can respond to that. Maybe Bob knows
3 about it. I know of the individual, I just don't know of
4 any of the staffing.

5
6 MR. SHULTZ: Bob Shultz, Refuge Manager,
7 Kanuti Refuge. As far as I know Stan's still with us,
8 he's the regional coordinator for the law enforcement,
9 Division of Law Enforcement down in Anchorage. There
10 have been a number of changes with our special agents. I
11 think now the Fairbanks office is staffed up.

12
13 One of the other things, this year Yukon
14 Flats has a full-time law enforcement person assigned to
15 the Refuge, Gene Petola. He was the Refuge manager up at
16 Selawik. He's moved into Fairbanks. He's also a pilot.
17 And so his position is going to be shared with Arctic and
18 Kanuti Refuges so we should have a little bit better
19 presence up there, and he will be carrying a dual
20 function. It is my understanding that he will be both a
21 Federal and have State authority where most of the Refuge
22 officers like myself just have Federal authority so we
23 can't really work off Refuge unless it deals with
24 migratory birds or one of the Eagle Acts or something
25 like that. So he'll have broader coverage. And we had
26 intentions of putting him on the Kanuti, especially on
27 the Southfork with the air boats this year, but he just
28 moved in, he's got a young family and things just didn't
29 work out. But in future years, I expect to have him up
30 there, in the air helping us out there on some of these
31 areas.

32
33 But if you know of these areas, I'd
34 really appreciate it if you'd encourage your folks to
35 report these things. You know, we need -- the sooner
36 they're reported to us the more detailed. We try to keep
37 it as confidential as possible. We don't go out and say,
38 you know, so and so told us that you were doing this, no,
39 we go out and say, hey, you know, it's been reported to
40 us. But if you can encourage your people. It's pretty
41 difficult to say, you know, yeah, a boat load of horns
42 showed up, but, when did they show up, what was the
43 description of the vehicle, you know what did the people
44 look like, how many people there were, it sure helps us
45 out in following up on these things.

46
47 Thanks.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Bob. Any
50 further questions or issues dealing with law enforcement.

00077

1 Go ahead, Vine -- oh, Robert.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Are
4 you saying we're going to support something to do with
5 the Fish and Wildlife protection officer for more or are
6 there going to be more hired or how are we going to go
7 about this situation here, what Jack was saying, we
8 should do more.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're working on the
11 annual report. How does this process work Vince, because
12 Robert is right, we haven't really answered anything.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Well, no, we -- I went over
15 the process of the annual report, which starts now with
16 topics, et cetera, et cetera, and then the Board takes it
17 up next summer. And then it either takes action, no
18 action or it defers to other agencies.

19

20 On the question I think he was asking on
21 funding them an officer, that's not under your purview
22 but that doesn't mean you can remind, meaning purview for
23 the State, you can remind through the Board or directly,
24 that there needs to be additional positions or whatever.
25 You did that earlier, I don't have my notes here, and
26 that is -- you know, you can't tell them to do it, you're
27 just reminding them of it and hope to gosh they would be
28 able to do that.

29

30 On the Federal side, the agencies are
31 here, you heard Bob explain, that -- I'm not saying that
32 hire was in response to your request, no, but that the
33 Refuges and Park Service have been looking at law
34 enforcement more closely, I think, from your comments and
35 others.

36

37 So I can't speak for the State, I don't
38 know if -- it's a whole separate department that deals
39 with law enforcement. I don't know if Fish and Game
40 wants to speak about it, but it's Division of Law
41 Enforcement and Protection or whatever it is.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: I'm glad to hear about any
48 additional Fish and Wildlife officers that will be in the
49 area, and possibly up in the Kanuti or wherever, because
50 there's huge gaps. The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence

00078

1 Resource Commission also requested or wrote a letter to
2 the Department of Public Safety with the State requesting
3 additional officers presence up in that unit, in those
4 units there, and they say they can't do that, they have
5 budgetary constraints. And so if the agencies can work
6 with the State on areas that need enforcement presence at
7 certain times of the year it would be a real benefit to
8 the resource. Because all of these heavy hunting
9 pressures without enforcement -- the best crafted game
10 regulations go out the window if you don't have
11 enforcement.

12

13 So it'd be a coordination of times when
14 the Federal officers and State could work together on
15 trying to close up some of these big gaps. Because it
16 was graphic on the Dalton Highway in '02, and there was
17 no State officer. There were about 200 caribou killed,
18 primarily illegally, just because those hunters knew that
19 there was no enforcement. They were shooting caribou in
20 the ditches with rifles. There was bad stuff going on
21 all over the place up there. I talked to lots and lots
22 of visitors, tourists, and they told me about all kinds
23 of stuff that was going on over there. And I seen the
24 caribou coming down the road.

25

26 So if a large body of violators find out
27 there's no enforcement, the game regulations just goes
28 right out the window.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: So there's not much that
31 we can do on this?

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I understand the law
34 enforcement one, we're going to draft a letter, and the
35 same topic will be brought up into the annual report.
36 And as you've done in the past, for the annual report
37 thing, I'll work closely with Jack, and then the annual
38 report thing will come back to you.

39

40 The letter, it'd be easier if the Council
41 agrees that I would work with Jack and the Chair to
42 develop the letter, unless all the Council members want
43 to see the letter before that goes out. And then w would
44 send the letter -- right now, I don't know exactly where
45 all the letter would go but we'll figure that out.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need action on this
48 or just consensus that we say area specific with the
49 Council members and stuff like that?

50

00079

1 MR. MATHEWS: There's no action. I think
2 if you agree with what I laid out then we'll just go
3 ahead with that. Are there any other annual report
4 topics? I mean if you have some now, it'd be great, if
5 not, then we go through bringing them up and then
6 reviewing them.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're developing the next
9 one at this same time, aren't we, more or less?

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Right. We're closing out
12 2002, so the letter on Page 31 is a closeout of your
13 2002, and we're starting the 2003.

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: Before we close that, I
16 have a few comments.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: You see on Issue one there
21 it says the hunting guide area selection process for the
22 Bureau of Land Management area. You know, with the
23 report we got from the BLM guy yesterday, that they're
24 streamlining the land selection process for the regional
25 and village and individual Native allotments, so once
26 that process is through, all the over-selected land is
27 going to revert back to BLM so, you know, we should show
28 an interest in how the guide selection process goes
29 because a lot of land is going to be reverting back to
30 the BLM. So I would like to have this on record.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

33

34 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, as I stated
35 yesterday, that there was a -- the regional director,
36 Henry Bisson and the Resource Advisory Council for the
37 BLM met in Wiseman and they've taken this issue up. I
38 was recently told at lunch here that the northern
39 district office is charged with investigating whether
40 that process can take place. And we should transmit a
41 letter to -- I would like to see a letter transmitted to
42 the regional director's office stating that we understand
43 that they're working on this process and we're anxiously
44 awaiting their answer on that.

45

46 So this issue is still alive and well.

47

48 So I make a motion to -- we don't need a
49 motion for a letter transmittal.

50

00080

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: So all we'd have to do is
2 just more or less just keep a portion of this issue
3 within our annual report; is this correct?

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Jack was saying a
6 letter would be sent. So we would reference the annual
7 report and I think that your meeting, whenever your next
8 meeting is, that you would hope that there'd be a
9 response by that time or -- yeah, just a response at that
10 time, which could be an update or it could be a proposal.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Robert.

13
14 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 Vince, I had a chance to call a Fish and Wildlife
16 protection officer before I came here and each one in our
17 area, Galena, McGrath, Aniak, Bethel have roughly 120,000
18 square miles each to work with. And they altered from
19 129 Fish and Game protection officers down to 89. Now,
20 if we're going to write a letter to Henry Bisson here,
21 how many are we going to ask for? Are we going to ask
22 for 10, 20, 30 Fish and Wildlife protection officers?
23 You know, one or what? We have to get some kind of a
24 number here, because if you look at the areas that we do
25 have, still, BLM and Federal lands here, that there is
26 quite an amount here when you really look at oversized
27 maps of Alaska.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I didn't know that
32 you were getting to the specifics of numbers. I can't
33 remember the Lieutenant that spoke to you a couple of
34 meetings ago, he was receptive, I think he's retired
35 since then. I don't know how they calculate that out. I
36 mean they must have some way by drainages or flight times
37 or something, I'm not knowledgeable of that.

38
39 You could request that agency to -- well,
40 you did it earlier, you could resubmit it and ask for
41 additional law enforcement by the State. I don't know, I
42 mean, Jack, they already asked through the SRC, you've
43 asked through here and the answer has been is that
44 there's no money in the budget. So I don't -- I wish
45 Carl was here because I don't know the process to deal
46 with funding State Fish and Wildlife protection and what
47 committee that goes through and all that stuff, because
48 Carl would know that pretty well by now.

49
50 So we can do whatever you want with it

00081

1 but I don't know what answer to tell you, 25, 30 or
2 20,000 acres or whatever it happens to be. I don't know
3 their formula to figure out what type of protection they
4 need.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Then this letter could
7 address that problem by asking the exact amount be
8 reverted back to BLM and getting that formula that they
9 operate under and then we could ask for changes later on.

10

11 MR. REAKOFF: Sure.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, then
16 I'm confused and maybe Jeff has some information.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: But I'm confused now that,
21 first, I heard it was State Fish and Wildlife protection
22 and then there's rangers, I think, they're called with
23 BLM, so I'm a little lost here. Well, maybe Jeff can
24 explain it, I don't know if they're cross-deputized and
25 if they are cross-deputized they generally stay with BLM
26 lands. So maybe he can straighten all of us out.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: From what I heard earlier,
29 they are, I think it's Federal. Jeff.

30

31 MR. DENTON: Thank you. Mr. Chair. Each
32 field office kind of has their own budget and their own
33 ranger numbers and currently the Anchorage field office,
34 for example, has two that covers everything from
35 Southeast, Southcentral and Western Alaska. So they're
36 spread pretty thin.

37

38 Our folks really have no workable budget.
39 Our rangers aren't given a budget for subsistence type
40 enforcement or we try to have them work with the State
41 Troopers, wherever they can, the kind of joint
42 operations. Primarily our people end up going to work
43 with the folks in Glennallen on the road system because
44 it's cheaper. If we work out here we have to have
45 aircraft, snowmachines, boats and a pretty big support
46 structure for them to work out here. And so their
47 presence out here is not very good, simply because of
48 budget.

49

50 I put in every year for like a 30 to

00082

1 40,000 budget for our people to come out here but it
2 never, you know, makes the grade basically. So I would
3 assume any encouragement probably you would give our
4 state director relative to subsistence and game types of
5 -- fish and game types of enforcement, it's critically
6 needed, we recognize that. We just cannot make a
7 presence out here and we cover far to much country. All
8 of our country is in the Bush, so it's that much more
9 expensive and there's just no source right now of money
10 unless we run it through a budget process and a priority
11 process.

12

13 I hope that somewhat answers your
14 question a little bit.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Robert.

17

18 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
19 is for Vince and Mr. Denton here. When the Federal
20 government decides to start up this OSM, was there
21 anything when it was drawn up, a clause in there saying
22 that there will be Federal wildlife protection in there,
23 was it mandated or was it just kind of like left out of
24 this program here?

25

26 MR. DENTON: There may be folks that may
27 know more about it than I do. But when you go through
28 the Federal regulations you publish codified, what
29 penalties are, what fines are and so on. But normally
30 our rangers and I don't know about the Fish and Wildlife
31 and other Federal services, but we normally -- when we
32 ticket somebody or we get the State Troopers out there to
33 actually give the tickets because the penalties under the
34 State are far greater than the Federal penalties. The
35 Federal penalties really aren't much of a deterrent to
36 this kind of activities.

37

38 Our rangers are -- we have one currently
39 that actually has State deputized type jurisdiction for
40 fish and wildlife violations. The rest do not. At the
41 present time they would like to -- some want it, some
42 don't want it. Our people want to be able to give
43 tickets under the State regulations but they don't have
44 that authority at this time.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Robert, were you saying
49 when this program was established that there'd be kind of
50 like a budgetary line item or a percentage or something

00083

1 like that?

2

3 MR. WALKER: Yes. A clause in there or
4 something.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I'm not privy to
7 that. There would have to be others here -- I don't know
8 if Tom Boyd's here or not. I'm sure it was considered, I
9 just don't know how that process works. I know that
10 different departments, if that's the right term, within
11 like Fish and Wildlife Service, get money from
12 subsistence to manage subsistence on the Refuge, let's
13 say, and that money, some of it goes to law enforcement.
14 But I don't know if it's line item through.

15

16 If you remember, I don't think you were
17 on, Robert, that the former Refuge manager for Innoko
18 took your annual report request and was able to get
19 funding for special agents in an intensive law
20 enforcement effort in the GASH area and then they
21 reported back to you in Aniak on that, the State Fish and
22 Wildlife protection. But I don't know if that was money
23 that was from us or if he was able to, because of your
24 concern, was able to generate funding. So we'd have to
25 defer to someone else who knows budgetary.

26

27 But I would guess that when they designed
28 this program law enforcement was considered because it
29 would be an aspect of any program that you'd have to
30 consider, you know, how do you address that because you
31 now have another whole set of regulations that are
32 specific to Federal lands but I don't know the specifics.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Did we come up with
35 any way to address this issue or not?

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: I think you had a motion on
38 the table if my notes are right or -- Salena.....

39

40 REPORTER: (Shakes head negatively)

41

42 MR. MATHEWS:no, there wasn't a
43 motion, I'm sorry. No, I think the only option now is if
44 the individual members think of other annual report
45 topics, get a hold of Ron or myself and then we will work
46 on those and they'll be back before you next March. And
47 if you don't like them or want them then we can pull them
48 -- move them forward or pull them.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the one thing that I

00084

1 think that we should incorporate into our annual report
2 is the ichthyophonus issue. I think that we should
3 pursue it. Does it fit in the annual report because we
4 did take action on it?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: It fits in there, Mr.
7 Chair, as a topic. I don't know -- well, give me
8 specifics because they did respond to you on the issue of
9 the ichthyophonus from your last annual report. And I'm
10 not sure they actually gave you an answer on it. I know
11 that there's still funding for Dr. Kosan's study and
12 that, but maybe you want to couple it with something -- I
13 mean it has to be -- basically what you're asking for in
14 the annual report is, we see a problem, here's the
15 potential solution, what do you think? And so I think
16 based on earlier discussion, your concern was that
17 management may not be incorporating the loss -- mortality
18 loss to ichthyophonus. Figures were floating around of
19 25 percent or whatever. That that might be something
20 that you want in your annual report, I don't know.

21

22 But that's the conversation I got from
23 yesterday.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Because of in our annual
26 report we have chinook salmon spawning concern, do we
27 want to resubmit that along with ichthyophonus issue?
28 What's the feelings of the Council.

29

30 Jack.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: I feel that this issue is
33 one of the most glaring problems on the Yukon River at
34 this time and I would like to remind the Board that
35 additional studies -- their response was that there's
36 going to be more studies and we're going to study it to
37 death, I would like our Council to state that it's a
38 severe, has wide-ranging ramifications for the Yukon
39 River chinook and it's something that the Board should
40 take an active -- proactive stance on. And this annual
41 report would highlight that issue, that we've sent before
42 them.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: So do we submit it or do
45 we submit our resolution that we passed and then go from
46 there?

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that is an option and
49 that resolution will be going to the Board of Fish and
50 the Federal Subsistence Board but in your annual report

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1 you could talk about it in more depth than the
2 resolution. The resolution is, I haven't talked to other
3 Staff, will just have probably a cover letter as to where
4 it came from and then here's the resolution. It won't be
5 into the depths of the issue.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Just work on it and
8 see if we can incorporate it into the annual report. You
9 had something Micky.

10

11 MR. STICKMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. I just
12 wanted to make sure that the one other thing that's in
13 our annual report is the general feeling of the Council
14 on the proposals that were concerning customary trade.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you want that in the
17 annual report or what?

18

19 MR. STICKMAN: Yes. Because it was
20 apparent that the Council wished to have more time as it
21 is without any changes to the regulation.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you get that Vince.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't get the beginning
26 part but the transcript did, I assume, Salena.

27

28 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: And Micky can update me
31 down the road because I had another topic I had to deal
32 with with Staff. If Micky wants to summarize it real
33 quick now it would help.

34

35 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. Remember when the
36 customary trade proposals came up, we voted not to -- not
37 in favor or not in against, but to allow more time for
38 the -- because we're just getting used to the idea of the
39 customary trade provision.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other issues you can
42 think about. As Vince stated, we have time to develop
43 new issues or reconsider other issues before we submit
44 this annual report. When is that submitted?

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Soon after your winter
47 meeting. Off the top of my head it's usually end of
48 March, first of April I have to have it turned in. And
49 then -- it sounds like a long time before the Board takes
50 it up but you have to remember their big meeting is in

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1 May and then everything starts gearing up for the summer
2 season for a lot of things. So they take it up in July.
3 So we have to submit it as a final with Ron's signature
4 probably March 1st or so.

5

6 MR. STICKMAN: One last one, Ron.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micky.

9

10 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, one last one before
11 we go on. The only other one that I have for the annual
12 report is Emmitt Peters' concern with the Nowitna, the
13 wildlife refuge there, the hunting of outsiders giving
14 them competition for their subsistence food in the
15 Nowitna Refuge. But also included in there would be my
16 concern with the Kaiyuh Flats, the northern Innoko
17 Refuge.

18

19 Thanks, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Again, we will finalize
22 this annual report at our March meeting. Where these
23 topics take us, we don't know yet at this time. But the
24 reason we, as Western Interior, like to spend a lot of
25 time on the annual report is that it has become an
26 important tool. This is a way to follow up on issues,
27 proposals and concerns that the Council expresses.

28

29 So with that we'll move on on the agenda.

30

31 Organization reports. Vince, we have
32 briefings on timely issues, 25 copies, what -- I don't
33 think I spent much time on that interpretation, what does
34 that mean?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The two little
37 bulleted items is due to the complexity of this meeting.
38 We asked the organizational reports to be 10 minutes.
39 It's your prerogative or your Council's prerogative to
40 expand those. Obviously in the tri-Council meeting we
41 didn't have the latitude. The 25 copies is just that --
42 that's just for public information so that there's enough
43 to get to you and to the public, so that's what that
44 means. And for example, we had 40 copies made of -- or
45 30 copies made of Orville Huntington's report, so you
46 have a copy and then other public has copies. And so I
47 think that's a good lead in to him, I hope he's still
48 here because the next one down there is from the Alaska
49 Native Science Commission.

50

00087

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Going right on with
2 the agenda, Orville Huntington under Topic 10A1.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: And I assume you got copies
5 because I do have quite a bit of extras here. So I think
6 Della graciously passed them out yesterday but it would
7 look like this -- well, to you it would look like a
8 sunrise but the original picture, I think, was a sunset,
9 but there's a picture there and Orville's here and I'll
10 put the extra copies out on the table for others.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go right ahead, Orville.

13
14 MR. HUNTINGTON: Weather report, it was
15 about a workshop we had. I was over in the NANA region
16 and some other regions and they brought up all the
17 concerns we had with our subsistence resources, fish,
18 bears, and over there they're having problems with
19 beavers and some of their fish are getting sick, too. So
20 we put a workshop together on environmental change. We
21 brought a bunch of scientists in because we wanted them
22 to come to the village instead of us going out all the
23 time, like I'm doing now. And so in the report there's a
24 summary of what we did and Benedict was invited but I
25 guess he had that Tanakanaga (ph) meeting to go to so he
26 didn't show up. But the next meeting we're having is
27 going to probably be on fire intensity because that's
28 changing, too.

29
30 And all those changes you guys are
31 dealing with are really good because they're happening so
32 fast, like the ichthyophonous and all that, you know, it's
33 even in our whitefish at home now. Well, that's what
34 people are telling me anyway.

35
36 And the University of Alaska has been a
37 big help with the Science Commission and Geoff Beyersdorf
38 with our Refuge.

39
40 And it's just that these environmental
41 changes are affecting all our subsistence resources and
42 all the habitat, the places that our animals live, and it
43 affects the way we hunt them, too. Because this fall we
44 had a hard time going out -- like we usually go out
45 looking for black bear and we had to change the way we
46 did that and then those grizzly bears were actually
47 hunting in front of us for about the third year in a row
48 now and they were -- they were not having much luck
49 either this year, they were digging them out but they
50 weren't denned up because it was too warm. So there's

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1 all kinds of stuff going on like all those bears that
2 moved over from when they put Red Dog in, all those
3 grizzlies that came over, they were having a hard time.
4 The fish, you know, we had that fish crash so they were
5 starving out and they were actually hunting. That's when
6 they started going down and going and looking around
7 those ridges where we used to hunt. There's more and
8 more of them coming over.

9

10 And some of the concerns that the Kobuk
11 River people brought to us was like the beaver over there
12 were making big changes in their Kobuk River country.

13

14 And then the treeline is moving over that
15 way, too, so a lot of our animals are following their
16 food.

17

18 And all that is in the report.

19

20 The next workshop we have in January, I
21 hope some of you guys can make it because, you know, you
22 guys are managing these subsistence resources and it's
23 really important to those elders out there for you guys
24 to be at our meeting.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Orville, where is
27 the next meeting, because I don't think I heard about
28 this meeting being planned or held?

29

30 MR. HUNTINGTON: If you look at the back
31 of the report it's going to be in January, Terry Chapin
32 and some other professors are coming out, somebody from
33 USDA is going to work with us on our subsistence foods to
34 test them. And then we have some other scientists coming
35 in on fire severity. Alana Dewilde, she's from Huslia
36 River, you know, they have that camp up there, she got
37 her master's degree, she's going to come back and
38 present.

39

40 Anyway, I'll keep you guys in the loop.
41 I can't think of everybody right now.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So the meeting will
44 be -- it will be held at Huslia?

45

46 MR. HUNTINGTON: It will be second week
47 of January, I think. I'm not sure but I'll get dates to
48 you, for sure, I'll get them to Vince.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further

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1 questions for Orville. Micky.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: No questions. But just so
4 that you know, Ron, Orville did invite me but I had some
5 conflicts, so I couldn't make it to that weather workshop
6 there in Huslia.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Micky. Anything
9 else.

10

11 MR. HUNTINGTON: (Shakes head negatively)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: I know you gave a brief
14 report yesterday on the tri-Council, and I appreciate the
15 time you spent down here with us and giving this report
16 again.

17

18 So if there are no further questions.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: No further questions. But
21 I just wanted to thank Orville for all the work that he
22 does for the Refuge. The work he does is important, not
23 only for the Refuge but also to the residents of the
24 region, so I'd like to thank Orville for all the work
25 that he does.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

28

29 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Orville, on the Koyukuk River, in their goldmining
31 further up the stream, have they used anything,
32 strychnine or anything with their -- two separate the
33 gold from whatever, like down the Anaconda mine, you
34 know, we're kind of like wondering about the Innoko River
35 there, that they brought 21 tons of -- I can't remember
36 the term for that strychnine there.

37

38 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I think what they
39 brought in was cyanide, something. One of our local guys
40 stepped in it or something and his leg went numb, so it's
41 all right as long as it stays inside the containment
42 pond. But I don't know what happens to anything that
43 lands in there, probably, it's -- you know, I've heard
44 some bad stuff about that down in South America. I was
45 reading up on it after they went in there and it's -- if
46 it ever gets out of there it could really be a problem.
47 But up on the Koyukuk, they used only mercury to separate
48 the gold, they didn't have that hard rock problem that
49 they have up on that Kotall Mountain is it, I think
50 that's what it is, that mountain up there, anyway.

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1 And one thing I did notice last summer, I
2 was talking to Fred Bue when I went to St. Mary's and
3 this has nothing to do with mining but there was no snow
4 on any of the hills from Huslia all the way to St. Mary's
5 and in the pass I always used to see snow up there where
6 the fish would go, you know, for cold water to spawn, and
7 this summer it was just like, I don't know where those
8 fish went to spawn.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.
11 Emmitt.

12

13 MR. PETERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Orville,
14 you have done a wonderful job for the community and we'd
15 like to see more people, Native people get involved in
16 this. You gave a wonderful report and I'm sure I'm going
17 to take this back to my Native people in Ruby and have
18 them look it over and see what you have done.

19

20 It's a really nice report, thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering what your
29 feeling is for how the people did hunting there and how
30 that Koyukuk controlled use hunt's going.

31

32 MR. HUNTINGTON: The Koyukuk controlled
33 use hunt is still probably one of the better hunts,
34 registration hunts because we have all agencies working
35 together on it. The only one problem we had was that
36 area where that green harvest permit is being used up on
37 Dakli River and Huslia River. And there was quite a bit
38 of confrontation between the user groups up there, and
39 they were not necessarily locals against outside hunters,
40 these were outside hunters against outside hunters that
41 were fighting over those spots. And it's, you know, we
42 tried to stay out of it and I think Glenn is coming up
43 with a good solution, Glenn Stout, we're going to
44 increase the size of the registration permit hunt area.

45

46 And I would really encourage other
47 problem areas, like 21(E) or whatever to come up with a
48 plan like that where all the user people are sitting at
49 one table and it really is a way better hunt. It allows
50 me, at the checkstation in Huslia to check all the moose

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1 that come in. The only ones I couldn't check were the
2 guys with the green harvest tickets who were coming in
3 with three or four antlers and, you know, a little more
4 than one moose and, you know, I couldn't check the boat
5 because they're not in the permit area, so we're going to
6 work on that this fall.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, thanks a lot. This
9 Council did a lot of work on that issue and we would
10 still like to track that and I think that that is a good
11 idea to expand that permit area.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. Orville, the last
14 word I got on that Koyukuk River Moose working group is
15 that there is a meeting coming up sooner or later and I
16 would ask that you keep your ears open to participate in
17 it because you've been at most of our meetings and have
18 been very helpful.

19

20 And if there are no further questions.

21

22 (No comment)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks again for being
25 here and thanks for the report.

26

27 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thank you, Ron.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Item 10B, ADF&G. While we
30 were watching the ball game yesterday we had time to talk
31 with Caroline Brown, she simply stated that her report
32 was incomplete and there was no way that she could
33 present anything or answer questions on anything. So she
34 asked us to delete it, so as you can see there's a big
35 line across that item.

36

37 10C, Bureau of Land Management, update on
38 fisheries and wildlife projects. I guess I see Jeff
39 Denton and Ingrid McSweeny, I believe. Go right ahead.

40

41 MS. MCSWEENY: My name is Ingrid
42 McSweeny. I'm from the Bureau of Land Management. And
43 what I would like to present to you today, are the
44 results of three subsistence related projects that we
45 completed this past summer.

46

47 The first project is the Clear Creek
48 weir. The Bureau of Land Management operated a weir on
49 Clear Creek from June 22nd to August 2nd of this year.
50 During this period 6,159 summer run chum salmon, five

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1 chinook salmon and six sockeye salmon were counted. This
2 years run had 53 percent less chum returning than in '02
3 and was 86 percent below the seven year average. The
4 first chum salmon arrived at the weir on June 22nd with
5 core tile days of passage occurring on July 5th, 8th and
6 13th. The peak day of chum migration occurred on July
7 8th with 563 fish passing through the weir. Sex
8 composition of the chum escapement was 57 percent male,
9 43 percent female. That's from a subsample of 887 fish.
10 Scale samples have been sent to ADF&G in Anchorage for
11 age determination. A report of this monitoring efforts
12 will be written later this winter.

13

14 The second subsistence related project is
15 a cooperative project with USGS. This year '03 marked
16 the third season of a cooperative effort by BLM and USGS
17 to quantify and characterize chum salmon spawning and
18 incubation habitat and document the timing and magnitude
19 of chum salmon fry immigration from Clear Creek.
20 Quantification of spawning and incubation habitat has
21 been completed for select study reaches and the
22 collection of data describing the physical nature of the
23 habitat will continue through '04. The operation of a
24 modified incline plain trap proved successful with
25 approximately 50,000 chum salmon fry counted. Estimates
26 of overwintering survival rates of eggs and alvians will
27 be forthcoming.

28

29 The continuation of these studies will
30 not only provide insight into the factors affecting
31 salmon production in the Yukon River drainage but will
32 also provide valuable baseline data for the assessment of
33 the effects of potential development of climate change.

34

35 Third project was the Yukon River salmon
36 production habitat inventory. This survey of habitat and
37 fisheries value on BLM land, BLM managed water shed in
38 the Yukon River drainage. This project is being
39 undertaken to document the quality and quantity of salmon
40 production habitat. This project is a cooperative
41 project funded through a five year challenge cost share
42 agreement between BLM, the Alaska Department of Fish and
43 Game and YRDFA. On July 7 through August 1st work was
44 conducted throughout the Nulato River, Ninemile River,
45 Kaltag River, Bonasila River, Thompson Creek, Bear Creek
46 and Stene Creek drainages. Investigators visited 71 site
47 locations and deployed 212 minnow traps. An aerial
48 survey was conducted on the Bonasila River drainage; 328
49 live chinook, 403 live chum, 40 chinook carcasses and
50 2,273 chum carcasses were counted in this area. Presence

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1 verifications were confirmed for juvenile chinook and
2 coho salmon within the main stem of the Southfork, Nulato
3 and Stuyahok Rivers. Anadromous range was extended in
4 the Roddo, Bonasila and Hogg Rivers along with Bear,
5 Simon, Thompson, Jackson and Lockwood Creeks. In '04 the
6 project will run from approximately July 5th through July
7 30th. The list of drainages to be surveyed is still
8 preliminary but will likely include Karasfky (ph), the
9 Paradise Mountain and Kako Creeks and select Dalton
10 Highway streams.

11

12 And Jack Reakoff requested that I go over
13 the Tozitna River project, is that something you guys
14 want to hear about?

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I didn't
19 necessarily want the Council to -- about that, I just
20 wanted to get her data from the Tozitna River weir as to
21 what kind of escapements they had there.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, is that understood?

24

25 MS. MCSWEENY: Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: He just wanted to -- okay,
28 go ahead.

29

30 MS. MCSWEENY: There's one other thing.
31 In the spring meeting in Aniak, you requested, when I was
32 talking about the LWCF grants that we were putting in for
33 to purchase the land in the Clear Creek area that was to
34 be mined, you requested that the BLM write a letter to
35 four villages explaining what we were going to do, and we
36 did draft that and send those.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I think that
39 that Clear Creek area concerns with Alatna, Allakaket,
40 Hughes and Huslia and I'm glad that you kept them
41 informed because for quite some time, quite a few of our
42 people were questioning me about it and I had little
43 knowledge about it and that's why I directed you to get
44 that letter to the councils. One of the main reasons
45 they wanted that information because a lot of them work
46 down there at the river mine and they were quite familiar
47 with that area, and I sure appreciate your efforts.

48

49 Thank you.

50

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1 Anything more.

2

3 MS. MCSWEENY: I don't have anything
4 else. Does anyone have questions?

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Benedict.

7

8 MR. JONES: Is that mining operation
9 inactive now in Clear Creek -- from Bear Creek to Clear
10 Creek?

11

12 MS. MCSWEENY: I don't believe they're
13 mining right now. It's more of a summer operation. I
14 think the mining ceases the beginning of October, but
15 they will be out there next summer.

16

17 MR. JONES: That'd be the Clear Creek
18 area?

19

20 MS. MCSWEENY: Clear Creek, Bear Creek,
21 yeah, and all its tribs.

22

23 MR. JONES: I just want to ask a
24 question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

27

28 MR. JONES: When you're doing those
29 aerial surveys in this spawning area, Clear Creek and
30 Gisasa, have you seen any increase in grizzlies in that
31 area?

32

33 MS. MCSWEENY: I was on the aerial count
34 for the Bonasila and we did see quite a few black bear in
35 the upper part, but we didn't see any brown bear.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Further
38 questions. Robert.

39

40 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Ingrid, I had a chance to meet you while you were in
42 Anvik doing your job there, and I commend you on that.
43 Could I get a copy of your report here, or have you sent
44 a copy to the Anvik Tribal Council yet? If not, I could
45 take a copy back.

46

47 MS. MCSWEENY: Okay. I do have copies of
48 what I presented today. A final report of this project
49 probably will not be completed until the project is
50 completed which is next year, but I could give you what I

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1 presented.

2

3 MR. WALKER: That's fine, thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for

6 Ingrid.

7

8 (No comment)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, then we have Jeff

11 and then I believe Tim Craig.

12

13 MR. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 Council members. My name is Tim Craig. I'm a wildlife

15 biologist for the northern field office. Principally I

16 work in the Dalton Highway Management Unit. I think

17 you've got a report before you there. I'd just draw

18 attention to three or four of these points that I have.

19

20 Number 4, BLM has entered into a

21 challenge cost share with the Department of Fish and Game

22 to survey sheep, moose and caribou in the Dalton Highway

23 Management Unit. If funding continues to be available it

24 should be a five year agreement with them, so that we

25 should be able to keep a closer tab on how those

26 populations are faring. And that, I wanted to point out,

27 that's largely as a result of the Council's actions. If

28 you remember, I think three years ago you sent a letter

29 to BLM requesting an increase of funding for that.

30

31 Related to that, points two and three,

32 the BLM, along with Fish and Game and the Kanuti National

33 Wildlife Refuge plan to continue the moose trend counts

34 in the upper Koyukuk Basin this winter. And number 3, I

35 think even maybe is happening today, the Fish and Game

36 and the BLM are radio collar caribou in the Hodzana Hills

37 which is a group of hills right in the corridor there. I

38 flew a short census there last week and counted 326

39 animals in that area. So it'll be interesting to see how

40 they move and utilize the corridor.

41

42 Number 5, I think you've probably talked

43 around this quite a bit in the last hour or so, but as a

44 result of your efforts, the State director has tasked the

45 Northern Field Office with determining what BLM

46 regulations govern guiding operations, how they're

47 administered and to outline options and recommendations

48 in regards to how we could administer the guides and

49 outfitters on BLM lands. And that has become an issue

50 that goes beyond the Northern Field Office, it's a

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1 statewide issue and we understand that. Related to that,
2 I might also mention in the Dalton Management Unit we
3 have four new guides operating there just this year
4 alone.

5
6 And then lastly, number 6, as a point of
7 interest, the visitation at the Yukon crossing was down
8 12 percent last year by tourists. However, because of
9 the -- probably because of the new Arctic Interagency
10 Visitor Center at Coldfoot, visitation to that visitor
11 center is up 43 percent, and there were no exhibits
12 installed yet, just the new facility. The exhibits, I
13 believe, are being put in this week. There will be a
14 grand opening in the spring and it's the expectation on
15 BLM's part that that visitor's center will be quite an
16 attraction for the Coldfoot area along with the fact that
17 the road's now paved. We expect it to be quite a
18 destination draw point for the Coldfoot area in the
19 future.

20
21 And that's all I have. If there are any
22 questions I'd be glad to try to answer them.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. That
25 visitation center at Coldfoot, is that right in Coldfoot
26 or just north of Coldfoot?

27
28 MR. CRAIG: It's about a half, or maybe a
29 quarter of a mile out of Coldfoot and to the west.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks. Jack.

32
33 MR. REAKOFF: When you're doing those
34 sheep surveys were you doing any sheep enumeration or
35 just looking at the sheep habitat, the mineral licks?

36
37 MR. CRAIG: Within the Dalton Highway
38 Corridor there are five areas of critical environmental
39 concern. It's kind of a legal designation that were
40 identified just for sheep, and we're mainly looking at
41 habitat. And so I was able to fly several different
42 times last year and, of course, I also counted the number
43 of bands, but I didn't want to spend a whole lot of time
44 actually doing lamb counts, I think is probably what
45 you're interested in.

46
47 However, the Fish and Game has done, the
48 last two years running, has done some pretty good sheep
49 surveys in that Matthews River, Northfork Chandalar
50 country so we have two years of good data and part of

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1 this money, this cooperative money is earmarked to
2 continue to do that so we can kind of keep a thumb on or
3 a finger on the pulse of that population up there.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: I've been trying to obtain
6 this years data from this years survey in the Matthews
7 and I can't get a hold of anybody, do you have that data?
8 Did you receive that from Fish and Game?

9

10 MR. CRAIG: Yeah, I got a preliminary
11 copy of that. It's Bob Stephenson's data and I think
12 he's probably waiting to put out an annual report because
13 typically the way they do things, I got kind of an e-
14 mail, you know, this is kind of what we found.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Tim, under Item 2,
17 is that -- I hope you're not locked into early November?

18

19 MR. CRAIG: (Shakes head negatively)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: No. You can do this any
22 time of the year, that moose count?

23

24 MR. CRAIG: Yeah. Typically what we've
25 done the last three years, Mr. Chairman, is that we try
26 to hit the end of October and we've done it the first
27 week of December because there's never been enough snow
28 to pull it off and it gets touch and go, of course
29 there's not much light up there then but we have been
30 able to pull it off. And there's three different areas
31 that we concentrate in and then we do a random assortment
32 of other sampling areas in that general area. And I
33 think this year we're kind of in the beginning stages of
34 how we're going to do all that, but I think we're going
35 to do 35 of those random sampling areas as well as the
36 Kanuti, Henshaw Creek, and then the Dalton.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, our people in or at
39 Allakaket/Alatna have always been concerned. I think
40 that if you stick with that make sure you follow through
41 on that Kanuti and Henshaw Creek area. We'd really
42 appreciate this. Because at this time we don't have any
43 idea where we stand on that moose count. We know it's
44 always historically been low, but I think we need one.

45

46 Any further questions for Tim.

47

48 MR. STICKMAN: One last one.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

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1 MR. STICKMAN: On number 5 there, it says
2 you're going to outline options and recommendations. You
3 know, because the guides are divided up into units, I
4 would be hoping that the subsistence users within the
5 unit are allowed to offer their recommendations and
6 suggestions and have their opinions heard.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Tim. Do you
9 have anything to that or just operating strictly out of
10 Department of Commerce or who does it?

11
12 MR. CRAIG: We do. Every time somebody
13 comes up and proposes to guide on Federal land, we do an
14 analysis of that proposal. And again, we're -- I think I
15 mentioned before, we're a public agency and so we respond
16 to public pressure, so if you're interested in those
17 issues you're welcome as citizens or even as the Council
18 to request to be involved in that process or at least to
19 have notification and comment on those.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think that if you
22 send a letter with plenty of lead time to these
23 respective villages or communities, I think they would
24 start participating. And I sure appreciate the concern
25 and from what I've seen this is a pretty good report,
26 especially since it's written, it's even shorter, and
27 it's easily understood.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything else
32 to add?

33
34 MR. CRAIG: No, Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jeff.

37
38 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
39 Anchorage Field Office has been involved in several
40 things, one is the 19(A) and (B) Central Kuskokwim Moose
41 Management Planning. We're an advisory to that group
42 there. And they will probably be making some proposals
43 that will come in just before the 24th for some fairly
44 drastic changes in regulations and harvest and seasons
45 and so on and so forth in that area. That would be both
46 sides of the Kuskokwim primarily. So you will probably
47 be looking at those at your next meeting to some degree.
48 I know they had a meeting just at the end of last week
49 and they were going over some of the final proposal types
50 of things that they're going to look at and Fish and Game

00099

1 will be putting those together and probably sending them
2 to the OSM for consideration this year. And they will be
3 very significant changes in that piece of the world.

4
5 The other issues that we're dealing with
6 are also kind of timely with 19(A) and (B) is the Donlan
7 Creek goldmine and the road. The State has, if you'll
8 recall on your ballot last year, you folks in Alaska in
9 general voted to have the State pay for a development of
10 a road to that mine. And so the State is very busy doing
11 environmental work and doing some on the ground work and
12 doing some route analysis to that mine. And that will
13 probably occur. They actually plan to have that road
14 done by 2006. That will cause, actually, probably some
15 pretty major changes in that region for subsistence
16 people as well as access and a lot of new people
17 potentially moving in and using that region. There are
18 some alternatives that would directly address Holy Cross.
19 There's one proposal to go from Donlan Creek straight
20 west to Holy Cross to access the Yukon River. There's
21 also two alternatives that are accessing the mouth of
22 Crooked Creek, one is kind of a high country route and
23 the other is one up the bottom of Crooked Creek.

24
25 The State currently has an existing
26 right-of-way up the bottom of Crooked Creek under some
27 older laws. So we don't know where this is going to go
28 yet but they've come to us on several occasions and we've
29 had several meetings on what they need to do and how they
30 need to go about business.

31
32 Enforcement report for this year -- well,
33 also associated, I guess, before I get off the Donlan
34 Creek thing, there's also in the works, power line
35 proposals, and a large power plant in Bethel to run power
36 lines all the way up the Kuskokwim to the Donlan Creek,
37 which, again, you'll have access roads, you'll have a lot
38 of impacts developing that sort of infrastructure in
39 Western Alaska. Those are things that are being proposed
40 now.

41
42 There's also a Shell gas well lease on
43 State lands in the Holitna River that is being proposed.
44 And the State's getting ready to let those leases, I
45 believe, DNR. And that's also associated to provide
46 energy to -- as an alternative energy to the Donlan Creek
47 mining operation as well. The Donlan Creek mine
48 operation, this is probably the seventh largest -- from
49 what the statistics say it's the seventh largest gold
50 deposit in the world. So it will be developed. So it's

00100

1 something that you folks need to be very well aware of
2 and tracking.

3

4 Enforcement report for this year. Mostly
5 the State Troopers actually had a very good year,
6 especially in the GASH area and areas in the Aniak River.
7 There were a number of wanton waste cases made. There
8 were, in the upper Anvik, Yellow River country, there was
9 a guide that was ticketed, he was an unpermitted guide,
10 he was guiding without any proper permits from anybody.
11 And we have interstate transportation of harvested moose,
12 a case going on right now.

13

14 Also, some of you are aware, if Carl was
15 here, he's real familiar with it, but from Angela's
16 standpoint, one of the major operators for many years in
17 the Holy Cross, Paimiut Slough area, he's actually
18 sitting in court now, but he's also -- through Aniak,
19 he's also been convicted of several violations, major
20 violations for his operations in the Paimiut Slough,
21 Innoko area, fairly close to Holy Cross there. And he's
22 in another case right now so that involves jail time and
23 some major fines and so he'll be out of operation for
24 quite some time.

25

26 So that's a good report.

27

28 BLM wasn't much involved in that. We're
29 trying to work with the Troopers down there to do some
30 collaborative-type enforcement-type work.

31

32 Our plans for this winter, to do some
33 surveys for moose in the Lime Village area again. It's
34 been 12 years since we've done that. And that's also
35 kind of in collaboration, again, with the 19(A) and (B)
36 moose planning effort, Fish and Game, and then next year,
37 hopefully with help of BLM we'll have 60 radios on moose
38 in that country.

39

40 And so that's -- that concludes,
41 basically, you know, where we're at today. If there's
42 any questions I'd be glad to answer them.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jeff. Where
47 exactly is Donlan Creek close to?

48

49 MR. DENTON: Crooked Creek, the mouth of
50 Crooked Creek, if you go straight up the Crooked Creek

00101

1 drainage which is north of -- it's a drainage coming in
2 from the north side of the Kuskokwim, it's down river
3 from Red Devil, probably 15, 20 miles and then it goes
4 straight north about 20 miles is where Donlan Creek, the
5 operation is. They've been doing exploration in there
6 for several years now.

7

8 If I had a map I could show it to you
9 pretty easily.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think I got the basic
12 idea. I think I got the basic idea but this would be
13 within the YK Delta region?

14

15 MR. DENTON: No, this is in the Western
16 Interior region. This is up stream from Aniak about
17 probably 40 miles.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what's been
20 bothering me, uh-huh. Okay, yeah, while we're looking at
21 this map, any further questions for Jeff.

22

23 Benedict.

24

25 MR. JONES: Yeah, what happened to this
26 guide, that if he's getting penalized and suspend his
27 guide license in the Holy Cross area, are you going to
28 replace him with another client in that area?

29

30 MR. DENTON: The particular individual
31 was not permitted by BLM because he was under a
32 transporter type activity is what -- it's the State -- he
33 was prosecuted under the State regulations for violations
34 in moose harvest and so BLM was not directly involved in
35 that case, but the Troopers were. And he, as a
36 transporter, there's no -- there's really no regulations
37 for transporters at the present time, statewide.

38

39 MR. JONES: Yeah, I have another
40 question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Benedict.

43

44 MR. JONES: Doyon, Ltd, is doing
45 exploratory for energy in the Bethel area, are they going
46 to mine coal to support that energy or what?

47

48 MR. DENTON: I don't know all the details
49 to that coal plan but I have been given the impression
50 that they're going to actually going to import coal if

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1 they build a coal fired plant there. They're not going
2 to mine it there, they're going to get it from either
3 Canada or someplace else.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
6 Jeff or BLM.

7

8 (No comment)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I would like to
11 thank you for that report. It was pretty thorough, and
12 thank you for the written ones, too.

13

14 MR. WALKER: Ingrid, don't forget to give
15 me a copy.

16

17 MS. MCSWEENEY: (Nods affirmatively)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Under Item D, Fish and
20 Wildlife Service. I saw Mike Smith walk out -- we have
21 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge update.

22

23 MR. SHULTZ: Can Innoko go first?

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. It's not listed
26 here but okay. Go ahead, Clara.

27

28 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Chairman. Members of
29 the Board. Clara Demientieff, Innoko National Wildlife
30 Refuge Information Specialist. I'm going on my third
31 year as an RIT for the Innoko National Wildlife. I'd
32 like to present you all the activities and other projects
33 that I've been working on.

34

35 This year has been a real -- I'll
36 probably lose my voice on the way, but I'll try not to.
37 I've been working on different projects for the Innoko
38 National Wildlife. One of our main events is that I'm
39 back in my home at Holy Cross right now. We do now have
40 an office there, the US Fish and Wildlife, Innoko
41 National Wildlife office, which is located above the
42 city. This transfer was done back in June mid-summer. I
43 really do enjoy being home after 23 years of being away
44 and living in McGrath.

45

46 One of the big projects that we did this
47 summer was the summer science program which was past
48 August. We did a recruitment of six students. One from
49 Holy Cross, two from Grayling, and I think there was
50 three or four from McGrath. We recruited a teacher who

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1 -- a science teacher from Holy Cross who volunteered for
2 the program and we also had two volunteers from the
3 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. I'm trying to find the
4 page where I was supposed to read this -- hold on a
5 second.

6

7

(Pause)

8

9

MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I'd like to read you a
10 report that was written by myself to the Innoko, my boss
11 here, and to my supervisor about the camp. The Innoko
12 camp was a great success due to the overwhelming support
13 of the Innoko volunteers and Staff, and the US Fish and
14 Wildlife Service Staff from Fairbanks and Galena, and I
15 appreciate them for volunteering their time to come to
16 McGrath and do presentations to our students. Iditarod
17 area district support, staff and teachers and local
18 community residents were also helpful in this project.

19

20

All classes were attended, field trips
21 were taken, projects were planned and carried out and
22 chem chores were tackled by this group of outstanding
23 students. The staff, both paid and volunteers were
24 prepared as well as spending long days and nights for
25 projects being completed by the students. I say this is
26 long because we started like, you know, from 6:00, 7:00
27 o'clock in the morning until either 10:00 or 11:00 at
28 night. So the kids did have long hours but they
29 fulfilled all the projects that they did.

30

31

Many of the activities have changed over
32 the years depending on the availability of instructors.
33 We concentrated on science activities but also included
34 art journal writing, orienteering and safety training.
35 And this year we spent some time in McGrath doing our
36 science camp there because we couldn't go down river,
37 which is a couple miles, where is the usual science camp
38 area because of bear problems we had there. So to keep
39 the students safe and the volunteers safe we spent all
40 this time, a whole week in McGrath.

41

42

Some of the projects that we had covered
43 kayaking, fire-building, berry picking and jam-making,
44 fish dissection, adaption, mammal trapping, fire
45 management and cycle, and elder stories, plant
46 collection, medicine values, hike on Norhill, basic
47 first-aide, CPR, birch bark drawings, journals,
48 orienteering, agooduck making (ph), water quality and
49 vertebrate sampling. And we also covered boat safety and
50 bear safety.

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1 The Innoko National Wildlife and ISD
2 science camp has always been successful although it is
3 quite difficult to recruit volunteers and teachers due to
4 summer vacations and other commitments. We feel that
5 there is confidence that the students are enjoying their
6 experiences. The effort is to keep ongoing recruitment
7 which we'd like to do at career fairs or when we visit
8 the villages of Grayling, Anvik and Shageluk.

9
10 They enjoy a lot of outdoor activities
11 because they're interested in them, and they also receive
12 a credit, a one-half credit from the district for their
13 science projects they've completed.

14
15 We also want the students to be positive
16 role models and learn about career opportunities in
17 natural resource fields. Ultimately we hope students
18 will come away from our camp with a better understanding
19 and appreciation of the area they live in.

20
21 I have a number of activities that I'd
22 like to tell you about what happens over the summer.
23 Many people ask, you know, what does an RIT do, you know,
24 what is your job description, what do you do for the
25 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge? So when they come to
26 visit, you know, I try to sit them down and tell them
27 what we do because a lot of people ask what we do.

28
29 Some of the projects that we have listed
30 over the summers in my area is going to do the goose
31 banding, and hopefully this summer that we can be
32 recruiting for more students to come out and help us,
33 because this is combined with the Galena Refuge. Another
34 thing that I do is fish surveys on the Yukon. This past
35 summer Bill has assisted me going to Anvik and Grayling
36 and visiting with a few folks and asking about the fish
37 and the quality of the fish. We've been to Anvik and
38 Grayling and the second trip was with -- or vice versa,
39 was with Thomas Sicanic (ph), who's the maintenance
40 person, he also assisted me on the boat trip.

41
42 Hopefully this summer we can be
43 recruiting more volunteers so we can do more fish surveys
44 around the area of fish camps in Holy Cross. And
45 probably a long trip to Shageluk, because Shageluk -- the
46 fishers do get fish up there now, so it's the salmon is
47 kind of recruiting to the Innoko side also.

48
49 I'm pretty sure the spring, we will be
50 doing the migratory bird surveys so that means more

00105

1 visiting to the villages and doing the count on ducks and
2 geese.

3

4 This past year in April, we had our
5 shooting clinic and centennial celebration with all the
6 villages of Anvik, Grayling and Holy Cross. We had a big
7 grand prize, which everyone filled out a door prize and
8 we had a youngster named Tyler Whitly of Holy Cross who
9 won the grand prize which is flying out to the Innoko
10 Refuge, and that will probably happen this coming summer.

11

12 And the shooting clinics, I'd like to say
13 that while we will be having that in April, and hopefully
14 that we can have a response from Anvik or a letter from
15 Anvik because we already did Holy Cross, Grayling and
16 Shageluk.

17

18 And this is all I have, thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions
21 for Clara.

22

23 (No comment)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not then -- oh, Robert.

26

27 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 Clara, I thought we did a letter here to you a couple
29 months ago. If we didn't, let me know so when I get home
30 we can get this taken care of.

31

32 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. I will need to
33 know if it was sent to the McGrath office or the Holy
34 Cross office.

35

36 MR. WALKER: I'll find out.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

39

40 MR. SCHAFF: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair. Real
41 quickly, Bill Schaff, Refuge manager of the Innoko
42 National Wildlife Refuge. And Clara did a good job
43 synopsisizing most of the things that happened. I just
44 wanted to mention a couple of other items that are
45 happening on the Refuge.

46

47 We did hire a new wildlife biologist who
48 came on board in September, Steve Kovak, who came up from
49 the Yukon Delta Refuge. He's our new wildlife biologist.

50

00106

1 As Clara mentioned the move of her office
2 to Holy Cross.

3
4 We will be conducting a moose survey in
5 the south half of the Refuge this coming March, that is
6 an upcoming event.

7
8 Clara mentioned the steel-shot mentioned.

9
10 And the only other thing I have to
11 reflect on the law enforcement issues of interest to the
12 Council. We do have an employee who will be attending
13 law enforcement school at the Federal Law Enforcement
14 Training Center at the end of this month and it's a 17
15 week school there, so there'll be a second -- like
16 currently I'm the only credentialed officer at Innoko,
17 after Sidney Charbonnet graduates from FLETC and attends
18 all his required field training, we will have a second
19 Refuge officer, law enforcement officer at Innoko.

20
21 And that's about it. Clara did a very
22 good job synopsizing.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: How did you get that law
25 enforcement thing going and who was it funded through,
26 through that whole school and all that, how did you make
27 that happen?

28
29 MR. SCHAFF: The way people are selected,
30 the supervisor, and in Innoko's case, myself, puts in a
31 request to have a person attend FLETC, they're selected
32 on a regional -- on a national and then a regional basis
33 and then the funding is basically funded nationally.
34 While he's at the school we will continue paying his
35 salary so it is something that, I know, this panel has
36 talked about for several years now, about trying to
37 increase law enforcement, and I know it's been an issue
38 at Innoko ever since the other person had some medical
39 problems and dropped his law enforcement several years
40 ago, and we've been down to one person. So it's combined
41 issue.

42
43 I would like to thank the Committee for
44 letters because I was able to use that as leverage to get
45 this person through the school -- or into the school.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that sounds pretty
48 interesting. So these programs must be few and far
49 between; is that correct?

50

00107

1 MR. SCHAFF: The law enforcement training
2 program?

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

5
6 MR. SCHAFF: It's the ongoing schools,
7 it's just that there is only so many of them. There's
8 the one school that all Federal officers, whether it's
9 Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, Park Service all go to
10 the same Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in
11 Glenco, Georgia. As I said the current training session
12 is 17 weeks long for the natural resources police
13 officer. I know there is a limited number of slots on a
14 yearly basis.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's what I was
17 wondering, there's a limited number of slots. It sounds
18 like a good program. Any further questions.

19
20 (No comment)

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I'd like to thank
23 you for hanging around and bearing with us for the last
24 three or four or five days or whatever you've been down
25 here, and thank you for that report.

26
27 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

28
29 MR. SCHAFF: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Kanuti Wildlife, Bob
32 Shultz.

33
34 MR. SHULTZ: Bob Shultz, Refuge Manager,
35 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

36
37 Earlier today I passed out the latest
38 newsletter for the Kanuti Refuge. I think it pretty much
39 summarizes what we've been up to over the last year.
40 There's just four points I'd like to bring to your
41 attention. The first is we're beginning the process of
42 revising our comprehensive conservation plan. This is
43 the major plan that governs the management of the Kanuti
44 National Wildlife Refuge. The plan was written back in
45 1987. We recognize that there's potential for change
46 over the last 15 years since the plan has been written,
47 and this revision provides us with the opportunity for
48 the changes to be proposed, evaluated and subsequently
49 implemented if they are determined to be the best
50 management for the resources on the Refuge.

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1 You'll be hearing a lot more about this
2 rewrite. It's going to be a major focus for the Refuge
3 over the next two years.

4
5 The second thing, last spring I talked to
6 you about my concerns on the migratory bird list for the
7 spring take of waterfowl. I've had my biologist develop
8 pictures for each of those species and I've been in the
9 process of sitting down with elders in Game Management
10 Unit 24 and 25 and discussing if those birds have been
11 taken, when they were taken, what they were used for and
12 that, and I'm finding out some very interesting things.
13 And I'm in the process of collecting that data and
14 hopefully next spring I'll have enough information to
15 come out with a report. But a lot of my concerns that I
16 discussed last spring are holding true. A lot of our
17 gull species, a lot of our small shorebird species that
18 are on the list have not been used, there's apparently no
19 history of them being used in the Upper Koyukuk River,
20 and I don't think that they should be on that list. A
21 lot of the elders, when I indicate that they can be
22 taken, you know, they come up with, you know, why would
23 somebody shoot something like that, you know, we don't
24 use them.

25
26 So I think it will be a good
27 documentation on what should be on that list and what
28 should not be on that list.

29
30 Last week we completed our second beaver
31 cache survey. The survey that we conducted in 2002 gave
32 us very good statistical data. And we'll be going out to
33 the elders around the Refuge and discussing with them, we
34 know the number of caches and now what we need to do is
35 figure out the number of beaver per cache. If we can
36 come up with some kind of crosswalk in between, if we see
37 a cache out there we can expect so many beaver out there,
38 and that's the next hurdle. There's very little
39 information in the literature and most of the stuff
40 that's in the literature right now is not from Interior
41 Alaska and it's very old, it's 20, 30 years old. So
42 we're going to be talking with the elders and talking
43 with trappers that have knowledge on beavers, and number
44 of beavers per cache to see if we can get some kind of
45 good information on that. It's my feeling that these
46 beavers are a keystone species. Through their damming
47 activities and that, they modify and affect a large
48 percentage of our habitat on the Kanuti Refuge out there,
49 and we need to get a better handle on them.

50

00109

1 The last thing, the State Board of Game
2 has a call out for proposals for hunting and trapping
3 regulations for Unit 24. And again, if the Refuge can be
4 of any service to you folks or to any of the advisory
5 councils, don't hesitate, give us a call and we'll help
6 you out where we can on it.

7
8 That's all I have.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: So you're going to have
13 your new management plan, you're going to work your plan
14 over and I would like to see incorporated into that plan,
15 Jody, requested that I make comment earlier but I never
16 could get back to her because I was out moose hunting and
17 stuff, but I would like to see moose -- we have data gaps
18 or information gaps in moose movements. I would like to
19 see some information developed in your next planning
20 process on how they move around in the Kanuti. I have
21 informational needs there for that. And I think that
22 that's a very important species because they do move
23 around quite a bit. It's my observations that they're
24 moving around, in and out of that Kanuti area, so I would
25 like to see that happen.

26
27 And did you have any handle on the number
28 of air boats that were going down close to the Kanuti
29 Wildlife Refuge this year?

30
31 MR. SHULTZ: We don't have a good number
32 on the air boats, no. As I mentioned earlier Gene Petola
33 is going to start taking a lot closer look at that. It
34 seems like there was a shift of air boats this year off
35 of the Southfork. They moved up to the Middlefork, and
36 they were going north of the Refuge. They were using the
37 lands in between the Refuge or Bettles and the Gates of
38 the Arctic. It seemed like there was a change in the use
39 areas this year. The previous year we had one boat in
40 there, one air boat in there, and now this year we had
41 several boats in there. I understand there were 12
42 vehicles parked at Coldfoot this year that were accessing
43 the Koyukuk River there where there's only been one or
44 two boats in there in previous years.

45
46 As far as your previous comment on moose
47 movement and that, Jody, I think -- I think when Jody
48 stopped in she was just introducing the concept and that
49 t you Jack, and we'll be coming back, you know, holding
50 scoping meetings and those scoping meetings will be held

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1 in various areas. And what we're looking for is input,
2 you know, on what changes need to be done on that on the
3 entire management of the Refuge. So, yeah, don't feel
4 that you missed an opportunity there by any means.

5
6 We're going to be trying to do a number
7 of things, a number of different ways to get public
8 involvement. Some of it will be like in the Wiseman
9 area, will probably be on a door to door basis. Down in
10 Allakaket, we'll probably be talking with the tribal
11 council and try to set up a tribal meeting or something
12 like this. We'll be holding a meeting in Fairbanks
13 trying to encourage people there to provide input. We're
14 going to try to reach as many people as we can on this
15 that have interest in the Kanuti.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: The reason I'm asking about
18 air boats, I was down at the Southfork Bridge on the 11th
19 of September and there were nine vehicles with trailers
20 parked there. And I heard that some were going up and I
21 was wondering if some were going down into the Refuge.

22
23 MR. SHULTZ: We've had problems with
24 people going down river. This year I talked to several
25 people that went up the Southfork and they didn't observe
26 any air boats down in there where they had observed them
27 previous years. So some of them did go up, you know,
28 it's one of those things we don't have a good handle on
29 as far as, you know, I think it's tied into the amount of
30 water. Normal years we have a couple groups that go down
31 the Bonanza Creek and their camp sites are actually on
32 BLM land but they do go down into the Refuge some. They
33 spent one day down there. They went down and the water
34 dropped eight inches and they moved out of there. So I
35 think it's tied into our water levels there and we got to
36 get a better handle on that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
39 questions for Bob, Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

40
41 (No comment)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, I appreciate your
44 efforts to conduct this moose survey. And I know that I
45 see you quite often at Allakaket. But we, at Alatna,
46 haven't always attended your meetings because at times we
47 don't know that you're coming or leaving. So next time
48 you head down to Allakaket, could you fax over your
49 travel times and meeting times to Alatna?

50

00111

1 MR. SHULTZ: Will do. We want to start
2 working closer there. We haven't realized that there was
3 a gap there but we want to include you, yeah. We're
4 going to try to, you know, make a better effort. One of
5 the things that I've been promised is in the President's
6 budget this year, 2004, we have what we call a RON's
7 package. RON stands for Refuge Operation Needs. And one
8 of the things that's in that package is a pilot's
9 position for Kanuti Refuge. Right now we have a supercub
10 assigned to the Refuge but we don't have a pilot, we
11 don't have a driver. And if we can get this pilot on
12 board it will give us a lot more flexibility. Right now
13 we're borrowing pilots from other Refuges or using
14 charters and it's just not a good way to operate in the
15 Bush where you got to rely on airplanes to get us around.
16 And if we get this pilot on it probably won't be until
17 late next summer, but it will give us a lot more ways of
18 reaching you folks out there.

19

20 Thanks.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: As soon as you find a
23 pilot, send down Ron's plane to Ron.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. SHULTZ: Okay.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Bob. Koyukuk
32 National Wildlife Refuge, Geoff Beyersdorf.

33

34 MR. HUNTINGTON: Ron, I'll present a
35 couple things for Geoff, too. Orville Huntington from
36 Koyukuk Refuge.

37

38 We had an oil spill site up on Billyhawk
39 Creek. It was over 170 barrels of number 1 diesel I
40 think we -- that's -- preliminary tests show that that's
41 what it is. There was an old miner, I can't remember
42 what his name is, all the old-timers in Huslia know him,
43 anyway, there was a quite a few barrels up there, they
44 located it by using the traditional knowledge of those
45 people around there, they located it and then we flew up
46 there with an airplane and marked it at winter and then
47 we went back out there with our GPS and we found it and
48 we took pictures of it and took samples and I walked up
49 on the hill trying to find out where the other barrels
50 were but I got a little bit disoriented in the woods and

00112

1 I gave up on that, but there's more barrels up on top of
2 the hill somewhere anyway.

3

4 But anyway, we did find quite a bit and
5 it's supposed to be like the number 1 contaminant site in
6 the US or something, it's ranked that high. But that's
7 one thing that we did.

8

9 The other thing was the thing I mentioned
10 earlier with helping the Alaska Department of Fish and
11 Game with their Huslia checkstation, you know, checking
12 meat and taking antlers and the ones that they cut in
13 half, they gave those to me and I gave them to Glenn and
14 then I check all the hunters in and out for the permit
15 hunt. The drawing permit hunters and the regular local
16 folks. I got some hunters from Anchorage, Fairbanks,
17 Eagle River, they're all from all over the place. And
18 then a few of them didn't know that they had to have the
19 permits when they got there so I gave those guys permits.
20 And we had a couple of guys that didn't check out, Fish
21 and Game is going to take care of that.

22

23 And I forgot to mention on the Huslia
24 weather workshop there is a CD I brought for you guys to
25 listen to. There's not going to be time, but maybe next
26 meeting in Ruby I'll bring it. It belongs to the Huslia
27 Tribal Council. I was the principal investigator for the
28 Science Commission so they ended up with the ownership of
29 the data and they said I could play it for you guys, so
30 next time I'll bring that and it belongs to the Huslia
31 Tribal Archive.

32

33 And that's all I had.

34

35 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thanks, Orville. I
36 guess first off what I was going to start off with.

37

38 I think you guys are all familiar with
39 Russ Holder from the Fairbanks Fisheries Office, he had a
40 request as the Federal in-season manager, he wanted to
41 try and get some in-season harvest salmon assessment --
42 get the local knowledge, see how local people were doing
43 so working with Russ and Orville and Patrick Madros from
44 Nulato. He was a seasonal local hire. We were able to
45 go out on a weekly basis during the in-season and see how
46 some of the local fishers were doing, provide that
47 information to Russ anonymously and then that information
48 was shared during the weekly YRDFA teleconferences, and
49 Orville and Patrick, myself, Clara all participated in
50 that this summer.

00113

1 And we're going to, with some in-house
2 money for next year, for 2004, we're going to continue
3 that because I think Russ has found that beneficial to
4 his program. And we'll also be submitting in 2005, a
5 proposal to try and get funding for that.

6
7 When we did those weekly teleconferences,
8 then I would turnaround and I would summarize those and
9 present those on KIYU so that the local people would hear
10 what was going on during the YRDFA teleconferences.

11
12 I guess the other thing to let you know
13 is that the Fairbanks office is going to be -- they
14 started this last September, a sheefish study on the
15 Nowitna River.

16
17 We did aerial swan trend surveys on the
18 Koyukuk, Kaiyuh, and on the Nowitna, and all three areas
19 showed increasing population sizes with really good
20 production this year.

21
22 There was a request from you guys last
23 time at Aniak in regards to our waterfowl harvest surveys
24 and I did bring along, and there's in those packets that
25 I put together there for you, summarized data up until
26 2002. I just wanted to make you aware that as far as
27 great-white-fronted geese, I know there's an interest in
28 that, that in area -- the overall average in area
29 villages was 191 for last year for the take, that
30 compares to the four year average of about 439. And I
31 think Orville, if you have any questions as to why those
32 numbers are lower, Orville helped gather some of that
33 data so he could probably answer some of those questions.

34
35 Similar to Kanuti and Innoko, we also
36 conducted steel-shot clinics, Orville and Patrick were
37 instrumental in that. They conducted clinics in Kaltag
38 and Hughes. And Orville and Patrick also made a lot of
39 effort to help out with the Flats and Kanuti Refuges to
40 have clinics in Bettles, Allakaket, Ft. Yukon and Circle.
41 And we're also going to be planning on doing some of the
42 area villages. Orville and I haven't sat down and
43 discussed it yet, but we'll be doing some hunter
44 education and steel-shot clinics in this next spring.

45
46 In regards to law enforcement, we only
47 have one dual function law enforcement officer on our
48 Refuge. He was able to get out this year. He spent
49 several days n the Koyukuk and several days on the
50 Nowitna River and he was able to make some progress on

00114

1 some of the Ellie (ph) concerns that we have and I know
2 that Micky did have a concern about a local resident
3 there in Kaiyuh. We are aware of that and we are
4 highlighting that for next year, to try and address
5 Micky's concern there.

6

7 I also wanted to pass along that with law
8 enforcement and having kind of a limited Federal presence
9 there, we've been able to work very well with the State
10 and the Fish and Wildlife protection troopers, and we
11 really appreciate their efforts in helping us out.
12 They've been extremely beneficial in our area.

13

14 In regards to moose hunting, we had the
15 moose hunter checkstation on the Nowitna River from
16 September 2nd to the 27th. We had 208 hunters come into
17 our area this year, that's 21(A) and (B), and they
18 harvested 56 moose. Twenty-two hunters were from local
19 villages, 80 hunters were from Fairbanks, 80 hunters were
20 from other areas in Alaska, primarily the Wasilla,
21 Palmer, Anchorage area and 26 were non-residents. Most
22 of the increase in hunters this year were non-residents
23 and non-local Alaskans. And some of this is from the
24 Koyukuk which we expected with the restrictions there on
25 the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, but a lot of the
26 presence there of the non-local Alaskans from Anchorage,
27 Palmer and Wasilla and what they expressed to us is that
28 there's a lot of overrun with ATV use in the Mat-Su
29 Valley and so they were looking for new areas to hunt
30 this year. We are monitoring this closely. We realize
31 this is a concern. This is a considerable jump. Last
32 year, I believe we had 136 hunters in that area and our
33 average is 144. So 208 hunters this year was pretty
34 significant. And I think you also saw that expressed
35 when Ed came up and talked to you in regards to what they
36 can do about having this level of non-local hunters in
37 the area.

38

39 We did do a meat care assessment of every
40 hunter that went through the checkstation, and this year,
41 again, same as last year meat care was excellent. A lot
42 of that was, in part, we had a real good cold snap there.

43

44 We are planning on doing a moose survey
45 this year. We're going to be doing the Novi, the Koyukuk
46 and the Kaiyuh Flats are going to be surveyed.

47

48 And Orville has some specifics if you
49 guys have questions on making sure that there are
50 specific drainages that are going to be covered.

00115

1 In regards to predators, we are going to
2 be -- we did conduct a trapping and snaring clinic in the
3 Galena schools and also to the local Galena residents
4 this year, and we plan on doing another one -- there's
5 been a request from Huslia and from Bettles to work in
6 conjunction with ADF&G to do trapping and snaring clinics
7 in both of those villages and we're planning on doing
8 that.

9
10 I know Emmitt had a request as far as
11 like Orville's position, having more local hires and when
12 I get back, I put together the paperwork this summer, and
13 the applications are waiting for me to review them, but
14 we are going to be hiring a permanent seasonal Refuge
15 information technician, so it will be Orville's position,
16 but it will be based in one of the middle Yukon River
17 villages there. I don't know where it's going to be as
18 of yet, but they will be brought on by this next spring.

19
20 And the other thing is, I think you guys
21 have noted, Orville's participation in a lot of the other
22 groups, like the Alaska Native Science Commission, being
23 able to put together the weather workshop and stuff,
24 such, and we're really in support of that, and this year
25 I was able to put a memorandum of agreement together, in
26 that, Orville can work with those organizations with the
27 full support of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and that
28 seems to be a very successful and well received process.
29 And what I'd like to do, I've sat down and I've talked
30 with Orville and it looks like we're going to try and do
31 the same thing with the -- he also sits on the -- he
32 works with the Arctic Research Commission, and we'll be
33 trying to put together a memorandum of agreement with
34 them also.

35
36 And that's all I had. I don't know if
37 Orville has anything else he'd like to add.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, both. I'm sure
42 we have more questions, but my question is this, at one
43 time, I think we had about seven transporters operating
44 out of -- or seven transporter permits within the Koyukuk
45 National Wildlife Refuge, has that number gone down? I
46 think it may have been five, I'm not sure.

47
48 MR. BEYERSDORF: I don't -- Mr. Chair, I
49 don't have the numbers yet for 2003. We've only had a
50 week to kind of put all this together before you but for

00116

1 2002, I can -- 2002 it was four, and the year before that
2 it was eight. So it -- in 2000 it was six, in 2001 it
3 was eight, and then last year it was four. So it looks
4 like it has decreased. And I looked at the Kaiyuh Flats
5 and the Novi and all of the number of air taxi
6 transporter permits that were issued has decreased since
7 the year before.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Our request was honored.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Robert.

14

15 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
16 your back page, 47, it gives you a cost for moose
17 population estimate survey, November 2001, northern
18 Innoko National Wildlife Refuges, it costs you roughly
19 44,000, almost \$45,000 to do a fly here, how many square
20 miles is this?

21

22 MR. BEYERSDORF: Member Walker. Members
23 of the Council. That's approximately 5,500 square miles.
24 And it is expensive, but we fly every square miles of
25 those areas, I mean it is a very intensive survey and it
26 gave us the best -- we had surveys conducted in 1987 and
27 in 1997 and I think this 2001 picture is the best
28 estimate that we've had yet to date.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

31

32 MR. JONES: Thank you, Chairman. On this
33 moose harvest graph here, it shows that the residents are
34 way down low but other Alaskans has harvested more moose
35 in the Nowitna area than the locals.

36

37 MR. BEYERSDORF: I think if you look at
38 that table in the very front that's always historically
39 been the case. I mean starting in 1988 it -- there's
40 always been more of a presence from Fairbanks and other
41 residents than there has been even from the local
42 villages. One thing I would point out from this last
43 year, even though there was an increase in hunters, the
44 harvest rate itself was actually down. It was down 27
45 percent versus the average of 40 percent.

46

47 So I think, what I would expect, is we
48 are seeing an increase, I think that people will probably
49 come there for a year or two and they're not going to be
50 successful because we just don't have the population

00117

1 levels that they would have like in the Koyukuk
2 Controlled Use Area and that they won't be attending
3 there anymore, that's my hope. We are closely monitoring
4 this, though. And I think that, you know, obviously
5 there's a concern out of Ruby and it looks like some Ruby
6 residents will put forth a Federal proposal to try and
7 see if they can exclude non-Federally-qualified users.

8

9 MR. JONES: Yeah, do you have any -- keep
10 track of the non-resident hunters, if they're coming back
11 year after year or the Fairbanks or Anchorage hunters?

12

13 MR. BEYERSDORF: Yes. Yes, we do. And
14 there is a core group of Fairbanks people that seem to be
15 coming back year after year. I don't have the numbers
16 off hand in front of me, but if you want the -- if you'd
17 like a breakdown of who's returning and who's new every
18 year, I can get that to you.

19

20 MR. JONES: Yeah, the reason I ask is
21 because Koyukuk River is under a Controlled Use Area and
22 drawing permit only so I just wonder if the other non-
23 residents, Alaska hunters are targeting this area.

24

25 MR. BEYERSDORF: I think that what's
26 happening is kind of what you're seeing throughout the
27 state. Some of it was people that used to go to the
28 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area coming down to hunt the Novi
29 and they're also getting into the Yuki area, but some of
30 it is just that their areas of the state, other areas of
31 the state are being overrun, so they're kind of trying to
32 see what areas of -- different areas of the state to go
33 to that they can be successful.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions.

36

37 (No comment)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Orville, go ahead.

40

41 MR. HUNTINGTON: One thing on the Nowitna
42 data, you have to know that -- I think Emmitt knows that
43 people from Ruby always hunted around there on the road
44 system, too, and all those moose weren't counted in this
45 data, that goes like on the green harvest tickets that we
46 don't have. That's why the local hunt looks lower than
47 it really is.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we were aware of
50 this and I think I believe that Geoff is right in

00118

1 guessing that a lot of the hunters that showed up at
2 Nowitna are not the leftovers, but the extras from the
3 Koyukuk River Moose Management Working Group Plan, they
4 come from Kenai, Soldotna and couldn't draw a ticket, I
5 think that's exactly where they went because we have
6 three or four guides out of Kenai/Soldotna area on the
7 Koyukuk River Moose Working Group. So I think that
8 assumption is more than correct for the time being.

9

10 And does that answer your question,
11 Benedict?

12

13 MR. JONES: (Nods affirmatively)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further
16 questions for Geoff and Orville.

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: No questions. But just so
19 Geoff and Orville know, we all know that the hunters that
20 got squeezed out with the new regulations on the Koyukuk
21 River, those guys are probably the guys that are going
22 out on the Novi and the Nowitna, but they're also going
23 out down below Kaltag. They drive right by Nulato and
24 right by Kaltag but they do hunt below Kaltag in between
25 Kaltag and -- from Kaltag to Grayling.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: To back up those earlier
28 numbers on this program, at one time it was between six
29 and 700 and when we displaced them, we all got balled out
30 from NANA, sent all the hunters up to NANA/Kotzebue area,
31 Kobuk River, so we -- any time you displace hunters, all
32 you do is place them at another site, I think that's all
33 we're doing with this program. But as long as it's
34 working for our area.

35

36 Again, thank you for your report.
37 Emmitt's got one more question.

38

39 MR. PETERS: Yes, Orville and Geoff, like
40 Micky said there was a lot of hunters coming -- going
41 right on by Nulato and this past year there was quite a
42 few people, hunters, I mean, going up the Yuki out of
43 towners, have you checked on that?

44

45 MR. BEYERSDORF: Well, I think as I
46 pointed out to you before, especially with this
47 driftnetting proposal, is that the Yuki, the mouth of the
48 Yuki and almost all the waters in the Yuki are State
49 waters. And I do know that it's been brought to the
50 attention of the Ruby Advisory Committee and one thing

00119

1 that they wanted to talk to Glenn about is the potential,
2 if they can try and set up a Yuki checkstation to try and
3 get a handle on what is the level of use on the Yuki. I
4 don't know where that's going to go, but I know that the
5 Advisory Committee is aware of that and they're going to
6 be talking to Glenn about it.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would also direct the
9 Middle Yukon Advisory Council to look into this issue so
10 you could have Micky working on it, too.

11

12 Any further questions.

13

14 (No comment)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for your report.

17

18 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thank you.

19

20 MR. BEYERSDORF: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have -- it is now 3:15,
23 45 minutes until game time.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you want to go right
28 through or do you want some coffee?

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: Go right through. I think
31 everybody else is done except for us.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

34

35 MR. PETERS: Yeah, we'll go right on
36 through so we can watch the game.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: E, National Park Service.
39 While they're coming up, we have Sandy Rabinowitch and
40 Jeff Denton [sic] -- you know, in quite a few of our
41 meetings, this may be the only one that we give you some
42 time to make a presentation, other times it's
43 hello/goodbye, so we'll ask that our Council members bear
44 with us and bear with our presenters.

45

46 MR. STICKMAN: Oh, no problem.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: National Park Service. I

00120

1 see that we are losing our audience, so hopefully they
2 are just presenters we were done with. Sandy.

3

4 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman. I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with the National Park
6 Service and this is Fred Andersen also with the National
7 Park Service. I work for Judy Gottlieb who is a Park
8 Service Federal Subsistence Board and Fred works for
9 Gates of the Arctic Park. We recognize it's late in the
10 day and we'll try to move through this material as
11 quickly as we can.

12

13 There's two pieces of paper that we're
14 circulating. We'll do one and then the other. The first
15 one is some information about a proposed special action
16 about moose in Unit 24. And the second one is a draft
17 proposal about the same subject. So if you look at the
18 one that actually has my name, it's a copy of an e-mail
19 on the front, it says Sandy Rabinowitch, there's an
20 arrowhead, if you look at that one to start with.

21

22 And hopefully this map that we've tacked
23 up on the wall might speed the discussion up a little bit
24 and we can kind of point at that as need be. In a
25 nutshell, as some of you that live in the more northerly
26 parts of Unit 24 know that the moose populations haven't
27 been doing terribly well in that area for quite awhile
28 and for the last two years there have been closures by
29 both State and the Federal governments to the taking of
30 cow moose in the fall seasons. There's different seasons
31 throughout the unit, they're most people would agree
32 pretty complicated regulations and I'm not going to try
33 to walk through all of that because I would waste your
34 time.

35

36 It suffices to say that, again, this year
37 those closures were made with one exception and that is
38 in the Gates of the Arctic National Park, the fall moose
39 seasons remained open. What we're proposing is, at this
40 point in time, to close the single remaining fall cow
41 season, okay, and that's only in the John and the Alatna
42 River above -- I'll try to do this from here and I'll get
43 up if you need me to, but above that heavy dark green
44 line, so going northward up to the Unit 24 boundary,
45 which is that gold colored line. So we're only talking
46 about those lands within Gates of the Arctic National
47 Park, if you will the Upper John River and the Upper
48 Alatna River. All the other lands, unless I've really
49 missed something, all the other lands in Unit 24, if you
50 had the fall cow moose hunts closed, and this is kind of

00121

1 the last part left open.

2

3

4 The one remaining season runs all the way
5 to December 31st, it's actually the longest season in the
6 whole unit, and we've picked the date and propose a
7 November 3 closure date, from November 3 to December 31
8 as a closure date. And the reason that we picked that
9 date is that we believe we're currently in a period where
10 the water is dropping in the rivers and people aren't
11 probably getting that far up these rivers for moose
12 huntings. That conditions generally don't allow for
13 that. And then typically by early November the snow
14 starts to obviously come down pile up enough that people
15 start to have access with snowmachines. And so that's
16 why we've picked those dates and we're not trying to do
17 this tomorrow or the next day. We don't think there's a
18 crises because we think access, because Mother Nature
19 kind of limits it at the moment.

19

20

21 We see this as really sort of unfinished
22 business. Again, it's been in all the other parts of the
23 units. There are -- let me see, just try to finish
24 summarizing. The downward trend in the health of the
25 herd's apparent and there's been much written about that
26 already. We have consulted very carefully with the State
27 and the State is prepared to issue an emergency order
28 that would align what I'm talking about, so the Federal
29 government and the State government have consulted and
30 we're lined up on that.

30

31

32 In fact, Roy Nowlin, who talked to you
33 earlier today is one of the two people that we have
34 consulted with. And we also believe that the action is
35 consistent with the Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan
36 that I know you have all invested a lot of time and
37 energy in over the years. So we've carefully reviewed
38 that and we're trying to act in a manner that's
39 consistent with that.

39

40

41 The last thing for me to say is that
42 normally when there's a proposed special action like
43 this, we don't have the opportunity to come to the full
44 Council. Typically your Chairman will get a phone call
45 and all this will be sort of shared and the Chairman will
46 offer their opinion into the program. So the reason
47 we're here is that the timing is really just convenient
48 and it offers us an opportunity to do this.

48

49

50 You can leave this lay quiet. You can
tell us you like it or don't like it. You can support

00122

1 it. It's really up to you. It will probably go to the
2 Federal Subsistence Board for consideration in a week or
3 two. There's nothing scheduled yet, but I believe it
4 will get scheduled soon. If you have questions we're
5 happy to answer them. If you have comments we're happy
6 to hear them.

7

8 That concludes -- and I'll just look to
9 Fred to see if I left anything out, that you thank think
10 of.

11

12 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman, one other
13 consultation was made with Pollock Simon, Sr., the
14 Chairman of the Gates of the Arctic National Park
15 Subsistence Resource Commission and he fully concurs with
16 this proposed action.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. You said that
19 emergency closure is only for November 3 to December 31;
20 is this correct?

21

22 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's correct. And
23 only for cows. Bull moose hunting remains open so it's
24 only the cows. And, again, that's consistent with what's
25 happened in every other square inch of Unit 24 and
26 actually some of 21(D), I believe for that matter.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the cow season is open
29 but it's quite a ways up there; is that also correct?

30

31 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's correct. In a
32 portion of the Park area the cow season remains open
33 until December 31st.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Correct me if I'm wrong.
36 But I think the only reason this is in existence is for
37 the one or two year-round residents who live within the
38 Gates of the Arctic National Park; is that not also
39 correct?

40

41 MR. RABINOWITCH: Mr. Chairman, I think
42 it was correct. And best as I know, and there may be
43 others here who can correct me, I think those people are
44 no longer year-round residents in that area.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, yeah, that

00123

1 Alatna hunt was primarily made for an individual who had
2 a cabin permit up there. He hasn't lived up there for
3 several years now. And the other portion was in north of
4 Crevas Creek, way up there past Gunsight Mountain, and
5 Gates of the Arctic National Park Staff talked to me
6 about that. And it's something that slipped through the
7 cracks when we talked about closing the fall cow moose
8 hunt, somehow the EO didn't happen for the Park land.
9 I'm in favor of protecting cows in the falltime so I have
10 no opposition to this proposal, or this Special Action.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Being a resident from the
13 Alatna River, too, I would have no opposition but I would
14 like to enforce more restriction up there. If you have
15 moose season open year-round that will be exploited
16 sooner or later because according to this you don't close
17 the season on bulls; is that correct?

18

19 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's correct, Mr.
20 Chairman. I would stress that we -- that the Park
21 Service is not trying to lead the way here, we're really
22 trying to catch up with what's been done all around us.
23 We think the animals don't understand that green line on
24 the map, we believe to some extent they move up and down
25 river in really all three of the drainages there. And
26 that if it's important to protect to the cows because the
27 populations are generally going down on one side, we
28 think it's equally important on the other side of that
29 political line.

30

31 So in the simplest terms, we're just
32 trying to act in a responsible way and we became aware of
33 this glitch and we've been trying to take care of it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: As I stated I am in favor
36 of this special action request. But I would like to
37 further study this issue, but I think that we have time,
38 I think we requested more information, through Unit 24,
39 right, we can do that at our next RAC meeting; is that
40 right Jack?

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: Well, the other aspect of
43 this area, the bull season will remain open but that's
44 only for eligible subsistence users that can use the
45 Park.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So if it addresses
48 only addresses residents I'm not too worried about this.
49 But I will recognize this special request and to add
50 further discussion -- sorry if I took so long, but the

00124

1 Chair will entertain a motion to recommend passage of
2 this special action request to the Federal Subsistence
3 Board.

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Second by Jack. Any
12 further discussion.

13

14 MR. STICKMAN: No real discussion. But
15 just to let the rest of the Board here know, that these
16 special action isn't effective in our area and, you know,
17 we're not allowed to kill cows anymore, I don't see it as
18 a bad thing as far as conservation is concerned. And
19 this fall was the first fall of the actual no cow
20 harvest, and with the success rate in my village, I
21 didn't see it as a subsistence harvest restriction or
22 anything.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. We do
25 have a motion on the floor, is there any further
26 discussion.

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called.
31 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. You had
40 more.

41

42 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes, thank you, very
43 much for your support on that. I think that will help us
44 move this along with the Federal Board.

45

46 The second item can probably be even
47 quicker here. What's on the top of the page it says
48 Draft Wildlife Proposal for 2004/2005.

49

50 We found in consulting with a number of

00125

1 people about this special action that you just voted on,
2 that there was fairly universal agreement that the
3 regulations that you find in the Federal book, you know,
4 this one here, and then in the State book for that
5 matter, for moose in Unit 24 are fairly complicated. In
6 fact, almost everybody agrees that they're real complex.
7 And so we took it upon ourselves to see if we could kind
8 of come up with a better mousetrap, and that's what this
9 piece of paper hopefully is. It's a draft, it has not
10 been submitted yet. We have shared it around with a
11 number of people and we kind of explain that, if you read
12 the text, and have mostly gotten positive comments so
13 far.

14

15 What this proposes to do, I'll just read
16 a sentence or two. It proposed to change the hunt area
17 descriptions in the northern part, generally north of the
18 Arctic Circle in Unit 24, it proposes to simplify the
19 harvest seasons for the same area and it proposes to
20 change the fall cow moose hunt opportunities. So when
21 you read through all of it, that's what this really does.

22

23 It also makes a minor simplification of
24 the Dalton Highway hunt area. It's a pretty minor change
25 and it's a small simplification but it's in there. I can
26 really kind of leave it be that simple.

27

28 We have interest to submit this proposal
29 to the Federal Board. The deadline you've heard a number
30 of times is the 24th so there's, I don't know, another
31 week or whatever to do that. But if you had any comments
32 on this, either now or, you know, tomorrow or the next
33 day or whatever, we'd be happy to hear those. And if
34 there's any changes that could be made to this, anything
35 you like about it, or don't like about it, we'd be happy
36 -- we're just trying to float out a draft proposal and
37 see if people have comments.

38

39 So I think I'll stop there for the sake
40 of brevity.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I think this
43 is overdue. Because when we were working on the Koyukuk
44 River Moose Management Plan, we did divide Unit 24 into
45 three different distinct units and I think that's maybe
46 the way to go. Like you said Dalton Highway, Evansville
47 to Allakaket and then Hughes to lower Koyukuk, I think
48 that still can be done. I don't think it would
49 complicate anything to anybody, especially our residents.
50 Like you said, it would simplify a lot of

00126

1 misunderstandings, especially under the Dalton Highway.

2

3

Jack.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: On the Dalton Highway
6 language you're intending to strike the part about
7 excluding the Gates of the Arctic National Park, is that
8 the stuff you're talking about?

9

10 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's correct. Our
11 initial thinking is that that will simplify the
12 administration of the hunt in the corridor. And that
13 wherever anyone hunts in the corridor, they would simply
14 have the same regulations to follow as opposed to two
15 different sets of regulations.

16

17 If there is a reason that we are
18 forgetting these distinctions are in here, we'd be happy
19 to be reminded of them. But when we looked at this, we
20 sort of scratched our head and said why are there two
21 sets of regulations in this corridor, why not just one,
22 so we proposed to strike that. But if we're missing
23 something, please tell us.

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: It was the last subsistence
26 manager that insisted on that language being in there.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. RABINOWITCH: That was his baby.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. RABINOWITCH: If I might ask, do you
35 support it going away or do you think it served a good
36 purpose?

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, it doesn't matter, it's
39 just paperwork. That distinction doesn't matter one way
40 or the other because it's the same season and bag limit.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

43

44 MR. RABINOWITCH: I really don't have
45 anything more to say. I just stress this is a draft and
46 we're just trying to share it around as much as we can to
47 get anybody's comments, and so we appreciate the thoughts
48 that you've offered. And like we say, if anything else
49 comes to mind please get in touch with Fred or I and in
50 absence of real strong objection it would be the Park

00127

1 Service's intent to submit this and then it will come
2 back to your Council at the winter meeting with a full
3 analysis, and you all can chew it over to your heart's
4 content then.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: And also can you direct
7 some sort of letter to the local advisory councils under
8 ADF&G because the sooner they know that this is being
9 thought of or being thrown around, I think they would
10 appreciate hearing your information that they can get.

11

12 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes, we'd be happy to
13 do that.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, please do, because I
16 believe we have at least one meeting this year. It will
17 be somewhere around the Koyukuk. And I think this might
18 -- you might gather quite a bit of help through this
19 meeting, just to simplify the language.

20

21 Any further questions.

22

23 MR. WALKER: Do you have an 800 number?

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. RABINOWITCH: I don't. But I'll give
28 you my card and I'll call you back.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think he was after
31 Fred's number.

32

33 MR. RABINOWITCH: Oh, Fred's.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have a
38 presentation, Fred.

39

40 MR. ANDERSEN: No, Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any more questions.

43

44 (No comment)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, what are you
47 pointing at?

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: I just know that Hollis has
50 a presentation so you're not done with -- Park Service

00128

1 still has the table, I should say.

2

3 MR. RABINOWITCH: We have more Parks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

6

7 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hollis Twitchell. 25

10 minutes until game time.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. TWITCHELL: Is that a subtle hint.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell, Denali

19 Park, and I will be brief.

20

21 At our last SRC meeting, Ray Collins made

22 a proposal which was passed as a motion as a formal

23 hunting plan proposal which asks for a continuation of

24 the predator/prey studies that are going on in Denali

25 with a particular emphasis or a shift to look at that

26 information and address some clarity to what Congress

27 meant and what the Park Service means by natural and

28 healthy populations.

29

30 Parks and Monuments through ANILCA are

31 directed to manage for natural and healthy populations of

32 fish and wildlife. Ray Collins and the Commission were

33 concerned because of decreasing prey populations,

34 particularly in the south and eastern flanks of Denali

35 and the need to get good reliable data on predator/prey

36 so that they could make informed decisions in terms of

37 wildlife proposals, but also to put some clarity as to

38 what natural and healthy means in terms of management in

39 Parks and Monument areas.

40

41 They asked this to be a hunting plan

42 proposal, to give it more profile than the normal Park

43 Service process of moving our proposals through our

44 internal funding sources to try to address this issue.

45 We've tried to advance internally proposals to do this

46 sort of work. We haven't been successful in getting

47 funding to do those through our internal funding sources.

48 So they wanted to give this proposal a little more

49 profile and that's why it shows up as a hunting plan

50 recommendation which goes through consultation with

00129

1 various groups around the state and then gets advanced to
2 the Secretary of the Interior.

3

4 So the Commission would like your Council
5 to consider this proposal and they would hope that they
6 would get a letter of support from the Council for their
7 particular action and request.

8

9 I'll stop at this point and answer any
10 questions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Where does Ray Collins fit
13 into this group, is he our SRC person?

14

15 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes. Ray Collins sits on
16 the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission, and he's
17 actually appointed by the Secretary of the Interior is
18 his appointing source, but he provides the linkage
19 between the Commission and your Council.

20

21 So it's their desire to put this out to
22 the public for consultation and then advance it as a
23 hunting plan recommendation to the Secretary.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Council.
26 Sorry if I was remiss. The Chair will entertain a motion
27 in support of this proposed recommendation.

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: So moved.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

32

33 MR. WALKER: Second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Robert Walker
36 for the record.

37

38 Just before we vote on this, are you
39 aware that we have a draft predator management plan also
40 in the works; are you aware of that?

41

42 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes, I am.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: If you had anything to do
45 with introducing it, thank you. Any further discussion
46 on this proposed recommendation.

47

48 (No comment)

49

50 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.

00130

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called.
2 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Did you
11 have anything else Hollis?

12
13 MR. TWITCHELL: Just to inform you on a
14 former hunting plan proposal that was advanced almost two
15 years ago. I brought it around to the various Councils
16 and presented it to you at that time. It was asking for
17 a durational residency for one of the resident zones in
18 Denali, Cantwell, in particular, very similar to the
19 Wrangell-St. Elias resident zone request for a one year
20 durational residency in that particular unit.

21
22 Park Service just received the Department
23 of Interior Solicitor's office review of that proposal,
24 looking at the legalities of it as per ANILCA and
25 unfortunately the Solicitor's opinion has come back
26 negative that they don't believe that the local
27 durational residency requirement meets the intent of
28 ANILCA, and they based that decision on previous
29 Solicitor's decision in 1986 to the State of Alaska
30 clarifying rural residency and also the 1988 Gates of the
31 Arctic Park hunting proposal which also had requested a
32 one year residency. So it seems like it's not viewed
33 favorably by the legal side of it.

34
35 So where these particular Commissions are
36 going to go now is sort of undecided. It's obviously
37 going to be on our agendas for our next meeting as well
38 as the annual Chair's meeting that will be coming up
39 later this month in Anchorage. So those advisory groups
40 will have to get together again and pool alternatives and
41 where they will choose from here.

42
43 So just wanted to let you know that it
44 was something that's desired not only within Gates of the
45 Arctic, Wrangells, and Denali but two other SRCs are
46 considering similar things, Lake Clark and Aniakchak, so
47 the issue seems to have a broader sense than just Denali
48 and Wrangells. So we'll keep you tuned as to what the
49 Commissions choose to do.

50

00131

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you planning on
2 resubmitting that request because I know that we
3 supported this request or this study or whatever and we
4 will back up the Denali Subsistence Resource Committee on
5 this because we partake in this area through Ray Collins;
6 are you resubmitting it?

7
8 MR. TWITCHELL: At this point the
9 Regional Office has been drafting a letter in response to
10 the Chairs indicating that it won't be supported, a local
11 durational residency would not be supported. So it's
12 really undecided on where the Commissions are going to
13 want to go at this point.

14
15 So at this point we're not planning to
16 resubmit it. We've had, over the history, post-ANILCA
17 about three different solicitor's opinions and they don't
18 seem to want to budget from that.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would say resubmit it
21 anyway.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: Well, k Mr. Chairman, I'm
28 vice-Chair of the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
29 Resource Commission and I'll be going to Anchorage
30 hopefully next week for that meeting on this with the
31 regional office. The Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
32 Resource Commission has been in favor of a one year
33 residency to be eligible to hunt in the Gates of the
34 Arctic Park because it gave new individuals to the area
35 time to assimilate and learn local customs and so forth,
36 and so it's always a problem in any rural area, teachers
37 and so forth moving into a community and rushing right
38 out and hunting on top of where people trap or hunt or
39 whatever. And so we felt that this was a real worthwhile
40 issue. I'm real disappointed to hear that this has
41 fallen on its face down in the solicitor's office.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. What the heck,
44 I had one more question, you said the Denali Natural
45 Resources Commission members are appointed by the
46 Secretary of Interior.

47
48 MR. TWITCHELL: We have nine members on
49 our commissions. Three are appointed by the Secretary of
50 the Interior, three are appointed by the Governor's

00132

1 office, State Governor's office, and three are appointed
2 by Regional Advisory Councils.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. I was
5 just wondering what was the difference between Gates of
6 the Arctic.

7

8 MR. TWITCHELL: And if I could respond on
9 one more point. I wasn't comfortable with the
10 solicitor's opinion myself, there seemed to be no clarity
11 in the opinion that differentiates why the Federal
12 program can assimilate a 12 month residency for an Alaska
13 hunting requirement in the program and the distinction
14 between that and local rural durational requirements. So
15 even though the legal opinion is in it didn't satisfy the
16 questions that I had. So, you know, I think there's room
17 to look at it further.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: It will be a discussed
22 issue, be assured, at this regional meeting.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. And I
25 know how much of an impact this would make within the
26 Denali Commission, because you're right, you've got the
27 highway right through it, and all the resources are right
28 there, a rifle range, but that is why I said just go
29 ahead and resubmit it anyway. But work with Jack on this
30 meeting in a couple days.

31

32 Thank you, Hollis.

33

34 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further National
37 Parks.

38

39 (No comment)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Other organizations.

42

43 (No comment)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Advisory groups.

46

47 (No comment)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, the next item on
50 the agenda is officer elections and appointments. We

00133

1 have this every fall, right, Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Your
4 officers are annual elections.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: So for the benefit of the
7 public and the rest of our Council members, we appointed
8 Micky as vice-Chair to start this meeting to fill this
9 seat because Ray was in the hospital. Jack's still the
10 Secretary. And this is the annual process.

11

12 I am getting a bit tired so.....

13

14 MR. STICKMAN: Are we going to go one at
15 a time?

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I was --
18 that's up to you.

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, if we're going to go
21 one at a time, I'll make a motion that Ron Sam be the
22 Chair.

23

24 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

25

26 MR. WALKER: The election process.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: The election process, but
29 there's a motion on the floor, I was going to say but the
30 second -- it has been seconded.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called.
35 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

40

41 MR. WALKER: You're the Chair after all.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Well, it's game time,
44 that's why.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, vice-Chair. As I
49 just noted we appointed Micky by consensus, we didn't
50 elect him at this time, there just was an empty chair up

00134

1 there.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: I nominate Micky.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Put it on the mike on the

6 record.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: I nominate Micky Stickman

9 for vice Chair.

10

11 MR. WALKER: I second it, I'm Robert

12 Walker.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a motion -- or

15 was that a motion?

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, that was a motion,

20 okay that was for my clarification. It's been moved and

21 seconded to appoint Micky Stickman as the new Western

22 Interior vice Chair. All those in favor of the motion

23 signify by saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Again,

32 Jack has been our Secretary and he has been very

33 diligently all through this meeting again, so what's the

34 wishes of the Council.

35

36 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I nominate

37 Jack Reakoff for Secretary.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: It would be faster if you

40 made a motion.

41

42 MR. WALKER: How do we say we appoint

43 somebody?

44

45 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to appoint

46 Jack Reakoff as Secretary of the Western Interior Board.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Okay. I make a motion to

49 appoint Jack Reakoff as Secretary of the Western Interior

50 Board.

00135

1 MR. STICKMAN: I second the motion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion.

4

5 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called.

8 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

13

14 (No opposing votes)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank

17 you. Appointments to the Subsistence Resource

18 Commission, do we have any, coordinator.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't
21 believe so. And if there are any Clarence would have
22 updated us but there is no pending appointments to
23 Subsistence Resource Commissions for this group, that'd
24 be to Gates of the Arctic.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Coordinating
27 Fisheries Committee.

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

32

33 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to approve
34 Benedict Jones and Robert Walker continue their positions
35 as Coordinating Fish Committee members.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was that a motion?

38

39 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

40

41 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: There is a motion and it's
44 been seconded by Angela, I think, yes, Tina.....

45

46 REPORTER: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM:to reappoint Robert
49 Walker and Benedict Jones. Before we go any further.

50 You all know that Micky Stickman was our original

00136

1 appointee that, because he wanted to include a member
2 from the Lower Yukon he.....

3

4 MR. WALKER: Middle Yukon.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM:Middle Yukon -- okay.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Middle Yukon, he gave up
11 his seat and asked that Robert be appointed. And I'd
12 just like to thank Micky for thinking of our lower.....

13

14 MR. STICKMAN: Middle.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM:lower Western
17 Interior, not Lower Yukon -- I have to make that
18 distinction. So without further adieu, there's a motion
19 on the floor to reappoint Robert Walker and Benedict
20 Jones.

21

22 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor of the
25 motion signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, then.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have the Kuskokwim
38 Coordinating Fisheries, so at this time we appointed both
39 Carl Morgan and Ray Collins because they're the only
40 Council members from the Kuskokwim River. Ray's in the
41 hospital, and he's as far as I'm still concerned he's
42 still a viable member of the Western Interior. So a
43 motion would be in order to reappoint them, too.

44

45 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: So moved.

46

47 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved by Angela
50 Demientieff and seconded by Micky Stickman to reappoint

00137

1 Carl Morgan and Ray Collins to the Kuskokwim Coordinating
2 Fisheries Committee.

3

4 MR. WALKER: Question.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those in favor of the
7 motion signify by saying aye.

8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Vince.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, then Micky
18 would be the alternate still for the Yukon CFC?

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: For clarification
21 purposes, do you think we should take that up in a
22 separate motion?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know if it's
25 necessary. It's just that when we have to get a rapid
26 response, you know, on in-season special actions I and
27 Russ Holder need to know who the alternate is so we can
28 move on it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: In that case I would
31 rather take action and go on record, so the Chair will
32 entertain a motion to appoint Micky Stickman as alternate
33 to the Yukon River CFC.

34

35 MR. JONES: I make a motion that -- from
36 Ruby, I can't think right now.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was that a motion?

39

40 MR. JONES: Emmitt, yeah.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Emmitt Peters, okay.
43 Benedict Jones made a motion to appoint Emmitt Peters as
44 the alternate for Yukon River CFC. Is there a second.

45

46 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Angela.
49 Further discussion.

50

00138

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, since Emmitt
2 hasn't been involved in the teleconference, let me
3 explain what the alternate will end up doing. The
4 teleconferences are every Tuesday, generally at 1:00, if
5 they change the time, it's once a week, but as the season
6 moves along we end up with special actions on Saturdays
7 and Mondays, every day of the week, so we generally try,
8 and Micky knows this, we try to get the two standing
9 members and the alternate involved, so there would be
10 weekly teleconferences as well as YRDFA teleconferences
11 with Jill and that. And then other teleconferences with
12 Staff, and then possibly teleconferences on special
13 actions. Just so you know, Emmitt, and Benedict -- well,
14 Benedict knows this, he goes to every -- he's been on
15 every teleconference since day one, but it is a big
16 commitment, so I just want to make it clear to all of you
17 members that as an alternate you're not sitting on the
18 shelf collecting dust on this group, because Russ depends
19 very heavily as well as the State on what that
20 Coordinating Fishery Committee does.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: We do have a motion on the
23 floor to appoint Emmitt Peters as an alternate.

24
25 MR. WALKER: Second.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question.

28
29 MR. WALKER: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Angela seconded it,
32 it has been seconded. Any further discussion.

33
34 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called.
37 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

42
43 (No opposing votes)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Planning
46 groups.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: I don't think you have any
49 appointments on planning groups because you -- well,
50 Benedict is -- well, maybe there are. Benedict, is your

00139

1 seat up for the Western Caribou -- you know what I mean,
2 the Western Caribou Planning Group, and then -- you -- I
3 don't think you want to change your seats on the Koyukuk
4 River Moose Hunter Working Group, do you? I mean I don't
5 know if those are up. You serve those until probably
6 that planning process eliminates, so does the Council
7 want to maintain Benedict on the Western Arctic -- and
8 I'm lost on who's on the Koyukuk, wasn't that Benedict
9 also? Benedict also on the official seat on the Koyukuk
10 River Moose Hunters Working Group.

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: I'm also on that group,
13 too, the Koyukuk River.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I don't -- he's a
16 voting member on that group.

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: I'm a voting member.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: So is Benedict. Jack and
21 I serve as the overseers, that's just about all. So
22 until they get kicked off they're in there for the
23 duration of their life I guess.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. WALKER: What do you got to do to get
28 kicked off?

29

30 MR. STICKMAN: I don't know.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: But I do not know the
35 duration of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, do you have
36 any idea, Jack, Benedict?

37

38 MR. JONES: Well, you guys appointed me
39 to that selection there's no duration on that. But as
40 far as we did our planning so we're done with that, but
41 we're still having annual meeting this coming December.
42 Once a year we're going to meet from now on to work -- I
43 mean what we plan to -- to follow up on our plans on the
44 caribou management.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Just for the
47 public's clarification, Western Interior got the Koyukuk
48 River Moose Working Group going and through luck, since
49 it was the Koyukuk River and 21(D), we had Benedict and
50 Micky Stickman appointed as voting members and both Jack

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1 and I to serve as non-voting members. Again, I think
2 that we're there for the duration of this thing because I
3 think every couple of years we review when or if we are
4 in existence anyway. And as far as I know we will be
5 having a meeting sometime this year.

6
7 That's all I have on other advisory
8 groups.

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
11 make a motion just to make it official so that Benedict
12 Jones remains the member on that caribou.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Western Arctic.

15
16 MR. STICKMAN:Western Arctic
17 Caribou Working Group.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second.

20
21 MR. PETERS: I second it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Emmitt. All
24 those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

29
30 (No opposing votes)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. And I
33 don't think we have any more advisory groups.

34
35 MR. STICKMAN: No.

36
37 MR. WALKER: I make a motion we adjourn.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Not yet, we got to give
42 some more work to our newly appointed member Emmitt.

43
44 MR. PETERS: Oh, boy.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: We got to have a meeting
49 at Ruby.

50

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1 MR. PETERS: Oh, no wonder you elected
2 me.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. WALKER: You'll have a title when we
7 go up there.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you all know that this
12 meeting was supposed to be held in Ruby, so the Chair
13 will entertain a motion to hold our next meeting, March
14 meeting at Ruby.

15
16 MR. WALKER: Are we going to change the
17 date from Bettles to Ruby?

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that take any action
20 or just by consensus, Vince?

21
22 MR. WALKER: Vince. To change the
23 meeting from Bettles to Ruby, that would take a motion,
24 right?

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: It would help if it's a
27 motion and then I also need to know, you still want to do
28 it the week of March 7th so we're trying not to
29 overlap.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tanana Chiefs, too.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: No. Well, that too, but
34 the Staff that you've been seeing bouncing around now,
35 serve a whole bunch of different regions so we try to
36 make it where they don't overlap with the meeting, that
37 they have to be elsewhere.

38
39 So I don't know if you need a motion --
40 you don't need a motion, you just tell us that you want
41 the next meeting to be in Ruby and give us some dates and
42 then an alternate location.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: When we planned our
45 meeting at Ruby didn't you already notify them and I know
46 they were quite T'd and did you give notice to Bettles
47 that we were considering them?

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: No, I didn't take any
50 action to inform Bettles or Evansville that we were going

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1 up there.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: The only official we've
6 done is that you requested that a letter be sent to the
7 Ruby Tribal office informing them that you were going
8 there and apologizing for not going there. But I've had
9 no correspondence or calls to Evansville,
10 Evansville/Bettles.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks, that takes
13 us off the hook. So without further arguments I really
14 do want to meet in Ruby, we still have that problem there
15 and I think it would be quite appropriate to sit down
16 with Emmitt Peters and that local advisory group within
17 Ruby itself. We've been trying for quite a number of
18 years to get Ruby involved in the Western Interior
19 politics so I think now that we have an in we should
20 exploit it.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: So Ruby.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: And the 9th and 10th of
27 2004 looks good.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: What days are those?

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Generally you guys for
32 Tuesday and Wednesday so you can fly on Monday and return
33 on Thursday. And the only thing, and I'm just bringing
34 it up, not to cause any waives or anything, the Board of
35 Game meets, oh, shoot, February 23rd through, I think the
36 12th.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: That's it. So if you
41 wanted to meet before the Board of Game, you'd have to
42 look at a different date, whatever. If you want to be
43 involved in the Board of Game.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: There is a windows
46 calendar in the back of our green.....

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. It's on Page -- nope,
49 there's no page. Well, it's at the end of the tab just
50 before you hit Eastern Interior. And I'll need some

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1 assistance if the State's here on the dates of the Board
2 of Game, because you guys in the past have not officially
3 sent members there but you've tried to balance having
4 representation at the Board of Game.

5
6 The dates of the Board of Game are
7 February 26th through March 10th. I'm not encouraging
8 you to flex on that I just know in the past that usually
9 one of your officers or two go as advisory committee
10 representatives to the Board of Game.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Usually one or two of our
13 members go as representatives from the ADF&G RACs and the
14 only part that they usually participate in in is the
15 first week or so for deliberation of proposals, so I
16 don't think this will be an issue.

17
18 MR. WALKER: Well, it says right on the
19 bottom when the Alaska Board of Game meeting is.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next time use the real S
22 word. March 9th and 10th, tentative.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I have question for
25 you, since it appeared to be support for the pre-meeting
26 work session, do you want any type of that for the
27 meeting in Bettles? I'm not saying it'd be an additional
28 day but we might do a work session or something like
29 that. It's up to you. You haven't in the past.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: What kind of pre-meeting
32 workshop?

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Well, kind of like when we
35 went over the proposals for fisheries, of course those
36 were complex, but it might be a work session. Also it
37 could be a combination training because you're going to
38 have -- well, you may have new members and you may have
39 new members that are going to be representing commercial
40 sport and -- and that's it.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: So what meeting are you
43 exactly talking about then?

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: The March meeting, on the
46 9th and 10th did you want to have a workshop/training
47 session incorporated in that?

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think now that I get it
50 that it could be needed.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: I mean we can structure it
2 in. I know a couple of meetings ago you requested.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: That will give us three
5 days then, a three day meeting?

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: If you so desire and then
8 when I go talk to the people with the budget I'll be back
9 with you. But if you feel that three days are necessary
10 because of training and that then we will put that idea
11 together. And again, what I'm understanding about the
12 issues in Ruby, maybe additional time might be needed.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Look at Staff and new
15 people going in a day early then, okay. I think that
16 will answer that question. So that will take care of
17 training as far as the Federal system goes.

18
19 How many minutes Robert?

20
21 MR. WALKER: We're late.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I can help you on the
26 next one. Do you want to set your -- wow, that's way off
27 in the distance, do you want to set your year from now
28 meeting dates?

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: And locations. Well, I
33 suppose an easier way of saying it is.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Let's set up
36 Evansville, by that time we'll need a retreat, I think
37 and if we have it up at Evansville it will turn out to be
38 nothing but a retreat, and set it up at the Bettles
39 Lodge, they do have lodging and all that, they have two
40 or three lodges. That should accommodate the Western
41 Interior Council members plus Staff.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: And generally you have not
44 met in September, so you would like to meet in October
45 sometime?

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: October. The first week
48 in October. We'll have time to change the date, right,
49 we've got to get the moose season over with.

50

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1 MR. WALKER: Yes.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: So like the first week of
4 October then?

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you. And
9 you're talking in Bettles at.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, at Bettles.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS:the lodge -- okay,
14 thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: It will be a retreat if we
17 go there. The only one who will sit down with us is Bob
18 Shultz -- oh, Gates of the Arctic National Park, too.

19

20 MR. WALKER: Well, Vince will be there.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. WALKER: He'll need a retreat about
25 that time.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: If he's still with us.
30 Anything further.

31

32 MR. WALKER: I make a motion to adjourn.

33

34 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Without closing comments,
37 I know it's been a long day so we've.....

38

39 MR. WALKER: It's been a week.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM:it's been the 11th,
42 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and this is the earliest
43 we've gotten out, so without further adieu, there is a
44 motion and a second on the floor to adjourn.

45

46 All those in favor of the motion signify
47 by saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those opposed.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you all for bearing
6 with us and sitting through this.

7

8 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 146 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC on the 16th day of October 2003, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Wasilla Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd day of November 2003.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04 □