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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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City Hall

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Holy Cross, Alaska

11

February 19, 1997, 8:30 a.m.

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VOLUME I

15

16 Members Present:

17

18 Raymond L. Collins, Chairman

19 Ronald Sam

20 Angela Demientieff

21 William Derendoff

22 Jack Reakoff

23 Henry Deacon

24

25

26 Vince Mathews, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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(On record)

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Roll call.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Can everybody hear?
8 Okay. And the Recorder also requested that you guys turn on
9 your mikes when you're going to speak and that's it.

10

11 Okay. Ronald Sam?

12

13 MR. SAM: Here.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Angela Demientieff?

16

17 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: William Derendoff?

20

21 MR. DERENDOFF: Here.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Gail Vanderpool? Absent. We've tried to
24 reach her and haven't been able to get through. Herman Morgan
25 will try to make it tomorrow. So he's absent. Jack Reakoff?

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: Here.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon?

30

31 MR. DEACON: Here.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Harold Huntington is not going to make
34 it. He had scheduling conflicts with other meetings. So he's
35 absent. He did call. Ray Collins?

36

37 MR. COLLINS: Here.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
40 members. So we do have a quorum.

41

42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Introductions from the
43 Council members. And we'll just go down the page here.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: I'm Jack Reakoff from Wiseman.

46

47 MR. DEACON: Henry Deacon from Grayling.

48

49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ray Collins from McGrath, Alaska.

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1 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Angela Demientieff from Holy
2 Cross.

3
4 MR. DERENDOFF: William Derendoff from Huslia.

5
6 MR. SAM: Ron Sam, Alatna Tribal Council and this is my
7 first meeting with the Western Interior Regional Council. And
8 I'm glad to be here.

9
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Vince, would you handle the
11 introduction of Staff.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Before I forget, also
14 the Recorder asked that everyone sign in as they come in so we
15 have a record of that, so we don't forget that. I'm Vince
16 Mathews, the Regional Coordinator for Western and Eastern
17 Interior out of Fairbanks with the Fish and Wildlife Service.
18 I suppose for ease would be for me to introduce, or if people
19 want to come up? Okay. I'll introduce.

20
21 The front row here we have Taylor Brelsford who is the
22 Division Chief for Planning and Public Involvement for the
23 Office of Subsistence Management with Fish and Wildlife
24 Service. Next to him is Dave Yokel with the Bureau of Land
25 Management in the Northern District. And next to him is Jeff
26 Denton, who is with Bureau of Land Management. And is that now
27 titled the Anchorage.

28
29 MR. DENTON: It's still Anchorage District.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Anchorage District. To his right is Mike
32 Coffing with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
33 Subsistence. To his right is Tony Booth who's with US Fish and
34 Wildlife Services, the Refuge Office out of Anchorage.

35
36 And then I'll start with the back row. We have on the
37 far right Laura Reid who's the Assistant Refuge Manager for
38 Innoko. Next to her is Steve Ulvi, Subsistence Coordinator for
39 Gates of the Arctic and Yukon-Charley National Rivers Preserve.
40 Next to him is Hollis Twitchell, Subsistence Coordinator for
41 Denali National Park. And next to him is Rosa Meehan who's the
42 Division Chief for the Resources Division for the Office of
43 Subsistence Management.

44
45 I'll just -- if Gabe doesn't mind I can introduce -- we
46 have the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Wildlife and Parks Section,
47 Gabe Sam is the Chief of that. And, oh, I forgot, Jerry Berg
48 is the one that's walking over towards Gabe, he's with Office
49 of Subsistence Management, Fish and Wildlife Service out of
50 Anchorage. The other people I know, but really don't know, the

004

1 public. So I don't know how you want to handle that.

2

3 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to introduce two
4 residents also from Huslia. We have in the back Harold Vent
5 and Rudy Sommer. These people had their way paid down by the
6 Council because of their ongoing interests in subsistence and
7 what's covering us today.

8

9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Ann, did you want to
10 introduce anybody?

11

12 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Our Mayor.

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Go ahead.

15

16 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: I'd like to introduce our Mayor
17 from Holy Cross, Richard Peters and Vice-Mayor Robert Edwards.
18 And Richard will give us our welcoming remarks.

19

20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And I guess any other public that
21 comes in, they can introduce themselves when they have
22 comments. There may be others joining us.

23

24 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot Bruce.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Bruce. Hi, Bruce. At this time
27 we'd like to ask for opening comments from a local elder.

28

29 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Richard.

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Richard, you want to speak for the
32 community?

33

34 MR. PETERS: On behalf of Holy Cross I'd like to
35 welcome the representatives from the villages, also the Staff
36 of the agencies that are represented here today. And I would
37 like to welcome everyone here to the community of Holy Cross.
38 We do have a bathroom in the back and we have -- our City
39 office is next door, we have two phones. People are welcomed
40 to use the phones. And you'll notice there's no smoking signs
41 here in the building. And we have a potluck dinner at 6:00
42 o'clock tonight. Everyone is invited to come to the dinner
43 tonight, especially the out-of-towners; dinner for you people.

44

45 And I come from a strong background, you know, of
46 tradition, belief and also respect for our people. Everyone
47 has something to offer from the community or wherever they're
48 from. They represent -- everyone has something to offer in the
49 community. What makes the community? We look at our younger
50 people, our middle age and our elders. Also we look at the

005

1 surrounding area. You may look outside and you see the trees,
2 the mountains, the water, the air and it's all resources.

3
4 You know, I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the
5 resources that we live off the land, like fish, moose we have
6 out there and the Yukon River right in front of our front yard.
7 The times are changing. We have fax, we have telephones, we
8 have televisions today. But going back, our values are still
9 there, what our parents taught us, you know, respect one
10 another, respect life, we respect the resources that we have.
11 When you take care of them, they'll take care of us.

12
13 And I just want to thank the Regional Board for
14 selecting Holy Cross to meet the next couple of days. I know
15 you've got a lot on your agenda. And once again I'd like to
16 thank everyone for coming. And if there's anything that we can
17 do for you that'll make your stay here more comfortable, or if
18 you've got any questions, you know, we're next door. Be sure
19 and ask, we'll be willing to help you out if you need anything
20 else to make your stay more -- if there's anything we can for
21 you be sure and let us know.

22
23 I don't want everyone leaving that we didn't have the
24 cooperation. And people in the community know that you are
25 meeting here because it's generally been posted. I know last
26 year you guys planned to have meeting last year but due to the
27 weather that meeting was cancelled and moved on to Anchorage.
28 And, well we have no control over the weather. And with that
29 I'd like to thank everyone for coming in.

30
31 I know some of the people that've been here over the
32 years and but the new people, you know their first time here,
33 first time here I'd like to welcome all you people.

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you very much. And we'll
36 trust that this time the weather will cooperate and that we
37 will also get home in the end. Next on the agenda is to go
38 around and give the opportunity of each member to express
39 concerns that they have or topics that they wanted to bring up.
40 And since Ronald is new, we'll begin down at this end to give
41 you a chance to think about it. Jack, do you have any concerns
42 or any remarks?

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to thank the Community of Holy
45 Cross for having us here in your village and welcoming us. At
46 this time I have concerns pressing identified, but usually
47 there's things that are brought up during the meeting and I'll
48 probably have plenty to say later on.

49
50 MR. DEACON: I have a lot of concerns too, but I -- you

006

1 know, we had a meeting here about a week or two weeks ago in
2 Anvik about subsistence in local area. And a lot of concerns
3 were brought up at that time about these impact of hunters that
4 we're having and what could we do about it for the future. In
5 the past we had impact of hunters around Minto, Innoko Rivers
6 and now it's Koyukuk area, and we're the next in line for
7 hunters' impact. And we are concerned about that and that's
8 what the people was getting -- got together.

9
10 They want to pass some kind of resolution for that
11 protection for the impact of hunters that's coming in. And
12 that's what the resolution is all about. So that's really the
13 concern for these four villages. We never experienced those in
14 the past, you know, so we have to prepare ourselves for this
15 area for protection of the wildlife and all this stuff that's
16 concerned. So I hope we get something out of this meeting
17 before we adjourn tomorrow. I know the resolution will be
18 forthcoming from what I heard from Fairbanks. I thought it was
19 made up, but it's not. Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I guess the main concern that I have
22 that's of interest to this Board now is the development at the
23 Federal level with the request from Congress for a report from
24 the Wildlife Refuges on trapping on the refuge. And their
25 deadline for input was the 15th of February.

26
27 I wrote a personal letter and some other members of the
28 Council have, but we didn't even have a chance to address this
29 as a Council, although we will tomorrow and will be sending
30 comments, but it's after that deadline. But it looks to me
31 like it's a move on the national level to go through Congress
32 and kind of divide and conquer and restrict trapping on the
33 refuge with the intent of perhaps eliminating it at some time
34 in the future.

35
36 Now I know this is not coming from the refuges up here,
37 but it seems to be a strategy by certain groups that are
38 opposed to hunting and trapping; to kind of be whittling away
39 constantly taking rights from rural people who have
40 traditionally used those and who were given a promise under
41 ANILCA that they could continue to use those. So we will be
42 addressing that on the agenda tomorrow, but that's one of the
43 most pressing concerns that I have right now.

44
45 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: I share the same thoughts as Ray
46 on the trapping within the refuges. Several of us here in Holy
47 Cross wrote letters. And I have heard from Anvik, Grayling and
48 Shageluk that they'd be coming down to testify too today some
49 time or tomorrow. And our students at the school probably will
50 come down and ask questions of the people here.

1 And the other is a lot of people here were concerned
2 about this last moose hunt we had. Even though the State and
3 the Federal were at the same time, we still had a lot of Bethel
4 people hunting and we know for a fact that they caught their
5 moose on Federal land, not on State. When we called the State,
6 the State said well, that's too bad, it's State hunting too.
7 So a lot of people are really upset here in town because they
8 hadn't even been prepared and here it was the first day, we're
9 having a basketball tournament and here all these hunters are
10 carting out all these moose. And they come up with the big
11 sleds and haul two moose at a time, and that's wrong. And our
12 people are very concerned about the spring moose hunt.

13
14 MR. DERENDOFF: I also wrote a letter on my own on this
15 trapping on the refuge. And like Ray was saying, we didn't
16 have any kind of any prior notice. And a lot of people from my
17 area of Huslia, they also wrote letters on their own too. And
18 I'm also real glad that I have some people from the Tribal
19 Council at Huslia here attending. They were introduced
20 earlier.

21
22 And they worked with this trapping, they put together
23 some kind of letter and maybe they can explain it a little
24 better. But then they were working also on this trapping deal
25 on the refuge area. And I've talked to these people over here
26 and we're trying to find a way I could work with the Tribal
27 Council at Huslia with these people and then I could -- it
28 seems like if we could make it -- work it out at home right at
29 Huslia there, and have our meeting prior to this, it would
30 probably turn out pretty good the way I look at it anyway. I'm
31 glad they're here so that they'll -- so I could be able to
32 start something with them. Because it does take a lot of time
33 to having me to -- spent a lot of time on this because there's
34 a lot of reading to do and then the Tribal Council from Huslia
35 is getting kind of involved, especially on subsistence.

36
37 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving
38 me the time to put some thoughts together. But many of you
39 know that I just got off the special meeting that they had down
40 at Anchorage. And before we went to Anchorage, the Tribal
41 Council sent me down there, we did have a meeting. And a lot
42 of our concerns are pretty much the same as a lot of our
43 Council members up here.

44
45 I'd just like to hit on three of them right now. It
46 seems like that when we fought for ANCSA/ANILCA they gave us
47 our basic trapping grandfather rights, grandfather rights to
48 trap and utilize everything within the parks, the refuges, the
49 controlled use areas to subsist in our own way of life by our
50 choice. And we do have a resolution sent out. I don't have a

008

1 copy with me but we did submit a resolution by the Alatna
2 Tribal Council to continue trapping within our refuges and our
3 parks. I believe we add that within there.

4
5 And one of the strong stances that we took before the
6 subsistence meeting down at Anchorage was to keep ANILCA strong
7 because at this time that's the only thing that protects the
8 subsistence way of life, ANILCA. It seems like the more rights
9 that are being studied, the more subsistence rights are being
10 taken away by both our Congressional delegation and the State
11 Legislature.

12
13 And the other feeling that we have is that even though
14 we are in a majority down at Juneau, we should continue to
15 support and work with our State Legislature. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, Ronald and other members.
18 Okay. Continuing with the agenda then, the next item would be
19 any addition or corrections to the agenda itself. So if you
20 would look through the agenda and see if there are any
21 additions or corrections.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the only one that I know of
24 would be since we have Ronald Sam and a couple of other people
25 that attended the Subsistence Summit, maybe there'd be a time
26 set up for them to share what they learned or felt from that
27 meeting.

28
29 I have no suggestions other than to put it under new
30 business. But there may be another spot.

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I was trying to think of -- I don't
33 know, you know, the things that came up there, but perhaps we
34 should have those before we actually deal with the proposals
35 themselves, if there's anything that came up at that meeting
36 that might have bearing on those. So maybe if we put it under
37 new business then it should be the first item under there, I
38 guess, a report from that before we go into the proposals.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Ray, there may be another spot, just to
41 do it under other agency reports. If that's any more
42 convenient.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. And that would be which item?

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: It's right up above new business.
47 Whatever is easier.

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, the public comment period.
50 Okay. Native Corporations, et cetera. Right. I see that.

009

1 Tribal Councils, villages and so on. So, all right, that's
2 basically the same place but we'll put it up there.

3
4 MR. DEACON: What about I have this resolution from
5 (indiscernible-away from microphone).

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, that could come under that
8 same thing, Henry, other agencies, Native Corporations, Tribal
9 Councils and so on. And so if they've got something to bring
10 to us, it could be under that same item. Any other additions
11 or corrections to the agenda? If not, then a motion would be
12 in order to adopt as amended.

13
14 MR. R. SAM: So moved.

15
16 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Moved by Ronald, seconded by
19 Jack. Any discussion?

20
21 MR. DEACON: Question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All those in favor signify by
24 raising your right hand. Yes votes for all six members
25 present. Motion carried.

26
27 Next item on the agenda would be the reading and
28 approval of October 23-24 minutes. I'll waive the reading of
29 those, if you would, but I'd ask you to look through them and
30 are there any corrections or changes to those minutes?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I should probably explain
33 that they're under Tab N in your book. What we need to do here
34 is do a head count of who has books. So we need to work that
35 out. I think we need a couple of books up here. So one for
36 Ron, one for Angela and Henry has one and Jack has one.

37
38 Okay. The other thing I need to point out is some
39 logistics. The yellow file folder was put at your chair, those
40 are all the extra copies. So throughout the meeting I'll say
41 look in your folder. I'm going to try it that way instead of
42 handing out and you end up with this mountain of paper. Okay.
43 And then that's it.

44
45 I received no comments in the mail or by phone for
46 additions or corrections to the minutes. They were mailed out
47 to everybody out in the Western Interior mailing list, which is
48 about 113 or 125, which includes Village Councils and private
49 individuals and agencies.

50

0010

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Henry?

2

3 MR. DEACON: You know that meeting about wolf, I don't
4 see that in the minutes. Or maybe I.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Henry was asking that wasn't there a
7 discussion or a report on wolves and he doesn't see that in
8 here. Oh, we met with that study group. I think that was
9 after the actual meeting, we had adjourned. So it isn't in
10 these minutes, but we were meeting separate from rather than
11 making it a part of. They introduced themselves and gave us a
12 talk on that, but it wasn't part of the official meeting.
13 That's the Governor's Task Force that has been formed to study
14 or to report back on the State's management of wolves. Any
15 others? Yes, you had a question?

16

17 MR. R. SAM: Oh, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to
18 apologize for not bringing my copy. But as you must have
19 gathered, we were just in one hectic mode trying to get ready
20 for the Subsistence Summit down at Anchorage and I packed the
21 respective papers for that. Sorry about that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, for not having a booklet you
24 mean?

25

26 MR. R. SAM: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Thank you. That's
29 understandable.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: We'll explain why there's not enough
32 books. They just got -- one box didn't make it on the plane.
33 It's coming by noon today. So we'll have plenty of paper for
34 everybody to read. We apologize for that but it just got lost
35 in transit. So we will have other materials. So all the
36 Council members and possibly others in the public will have the
37 same book to walk through.

38

39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: If there are no comments on the
40 minutes, is there a motion then to adopt?

41

42 MR. DEACON: I so move.

43

44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Moved by Henry. Is there a second?

45

46 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: I'll second it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Angela. Any comments?
49 All those in favor signify by raising your right hand? Yes
50 votes for all five members present. Ronald, are you in favor

0011

1 of approving the minutes?

2

3 MR. R. SAM: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Yes votes for all six members
6 present. Motion carries. That brings us down to the reports.
7 Okay. These again are in the packet. There was a Joint
8 Regional Council Chairs and the Federal Subsistence Board in
9 November, 11/20/96, when they went through proposals in
10 Anchorage. We met with them to go through those proposals.

11

12 I think there's a written report in there. I don't
13 think I'll comment further at this time unless you have
14 questions about that.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it might be good with the
17 members and not having enough books to -- either I or you could
18 just go down -- it's under Tab O, the main topics, because
19 already this morning one of them has come up and that may need
20 to be enlightened.

21

22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That's right. And I see I did want
23 to comment on that first one. All right. These are the
24 follow-up items that were identified by the Council at that
25 time. One was Council member stipends. There's growing
26 concern that the amount of time that people have to commit to
27 make these Councils work, like many of you are giving up two at
28 least, or three or even four days at times with the travel on
29 either end, with no compensation. Some Board members have to
30 take leave from their jobs, use their annual leave, others are
31 leaving employment opportunities, even if it's trapping, so
32 there is a cost involved and we have to have attendance in
33 order to make the system work.

34

35 Whereas everyone else who is in attendance, or at least
36 all (indiscernible) are under salary and they're covered. So
37 they are looking at going toward some kind of compensation for
38 meeting time; not travel time. There was discussion of that.
39 And I think there was an actual proposal but I don't see it
40 here. Maybe it's in the next -- there was a figure that was
41 tossed, \$150 to \$200 a day or something like that. \$180 to
42 \$200 I guess.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: There were several figures thrown around.
45 And it is in here, I don't remember where, but I think it's
46 going to be \$160 or \$180 is the figure.

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The problem with that is even if
49 there is that recommendation from the Federal Board in the
50 State, it still has to go through the whole Congressional

0012

1 process and they have to think about the impact on other
2 Commissions and Councils and so on. So it's not like there's
3 going to be a check in the mail tomorrow. But at least there's
4 support for that now and they're taking it forward, I guess.

5
6 Annual reports; there was a discussion of these because
7 they seem to vary, go all over the place, are they used and so
8 on. And there was a feeling that from now the Board responses
9 will be more forthright and less perfunctory. In other words,
10 it seems like, yes, we've read it, thank you, fine and so on.
11 I think there's the feeling that we should be more specific and
12 they will respond more specifically in turn to actual things in
13 those reports. Instead of it gets sent here and it gets there
14 and, you know, it's like it's going into a black hole
15 sometimes. We don't know if anybody is looking at it and
16 reading it. So we need to fine tune our reports and they in
17 turn have made a commitment that they'll respond more
18 specifically. And you can add if you have comments on what I'm
19 saying here.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we do have more comments on the
22 stipends. When you met with the Joint Board and Chairs, there
23 was going to be a follow-up Board meeting after that. And
24 Taylor will give you a real brief summary of what the Board did
25 on that. So you have an idea and that you'll get reported
26 back.

27
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: It's actually the following page, the
31 title at the top of the page. It's in this same packet
32 concerning the Joint Chairs and the Board meeting. The title
33 at the top of the page is the Regional Council Compensation
34 Status Report, January 21, 1997. And I think the important
35 point is that the Board recognized that this a matter of very
36 urgent concern by the Council members and made a commitment to
37 follow-up. And so this paragraph describes the Board meeting
38 in January.

39
40 And what it says is that the Board will forward to the
41 Secretary of Interior the Council's request, the briefing
42 materials outlining the budget implications, and that the
43 Secretary would have to make this decision because it has some
44 implications for other advisory programs like the Subsistence
45 Resource Commissions, you know, National Park Service in
46 Alaska. And they refer to some BLM Advisory Committees in
47 Alaska as well.

48
49 So the idea was that it's kind of a Department-wide
50 decision and therefore needs to be made by the Secretary. And

0013

1 the final sentence indicates that the package is being prepared
2 and when that goes to the Secretary of Interior, that will at
3 the same time be circulated to the Regional Council Chairs so
4 that you guys see exactly the information, the decision basis,
5 the material for a decision that is sent forward to the
6 Secretary.

7
8 But I would take a little minute on this one because I
9 think it's kind of a matter of good faith. I think the Council
10 has made a pretty strong case about this to the Board in
11 November and they were anxious to make good, to follow-up, not
12 let it drift and dawdle and so on. And so I wanted to take a
13 second and point out that specific follow-up at this point.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Maybe as I mention each one of these
16 items I will pause to see if there's questions by any Board
17 members on, you know, what was discussed there. Are we
18 together so far? Okay. And then I mentioned on annual
19 reports. Anything more on that? I think we're trying to fine
20 tune that process of what we'll put in there and how they will
21 respond to it.

22
23 Regional Council Training. We talked about that
24 again.....

25
26 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

29
30 MR. DEACON: On the stipend, whatever pay reports, I'd
31 like to know more about that, you know, because the way we look
32 at it as village people, you know, all these people are on
33 payrolls. And in that I'd like to suggest that the people in
34 the village, that people that attend these kind of meeting will
35 be more benefit. People take leave without pay and then it'd
36 be really -- be considerate. That anyone that attend this kind
37 of meeting should attend leave without pay, see how they feel,
38 you know.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You mean until we get compensation,
41 everybody else should take leave without pay?

42
43 MR. DEACON: Same as us, you know. We're all concerned
44 So how about we do it the same?

45
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, I think they did hear our
47 concern and it is going forward. And we should get a specific
48 report back on that. But they did understand what we were
49 saying; that there was an economic cost for participating.
50 Yeah. Okay. We hadn't suggested that, though. Everybody for

0014

1 that suggestion?

2

3 MR. DEACON: Say yes.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: Are you going to on sympathetic strike
6 with us?

7

8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Point well made, Henry. The
9 Regional Council Training then was another one that was
10 discussed. And they are going to look at updating the Operation
11 Manual to provide more information. So that somebody comes new
12 onto the Councils, we'll have something they can pick up to get
13 some orientation on where they're at. That was one. And then
14 the Staff is pursuing options of maybe having some videos that
15 could be watched by new members that would deal with various
16 topics that come before us. So you could watch those on your
17 own before our meeting and be brought up to date.

18

19 And then Staff will annually prepare a table of the
20 Regional Council recommendations and correspondence by region
21 and distribute it to all the chairs. So that there will be a
22 regular packet of things. You could find out what other
23 Councils are doing and so on. So these are three areas. Does
24 that kind of touch on it?

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Proposal to Restructure the
29 Federal Subsistence Board. There was a lot of discussion on
30 that because some of the earlier ideas were that instead of
31 having the agencies constitute the Board, that why could not
32 the Federal Board be made up of the Chairs of the Councils,
33 plus, if need be, representatives from the agencies there.

34

35 And they're thinking of actually developing a proposal,
36 I guess, to go forward with some kind of restructuring. And we
37 have that I guess on a topic for this meeting here. And the
38 Chairs will subsequently then convene and prepare a written
39 proposal for the Secretaries. So there is -- the question is
40 still open of looking at maybe restructuring the Board itself
41 and how it operates.

42

43 Alaska Native Policy. This was another topic because
44 they pointed out the fact that there is no Federal policy
45 concerning Native peoples that guide agencies and others.
46 There's ANILCA and the others, but there is no consistent or
47 written policy. And some of the Chairs felt very strongly that
48 there should be a policy on that in that regard.

49

50 Now, in that respect I felt that personally I can see

0015

1 the need for that, but I didn't feel that I would be the one as
2 Chair to speak for that. I think it's got to come right from
3 the Native Councils themselves in the communities that are
4 going to have to go about defining what that should be. So I
5 don't know if it's the work of this Regional Council to try and
6 define policy, or it's some other entity personally that the
7 voice should come from. You know, right between -- in other
8 words, a Village Council or a Native Council's Federal agencies
9 rather than this Board trying to develop a policy. That's kind
10 of where I was at, but let's see what.....

11

12 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

15

16 MR. DERENDOFF: I believe that was what I was trying to
17 explain about this -- I talked to some of the Board members
18 about having to set up something with the Tribal Council on our
19 -- as far as the village liquor, and they said it still has to
20 be worked out. But I believe that if we could get something
21 started there, that would -- I would have -- I would be able to
22 bring more information in. And I believe it would be pretty
23 effective, as we just worked the village liquor on that part.
24 Whatever.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think the comment that's made in
27 this -- in the report is really there's two areas. One of them
28 would be a specific policy relation that would define our
29 relationship to the Federal Board and Federal agencies, and the
30 other one would be a broader one that would be more of a Native
31 Village Council or other Native entities and the Federal. And,
32 again, it's going to be discussed at the next -- at these
33 coming meetings. We've got it on our agenda, I think.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't see it on the
36 agenda elsewhere. That's partially why I'm flipping the pages
37 around. You may want to look into -- basically all the Chairs
38 are going to meet the Sunday before the full Board meeting to
39 look at drafting this policy.

40

41 Then I believe, and I'm almost positive, is this policy
42 then would go back to all the Councils for input. So that you
43 could wait until what is developed out of that, or the other
44 option would be the Chair doesn't have to be the sole person
45 attending these meetings. There could be another
46 representative that the Council would send that might be
47 better. And then we can explore if one would come and then you
48 would come for the proposal part. So that's something you may
49 want to look at for that Sunday meeting, which is I think April
50 6th, if I remember correctly.

0016

1 And then there's talk amongst the Chairs of having a
2 tele-conference of all the Chairs some time in March to find
3 out where people are at, where they're thinking on this is and
4 if there's going to be any working out of some language prior
5 to that Sunday meeting.

6
7 So there is possibility that whoever is going to attend
8 that would also be involved in a tele-conference. No dates
9 that I know of. So it would have to be in March, though.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think we can cover it then under
12 Future Meeting Plans, as you say, because under there time and
13 place of next topics, issues and so on but it also -- we could
14 deal with other meetings that we have to go to, who is going to
15 go to the Federal meeting, whether or not we send someone else.
16 I like that suggestion of perhaps having someone else from the
17 Board that maybe more tuned into that issue. Because I
18 personally don't have a relationship with a Native Council
19 group in McGrath or elsewhere. I'm aware of their activities
20 but I'm not directly connected.

21
22 Okay. Going on down. Let's see, then there was a
23 question of where we're at in terms of the customary and
24 traditional and so on. And the results of those discussions is
25 that the Staff will prepare and distribute a region-specific
26 list of backlogged and deferred proposals relating to that. So
27 that we'll have a report of where they're at in that process
28 and I think also where they're going.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: We're going to go over that right before
31 the proposals when we get into it, but it is in this same area
32 if you happen to be paging through there, you'll see a chart,
33 and that'll be briefly discussed at that time.

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And then the next meeting of this
36 group as Vince mentioned is on Monday, April 7th. And they've
37 arranged for the Council Chairs to come in on Sunday so we can
38 have our own meeting to go over things before that.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Right. That's something Ron and Bill
41 need to remember, and the other members also, is that the Board
42 has made a commitment to meet before their major meeting with
43 all the Chairs. So it's becoming a standard practice to do
44 that. The reason I'm reminding you is that whoever does go to
45 that, if you have an issue that, you know, you need discussed,
46 get a hold of the chair or me so he or she, whoever the
47 representative is, can carry that to that joint meeting because
48 it'll be all the 10 Chairs and the full Subsistence Board, and
49 it's an executive session. So that's something to think about
50 if you have a concern, maybe a statewide one, that we just

0017

1 didn't cover at this meeting, you may want to give that person
2 a call to make sure they can carry that forward.

3
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Next item on the agenda was
5 going to be a report by Harold on the Koyukuk Regulations
6 Workshop that took place again on November 22-23 that had to do
7 with the status of moose populations in that area. Do we.....

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, what I can do on that is
10 Staff was going to come in from Alaska Department of Fish and
11 Game, the new area Biologist out of Galena, Jim Woolington and
12 other staff. I don't know when they're going to arrive, but I
13 can give you a briefing on that meeting. I was there, Harold
14 Huntington was there and but I'll leave the actual details to
15 them when they arrived.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: It was a meeting put on by the Koyukuk
20 Tribal Council. It was a very, very rich meeting. Gabe Sam
21 was there, there was other staff from Tanana Chiefs, staff from
22 the refuges, and I believe that was it, and a good turn out
23 from the community.

24
25 Basically we discussed the whole issue of moose on the
26 Lower Koyukuk. For those that remember, you had several
27 proposals last year dealing with closing Half-mile Corridor
28 along that lower section to non-subsistence uses and the State
29 has these different types of hunts going on. The final outcome
30 of the whole thing was that the area Biologist was going to go
31 ahead and set up some different types of hunts. And that
32 they'll have to explain but basically the general hunt would be
33 in a prescribed area. I'm not sure if they agreed to set a cap
34 on how many moose could be taken out of there. That I'm not
35 sure of.

36
37 The lower area you were dealing quite a bit with
38 proposals. They were going to close that to -- have it open
39 only to subsistence uses on that lower section of the river.
40 And they were going to go back to the earlier cow season. We
41 established a more liberal cow season. There was quite a few
42 cows taken in that lower section. That was talked about with
43 people down river from Kaltag because they did go up there to
44 hunt, because in their area the water level was low and they
45 couldn't go where they normally hunted, so they went up there.
46 And their representatives agreed to that.

47
48 So basically they refined these hunts under State and
49 they'll explain that. They may have set a target limit for the
50 general hunt and the lower section changed the cow season and

0018

1 made it subsistence-only. Beyond that I hope when they come
2 we'll allow them time to explain.

3
4 You'll find when we deal with correspondence here there
5 were a few letters of correspondence back and forth from the
6 Board of Game because you put a request to the Board of Game to
7 have this brought up out of cycle. And so there's a little bit
8 of discussion when we get into correspondence on the Board of
9 Game. But the bottom line is they denied your petition, but
10 they still wanted to talk about it at their tele-conference.
11 And, let's see, I think Harold was on line. I don't know if
12 you were on line for that, Ray, or not. I don't remember. I
13 don't think you were.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: No, I don't think so.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: And they at that time -- first they
18 turned down your petition, but then they still wanted to talk
19 about it. So it wasn't really clear what they were trying to
20 do there. But what they wanted to do was to hear more about
21 the issue, but they didn't want your request to be on the
22 agenda approved. They discussed it more and the Fish and Game
23 brought up their ideas and that and the Board was comfortable
24 with that. So hopefully when Jim gets here he'll be able to
25 lay out the harvest data.

26
27 He's also supposed to bring the check station data.
28 There's a check station on the Koyukuk and we didn't have that
29 data at the last meeting, or we had it in rough form and he's
30 supposed to be bringing that data because that was a request
31 from your Chair here, to say I want to see what affect this
32 permitted hunt had on reducing the pressure in that area.

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I stand corrected, I was at that
35 audio-conference. And I concurred with their decision but I
36 couldn't speak for the Board because we had gone on record as
37 wanting the change in that. But the argument they put forth
38 is, see, the State Board of Game met after we met and they had
39 a proposal that they wanted to try to fix that solution. So I
40 agreed that it was probably good to try that and see.

41
42 Because the problem with our fix is that it would not
43 apply to the State lands which is up to the high water marks.
44 So even if we closed that and said you had to do certain
45 things, it would still need a solution because if a moose was
46 shot on the bar it would be on State land under State
47 regulation.

48
49 And so the State was going to come in with a fix that
50 would apply to all. And basically it had to do with every time

0019

1 a hunter went through the check point they had to declare
2 whether they were subsistence hunting or sport hunting. And if
3 they were subsistence hunting, then when they came back with a
4 bull the antlers would be taken off. So if they wanted to keep
5 trophies they had to hunt not in that area, but go up above, or
6 they had to have the antlers removed. And we thought that that
7 would get them to -- they'd wait till they got up to the area
8 where there were they trophy moose if they were trophy moose.
9 And we should get a report on how that work when the biologist
10 comes in.

11
12 They also thought that this requirement would
13 discourage hunters from hunting in the area. That some people
14 wouldn't go or bother declaring themselves, but it did not. In
15 fact, the number of hunters was greater than the year before
16 again. So there's still probably a problem of trying to cap
17 that hunting because it keeps growing every year. But the
18 State was trying to fix it and I don't know what -- out of this
19 meeting I guess maybe they're proposing other fixes.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Well, they mentioned -- again, and I
22 don't know if it went through all the levels of approval, of
23 setting what I call a cap. I think they called it something
24 else, and the number of bull moose that could be taken out of
25 that general hunt area. But I don't know -- they can do that
26 under their permitting authority

27
28 They need to explain it, I personally felt that they
29 were stretching into an area where a question of their
30 authority to do that may be a little weak. But that's a
31 layman's review. So hopefully when they're here they can
32 address that.

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And I think for the Board's
35 purposes, where this is of interest, is we have the same kind
36 of a thing in this area with the growing number of hunters,
37 State and Federal seasons, so how can we limit or restrict
38 that. So the fixes they're going to up there, if they work,
39 there might be something that could be used in this area to try
40 to fix it too. Yes, comments?

41
42 MR. SOMMER: I'd like you to define this sport hunting?
43 What do you mean by sport hunting? If you're talking
44 subsistence and sport hunting, are these people, the urban
45 hunters going up there to sport hunt? Will they have to go
46 through that check pointing and state that they're sport
47 hunting?

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That was my understanding. We
50 didn't do this. This is the State's action and so we would

0020

1 really have to ask the State Biologist. But they were proposing
2 that they could -- they put that requirement on, that it would
3 limit it. And I don't think it worked. But the sport hunter
4 was the one who was wanting to keep the antlers of the moose as
5 a trophy. They had to declare whether they were just hunting
6 for meat, and if they were hunting for meat then the horns were
7 going to be cut off at the check point as I understand. If
8 they wanted to keep the horns, they had to say sport hunting
9 and then they had to.....

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Right. There was an antler restriction
12 on it.

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Antler restriction.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: The incentive was that if you were to go
17 sport hunting under this thing, you would have to get 50 inch,
18 four brow tine, and I'm not sure it's four or three, and but
19 you couldn't get anything else. Under subsistence you could
20 get any moose last season and you weren't restricted on the
21 antler size, but the antler had to be devalued, it had to be
22 cut off. So the idea was that by having this structure in
23 place, that people had to declare what they would do, would
24 defer hunters to go elsewhere; I don't want to hassle declaring
25 anything. That apparently didn't work. We'll find out from
26 the data.

27
28 And so that's where that is at. And then for you to
29 understand, this Board here mainly deals with only subsistence
30 on Federal lands. So they address sport issues when they
31 affect subsistence on Federal lands, but this action that was
32 brought up was a State action and the biologist will be here to
33 cover that.

34
35 MR. SOMMER: Yeah. I'm just new on this Tribal Council
36 thing so I'm just here on a learning experience and to gather
37 information. But that sport hunting really caught my ear.

38
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. We have really nothing to do
40 with the regulation of sport hunting, no. Our purpose is to
41 protect subsistence hunting rights on there. And it was a
42 State action that was doing that and they would have to speak
43 (indiscernible-interrupted).....

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: And then I'll turn over to Ron, if it's
46 okay. But I want to encourage you when the State is here to
47 discuss this because during that Koyukuk meeting Gabe was
48 there, I don't know who else we had from Huslia at the meeting
49 when we discussed this, but there was concern about what's
50 Huslia's feelings about these actions with all this permitting.

0021

1 So please come forward when the State does present that to
2 share your concerns because I know the State wanted to know
3 that and this Council wants to know. You know, if we do
4 something on the lower part of the river, you know, the people
5 up river we want to know that -- if they are in line with it or
6 supportive of it.

7
8 MR. SOMMER: I'd just like to state that I forgot to
9 introduce myself Rudy Sommer from Huslia Tribal Council. That
10 the people in our region are becoming concerned about the
11 hunters coming in and that they're moving just closer and
12 closer. And that the water level goes so high because of the
13 rainy season, that if we let them go, the State and Federal and
14 us, that it would have an impact on the whole -- the lifestyle
15 and them filling up the whole basin, you know, just they'd be
16 able to go anywhere. And I think that would create a lot of
17 depression. I personally become depressed during the hunting
18 season and I'm sure a lot of other people do too. And that's
19 basically what I wanted to bring up here. I mean just my
20 personal feelings.

21
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Ronald, you had
23 comments?

24
25 MR. R. SAM: Yeah. Just to clarify some things for
26 both Rudy and -- Rudy Sommer and Harold Vent of Huslia, we did
27 have a Koyukuk River Advisory Council meeting up at Bettles
28 which lasted about three or four hours and your concerns were
29 expressed at that time. And we tried as best to redefine it
30 where sport hunting and antler hunting alone wasn't the issue.
31 And I don't think at this time that it is because we are using
32 a permit system just below you and the two tickets that we were
33 talking about are the subsistence and general hunt, which we
34 all qualify for.

35
36 You are covered under a wanton waste of meat because of
37 the Koyukuk controlled use area. And that's one of our biggest
38 concerns on the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee. So we are
39 directing that to -- that was just for your information.

40
41 MS. SOMMER: Well, like I said, I'm kind of here on a
42 learning experience. Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Okay. So I'd like the
45 minutes to reflect then that we will delay any other discussion
46 this topic until arrival of a representative from the State to
47 speak to it, and then we'll bring it up again. The next --
48 Ronald, you've mentioned this meeting up there, the workshop in
49 December. Do you want to report further on that, December 12-
50 16?

0022

1 MR. R. SAM: Nothing really to report on that. Vince
2 Mathews and mostly Staff showed up and we didn't have any
3 Indians. We had three from Hughes, two from -- three from
4 Alatna and none from Allakaket. So about all we did was just
5 work on the basic proposal modes that we have and who we submit
6 our proposals to. Again at this time I think we directed most
7 of our proposals or possible solutions to existing regulations
8 were directly mostly to the State.

9
10 And, like I said, it was a very small turnout. We felt
11 that we couldn't really go into any real policy making or
12 changes because we only had two communities present at that
13 time. And I think Vince can reiterate that.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Let's see, I think it's Stanley Ned
16 with Tanana Chiefs and Gabe Sam have been involved with trying
17 to have these regulation workshops so Staff from the State and
18 Federal government attend to just sit down and talk about how
19 the different systems work. And that happened but also the
20 main issues were dealing with the State's jurisdictions at that
21 time so Jim Osborne and others discussed. But I enjoyed the
22 meeting, going there.

23
24 It would have been nice if there was more attendance
25 from other communities but I think if we continue -- or if the
26 communities want these, that I think they're really valuable
27 because then people can compare the systems and kind of get an
28 idea that there's two systems going on. And then also
29 especially someone like Ronald here now serves on both of them,
30 so they know that, well I don't know which one to go with, but
31 I know Ron's sitting in both of them, I'll talk to him. So
32 then there can be this talking back and forth between key
33 people in the areas. So we can end up maximizing which arena
34 to put the proposals in. And so there's not a waste of time
35 and frustration says, I submit it to the Federal but they can't
36 do anything because of a jurisdiction. Or I've submitted it to
37 the State, but the State can't do it for whatever reason; that
38 that may be able to be worked out ahead of time.

39
40 And it was the last meeting of the area Biologist Tim
41 Osborne, so it was also kind of a saying goodbye to him. So,
42 anyways, it was a good meeting.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think the same kind of a meeting
45 may need to be called in this area because we have the same
46 kind of issue. You've got State and Federal land and there's a
47 G.A.S.H. committee and they don't know -- they can make
48 proposals to the State, we are supposed to submit proposals to
49 the Federal, but we've got to make sure that the two mesh. If
50 you want to fix the problem you've got to deal with both. It's

0023

1 just like Angela brought up, you know, the problems on the hunt
2 there of they're supposed to hunt on State land but they're
3 hunting on Federal and so on. There needs to be the whole
4 issue looked at to try to figure a better solution. And so
5 maybe there would be need for some kind of a joint meeting here
6 at some point too say and try and bring everybody to the table
7 to try and talk about this.

8
9 MR. R. SAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think it would be
10 beneficial because we had quite a few turn out from the Village
11 of Alatna. And I think at this meeting after about 10 years
12 that we finally had some understanding of who we're dealing
13 with and where we were dealing with them and why. It would be
14 very beneficial because we like a lot of different places have
15 a good quick turnover as far as representing people, and the
16 meeting that I mentioned up at Bettles, Evansville, was
17 attended by three other people from Huslia, and then we have
18 two other ones attending on their -- on the behalf of the
19 Tribal Council. I think that if you have more
20 informational/instructional and educational meetings, it'll be
21 beneficial for the whole State.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Moving on then, the next item would
24 be any other reports by Regional Council members. Has anybody
25 else attended a meeting that needs to be reported here? I
26 don't think we sent anybody to any other meetings, but is there
27 any.....

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: No, we didn't. This is just an
30 opportunity that, you know, many of you serve on different
31 advisory groups, including a Fish and Game Advisory Committees
32 that you may want to share something that they did or maybe
33 like Ron did, that the Community of Alatna had a resolution, et
34 cetera. This is the way that you can hear from your
35 communities.

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, I think Henry mentioned that
38 you said you met with a group that was going to have a
39 resolution too. You want to at least tell us who was that that
40 was meeting and what it was concerning?

41
42 MR. DEACON: It's these four village, Shageluk, Holy
43 Cross, Anvik and Grayling. We had a meeting about some of
44 these stuff that was concerning past resolution. That's going
45 to be faxed down from Fairbanks possibly this afternoon.

46
47 In that meeting we had a lot of concern about wolf
48 control. There's a lot of wolves that's in this area that's
49 killing off the moose and the whatever. Also lack of
50 management under Federal law of these management laws. They're

0024

1 not really managing. It's so big or an area, you don't really
2 know what's going on. But we are -- local people have pretty
3 good idea of what's going on, so we report those issues, but
4 it's nothing been done about it. Those are really concerns
5 that have to be corrected by the Federal or the State
6 management control. Those are the concerns that we had.

7
8 MR. G. SAM: Last couple of weeks ago we had a meeting
9 at Anvik. It was the G.A.S.H. committee meeting. We were
10 drawing up a resolution for the problem that there's too many
11 hunters coming from down the river.

12
13 And from what we understand from the four villages,
14 that they're concerned that their hunting.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: For the record identify yourself so
17 that it'll be on the tape.

18
19 MR. G. SAM: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think it helps.

22
23 MR. G. SAM: My name is Gabe Sam. I'm the Director of
24 Wildlife and Parks for Tanana Chiefs. And this is my first
25 time to Holy Cross and so far I really like the visit. I just
26 hope I don't get weathered in here.

27
28 Yeah. The people are concerned that their hunting is
29 going to be very limited, you know. And we're informing them
30 that the hunters from up river are going to be coming down the
31 river, once the area around the Koyukuk River is being depleted
32 slowly. And statistics shows that the hunters are increasing
33 year by year. So it's a matter of time before that moose
34 population is going to crash. And where they're going to go
35 next is down here around Anvik in this area. The moose
36 population has come on the rise right now. And soon as the
37 moose population crash in Koyukuk River, well sure, where are
38 they going to do? They're going to come down here for sure.
39 And if you're being pushed by both sides, you know, it's just a
40 matter of time.

41
42 It's time to work on it now. You want to work on it
43 before it gets too late, you know. And like other areas, like
44 what's happening around McGrath, the McGrath people, you know,
45 they're facing some dire situations right now with the wolves
46 and, you know, too many hunters. And so our thought on this is
47 trying to capture it now, you know, cut it off before it
48 becomes a real problem.

49
50 And I understand your feelings. You know, the people

0025

1 down there don't have a positive c&t to be hunting up here, you
2 know, then you'd have legitimate argument there. And what's
3 happening around Huslia and with that, you know, permit system,
4 it's too complicated. There's a gray ticket, a blue ticket --
5 I mean a yellow ticket. I mean which one do you go under, you
6 know.

7
8 There's supposed to be a limitation as to how far they
9 go up the Koyukuk River, but there's nobody that monitors that.
10 So they just keep right on going until they run into some, you
11 know. And it's a system that needs to be looked at carefully.
12 Is it working? Clearly there is more moose being taken out.
13 And the Koyukuk River people further down, you know, want to
14 regulate how much hunters go this far up the Koyukuk River, you
15 know. And yet where are those hunters going to go? They're
16 going to go farther up the river. And they need to hunt
17 somewhere.

18
19 I understand Ron -- Sam and them community, you know,
20 they have moose problems up there. And so, you know, I
21 understand what Rudy is feeling, you know. You can't compete
22 with people that have -- you know, that their financial is
23 unlimited. They can stay out there in the woods for three or
24 four weeks at a time. Financial is not the question here.
25 Whereas the Native people in that community, they're on a very
26 tight budget. Gas is very expensive. So you can't be just
27 cruising up and down the river. You know, it's not like that.
28 They have times when it's perfect conditions to hunt in and,
29 you know, to be successful.

30
31 And they camp out weeks at a time in order to catch a
32 moose. And there's no -- right now there's plentiful moose
33 right now, but their balance of cows to bulls is kind of
34 question. I mean they are taking out big bulls right now, all
35 the breeder bulls and what's left is young bulls, you know,
36 that are not mature enough to breed yet. And so what you end
37 up with is a bunch of -- well, just like guys, you know, a
38 bunch of young guys running around trying to breed up but, you
39 know, it's not true that young bulls can just breed and breed
40 and breed and breed, you know, they get tired out too. And by
41 the time winter comes along their energy is so drained and the
42 wolves and bears, grizzlies, just prey on them. And that's the
43 problem is.

44
45 The resolution that Mr. Deacon is talking about, we are
46 drawing it up and I've been on the move ever since I left
47 Anvik. And it's mainly my fault that it's not here right now,
48 I should have had it, but I barely got into the office as is to
49 get my ticket to come here. But hopefully George will get a
50 hold of his office today to give the secretary the access to

0026

1 which one he wrote it under and she'll fax it here today
2 sometime. And that's about all I have to say on that.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Ray, you may want to, since he's in the
5 hot seat already, talk about -- because I believe it was your
6 initiative or TCC's initiative to have these workshops.
7 Regulations workshops. Do you have further plans of having one
8 like in the G.A.S.H. area?

9

10 MR. G. SAM: It's more or less if the communities
11 request to have a regulation workshop we can set it up. That's
12 not the problem. It's the communities, if they want it. You
13 know, we can't force them to say, hey, have a regulation
14 workshop, we'll come down there. I mean the communities have
15 to request to have a regulation workshop to better understand
16 these. And Huslia -- you know, the different programs -- well,
17 out of wildlife and parks. I'm under a pretty strenuous kind
18 of thing right here where I can respond to one community that's
19 still in wildlife and parks for Tanana Chief. And at one hand
20 I can respond to that community that pulled out, but to offer
21 technical help, but we can't like do the leg work for them.

22

23 And so I'm sitting in a position where I mean I'm from
24 Huslia and I'd sure love to go back and help me people of
25 Huslia, but they're not requesting for technical help. And
26 from my understanding they're still in the process of, you
27 know, dealing with managing how their funds and what meetings
28 they go to. I'm happy to see that they sent representatives
29 here because if you want to protect your way of life
30 aggressively, you must go out and seek, you know, the knowledge
31 of what's going on out there.

32

33 I mean a lot of these communities really don't
34 understand what really is going to happen. I mean like I'm
35 happy that Anvik and these places are, you know, looking into
36 this problem now. That's why I went to Anvik. We wanted to
37 offer -- give them testimony as to what's happening up on the
38 Koyukuk River, but we had different solutions as to -- you
39 know, Henry -- like we want to light up the whole country, you
40 know.

41

42 And scientifically and biologically that's supposed to
43 be good for a moose habitat. I mean how do you convince people
44 like, hey, we want to burn up your country, you know, your
45 trapping homelands. That's all we had to offer. And, you
46 know, it's pretty hard to see eye to eye. It'd be kind of like
47 coming to my dad and say, yes, dad, we want to burn up your
48 trap line right now, you know, so we can feed the moose in
49 about five to eight years from now. That's one way of looking
50 at it.

0027

1 But, yeah, we have the means to set up. You know, we
2 talk to different agencies to set up these regulatory workshops
3 like they had in Bettles and Alatna. And I'm fairly new at
4 this job, you know. I started working at this job in October
5 and I've been on a crash course. They didn't teach me none of
6 this in college, you know. So it's kind of something that's
7 all new to me. But I'm a very fast learner and we hope to work
8 together with a lot of the villages, and what we see now is
9 very positive.

10
11 And my cultural background is strong and it's intact,
12 you know. Like one of the guys said, the Rural Cap, all the
13 good reason in the world will never make me a white man. And I
14 may have a BA degree in rural development, but that did not
15 assimilate me into one culture. So I understand what the
16 Native people feel out there and yet I must operate under the
17 current agencies that are operating now.

18
19 And, you know, I joke around with Mr. Mathews a lot
20 about it, you know, having these \$500,000 homes, you know. But
21 we're there to help the people.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Question? Yes, Jack.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to ask Gabe a question. That
28 Koyukuk meeting in December, was there -- you asked the
29 question about all the different colored tags. It's my opinion
30 that all subsistence users should use the subsistence permit,
31 the State's subsistence permit.

32
33 I was wondering if they discussed putting a time
34 limitation on the general hunt permit users so that they won't
35 be able to go up for two or three weeks, if their hunt permit
36 -- the general hunt be divided into like one week stays or
37 limited time that their permit would be valid so that they
38 wouldn't be able to stay continuously throughout the whole fall
39 and pick off the best time.

40
41 Plus, by dividing -- capping the number of general
42 permits at 200 and dividing it into one week stages, you
43 wouldn't have a saturation of general hunters all at one time.
44 You'd just have a few guys being allowed to hunt in there. Did
45 they discussed anything like that?

46
47 MR. G. SAM: They talked about that at the Koyukuk
48 meeting. There was a bunch of options that were available.
49 One of them was to have first a subsistence hunt, you know, the
50 local people get first shot at hunting subsistence because, you

0028

1 know, usually after the first week of hunting all the moose are
2 getting tired of being shot at, so they're not going to stand
3 out in front of the bar and, you know, wait for some -- they
4 hear the sound of a boat coming and then usually after a boat
5 come they hear shots.

6
7 So you know that way they don't scare -- it's just
8 like, you know, bird hunting. Once the birds first come in
9 they start -- they get the system where they understand there's
10 shots fired or something. And that's what they feel, like
11 maybe all the subsistence hunters get first shot at hunting
12 first, and then all the general hunt will open after that for a
13 limited amount of time.

14
15 But there's other things too that they're still working
16 out. Is how long should they hunt, you know. And what we were
17 talking about this morning, as soon as the rut start, the
18 meat's no more good. And we know that's not what they're
19 after, you know. I mean there's not written data or documented
20 data that all the meat that is going up the river is being
21 used, you know.

22
23 You hear stories of boats going by Tanana and when they
24 pass by Tanana you can smell the meat rotting already, you
25 know. And that's a long haul from the Koyukuk River all the
26 way up to Fairbanks. I have my own reservations to the check
27 stations on the Koyukuk River. I mean sure they check the
28 hunters, make sure they have the proper tags and what not, but
29 after they leave the Koyukuk River, you know, it's just -- I
30 think there's something to be looked in on that, you know.
31 There's a lot of wanton waste going on. And it's clearly shown
32 that a lot of people are very upset about it. And it's pretty
33 hard for me to understand the system as it is now.

34
35 What I said to Bettles about people disrespecting the
36 land that they're on, you know, they could care less about the
37 allotments. And there's things that -- allotments that have
38 been passed on from generation to generation. The hunters that
39 come up the river they see it as some kind of souvenir. You
40 know they take it thinking that there's nobody there. It's an
41 abandoned camp. And so hey, it's up for grabs. And we're
42 seeing a lot of that going on. People come back a couple of
43 years to camp and basically there's things missing. So it's
44 happened at my dad's camp at the mouth of Dulbi Slough and it's
45 something that further needs to be looked in on. I mean I
46 think this Board could really do some fixing here.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think that it may be best
49 that once the State gets here -- we both have charges. The
50 Council has been on record over and over again saying on the

0029

1 issue on the Koyukuk and the Lower Yukon that we need to look
2 at long range plans and long range solutions.

3
4 The Board, I can hear it ringing in my ears, the
5 Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board saying we're going to
6 be back in the Koyukuk River area revisiting this and we need
7 to look at viable solutions.

8
9 So it might be best when the State gets here to try to
10 squeeze some time in to do an open air discussion and then
11 build from there on this issue. Because without them here --
12 Gabe's bringing up some real good points but.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We don't have any comments, yeah,
15 from them.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Gabe.
20 Okay. That concludes then the reports down there. We would be
21 ready to start on old business. Are we ready for a break? Ten
22 minutes.

23
24 MR. SOMMER: Can I make one more comment?

25
26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Rudy, is it? Yes.

27
28 MR. SOMMER: Rudy Sommer, Huslia Tribal Council. I
29 just wanted to say something about our community there. We
30 have a guiding outfit, touring outfit that we've been trying to
31 get off the ground and had went down once already and we're
32 back on our feet again.

33
34 But I was in the guiding camp last fall and there were
35 boats coming down from up the highway, coming down the Koyukuk
36 River and then our clients were -- they landed and they saw my
37 boat there and they got pretty upset. And he says, what's
38 this, another hunter? And we are trying to become economically
39 independent in this area on guiding and I just thought I'd
40 bring that up; that they pay the money that they pay and then
41 they become very upset that they see these boats starting to
42 come down and plus they didn't know who I was, you know. I
43 mean I was just there, just went to go visit them. I just
44 thought I'd bring that up about becoming independent
45 economically if we could, you know.

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. It's getting more and more
48 complicated all the time with more and more issues, more people
49 involved. Thank you. Recess. Ten minutes.

50

0030

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Next would be the reports of Federal
6 Subsistence Board action since the last Council meeting.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's a mistake on my part
9 or a duplication.

10

11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: We kind of went over all that stuff
14 earlier on in your Chair's report. I just double entered it in
15 there. And I believe -- and I think I'll get a head nod from
16 Taylor that there was nothing else that we needed to share from
17 that January meeting of the Board than what's already been
18 shared. So I apologize for that. That's already gone. We
19 already did it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Down to Item B already,
22 Regional Council correspondence since the last '96 meeting.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In the past I
25 directed you to the tab and basically that's Tab P and Q. And,
26 again, maybe I should explain why you guys ended up with the
27 tabs from N through X, Y, Z. It's not because you guys are
28 lower in the alphabet or that we didn't bring the other book
29 from A to whatever, it's just that we made so many books that
30 we had these piles and piles of the later end of the alphabet
31 that they asked well would you mind doing that and I said, no,
32 I'll just take the Ts and forward. But that way we didn't end
33 up throwing out all these tabs. So there's not another book
34 that has A through whatever. So don't worry about carrying
35 that one back.

36

37 Okay. If you'll turn to Tab P, that's the letters that
38 you have received. Remember last meeting and maybe the meeting
39 before you discussed about having a subsistence wolf trapping/
40 training/education and outreach program, something to that
41 effect of training local youth and others on how to trap
42 wolves. That request went in your annual report to the Federal
43 Subsistence Board. The Federal Subsistence Board referred that
44 request to the various agencies and school districts within
45 Western Interior.

46

47 These are the letters that you've received back. We
48 did receive one from the Iditarod area school district, which
49 is the first page there. And basically the.....

50

0031

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I can speak on the letters from
2 students.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Because of the wolf management issue
7 in the McGrath area there, the State has been coming in. The
8 Governor was there one time, other people have been there for
9 meetings. The local biology teacher brought the students in
10 and they were tracking that. And so these letters that the
11 students report are kind of their summation from those
12 meetings, what they learned out of it.

13
14 And I think that the reason they're included is what
15 the district wanted to show is how they were educating the
16 students to the issue by having them sit in on meetings and
17 things. So when you read those you can keep that in mind. It's
18 kind of interesting. That's what the students were getting out
19 of those meetings. There's several there.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: I think the main point that I wanted to
22 share with you, and I do encourage you to read it because the
23 students did an excellent job of doing that and we need to
24 foster their interests in this area, is that the school
25 district was encouraged by the integration of local issues into
26 their curriculum and will continue to do so. So they were
27 supportive of having items like this brought to them and
28 involving that type of education outreach.

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: But I'd also point out that that
31 went to all the school districts in the area, I believe.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And we haven't heard from a lot of
36 those. So you might think about that when you go back and ask
37 if your school is responding to that. Are they doing anything
38 to educate students on these issues?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I won't summarize the students'
41 ones but I do encourage you to read them. They did an
42 excellent job on that.

43
44 The next letter after their reports, which is in about
45 four or five pages, is again a reply letter from Richard
46 Pospahala concerning your request on wolf harvest education
47 program. And again he's summarizing that the Board referred it
48 to the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies.

49
50 I think Tony will talk about this later when we have it

0032

1 on a later agenda item, but basically the Fish and Wildlife
2 Service is developing an information/education/outreach program
3 for rural Alaskan communities. And that'll be through the
4 National Wildlife Refuge System. It'll be explaining how that
5 system works and addresses management considerations and how
6 that would apply to wolf control.

7
8 But, anyway, that letter was provided in response to
9 your request. It also indicates that there is limited funding
10 for this and that they would interested in working with school
11 districts and states and other partners on this project and
12 maybe look into cost sharing. So I think Tony will be talking
13 a little bit more about where we're at with this understanding
14 of predator/prey and in particular predator control, but also
15 this outreach effort.

16
17 If there's no questions on that I'll go to the next
18 letter. For the record I should say that was the letter of
19 January 7th from Richard Pospahala of the Fish and Wildlife
20 Service.

21
22 The next letter you received is from Yukon-Charley
23 Rivers National Preserve and Gates of the Arctic National Park,
24 January 6, 1997. And it is the Subsistence Resource
25 Commission's recommendations on two proposals. And hopefully
26 we'll bring these up -- I know we will bring them up when the
27 proposals come forward. But the bottom line is they support
28 Proposal 75. This is dealing with Dall sheep in Gates of the
29 Arctic National Park. And there was no action taken on 76.
30 We'll be talking more about 75 and 76 when the proposals come
31 up.

32
33 The next letter you have is an issue that you're going
34 to be addressing later on. This is a letter of support for
35 reappointing Pollock Simon, Sr. from Allakaket to the Gates of
36 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. And I'll just
37 briefly go over the linkage between you and the SRCs, or the
38 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

39
40 This Council appoints members to the Gates of the
41 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. One seat I believe.
42 And so that's your role with the Subsistence Resource
43 Commissions. You have two members now that are on commissions
44 on your Council. Ray Council is on the Denali Subsistence
45 Resource Commission and Jack Reakoff is on Gates of the Arctic
46 Subsistence Resource Commission.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion
49 to affirm Pollock Simon's appointment to the SR -- Gates of the
50 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission from the Regional

0033

1 Council.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think that's on -- is it on the
4 agenda?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: It's later or he can do it now. I don't
7 think Steve would have any problems with doing it now.

8

9 MR. ULVI: No.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Because Steve would carry this back,
12 Steve Ulvi.

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Is there any response to
15 that? Okay. Go ahead, I'll entertain that motion if you want
16 to.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Pollock Simon has done a real good job on
19 the Subsistence Resource Commission and has very good
20 attendance and always have a lot of good input into our
21 Commission. And it was affirmed that he would like to continue
22 to be on there.

23

24 MR. DEACON: I second the motion.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. There's a move and a second
27 to reappoint Pollock. Discussion of that? All those in favor
28 signify by raising your right hand. Okay. It's yes votes for
29 all six members present. Motion carries.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next letter deals with --
32 there's a couple of letters actually that maybe I can cover at
33 once. They deal with your annual report request of a couple of
34 years ago that there needs to be representation from Western
35 Interior on the Lake Clark Subsistence Resource Commission.
36 And these are letters from -- one is from Cindy Smith for the
37 State Boards and Commission. Both are Cindy Smith, sorry.
38 Concerning our -- your request was given to the Secretary of
39 Interior and to the Governor -- the Governor's office and Cindy
40 took charge of that and wrote letters and I believe called Lime
41 Village to get a list of names of individuals.

42

43 There is a correction in that letter that needs to be
44 noted. Western Interior does not appoint the three seats to
45 that commission. I called her on that and I don't think she
46 understood, but we got it clear that it's an Advisory Council
47 that does that. You do not appoint to that Commission, but you
48 wanted representation on there. You would first ask that we
49 get a seat assigned, taken from Bristol Bay's appointment and
50 given to you, but the logistics of doing that, it was better to

0034

1 go through a Secretarial or Governor's appointment. So it is
2 moving along, except to my knowledge there's been no names. No
3 one has put forth a name from the village saying they want to
4 be on the SRC for Lake Clark.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I also got a call from Cindy and so
7 the State did take it seriously. And she was asking if I knew
8 of anyone they should contact and I gave her a couple of
9 contacts in Lime Village. So that's the way it will be. And
10 if there is no response from the community, then they won't be
11 represented. But I'm glad that the State is following up and
12 is seeking nominations from that area. As long as they do
13 that, then if the people in Lime are concerned they'll nominate
14 someone. Actually, we might have been in a bind if we were
15 given a seat because we might not be able to find somebody that
16 had the time or inclination. So as long as this process works
17 it'll be all right. And I hope the same on the Federal level,
18 that they will seek nominations from that area when they come
19 up.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next letters are from Alaska
22 Department of Fish and Game with a copy of your letter. It's
23 from Diana Cote of Boards Section, November 27, 1996. This is
24 just acknowledging that they got your request for an agenda
25 change and that it would not be added to the spring agenda. We
26 kind of talked about that earlier.

27
28 And also following it is your letter to the Chairman of
29 the Board of Game, Larry Holmes, of November 5th, explaining
30 why you wanted that agenda change request.

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And the next time it'll be coming up
33 on the State agenda will be in spring of 1998. So if there's
34 proposals out of the Koyukuk or this area that go to the State
35 Board, we would ask you be prepared to get them in before that
36 deadline, which should be sometime -- the proposal in by
37 sometime in December, I think.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I don't have their schedule but it
40 sounds like that. I think Gabe may have.

41
42 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

45
46 MR. G. SAM: I saw Larry Holmes in Anchorage. From
47 what I understand the change request is going through the
48 process right now.

49
50 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, so they may even put it on this

0035

1 spring's?

2

3 MR. G. SAM: Yes. I don't know. Is that what he says?

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: I think at this point it'd be best to
6 wait until Jim Woolington gets here because I think we're
7 getting mixed messages. They didn't approve the original
8 agenda change request or petition, but then they talked about
9 it at their tele-conference and then I thought they'd left it
10 lie then until like Ray said, the normal cycle of dealing with
11 Interior proposals. So maybe Jim and you have newer
12 information on that.

13

14 We'll continue to go ahead. We've already summarized
15 the next letter from Department of Fish and Game of December
16 18th. Basically it's a letter explaining what they did at
17 their tele-conference which Ray has talked about, and I've
18 talked about it and Gabe and others, that they're going to use
19 their discretionary authority to change the way the permit
20 process is conducted in order to meet local needs on the Lower
21 Koyukuk. I think we'll wait and discuss that hopefully when
22 they arrived.

23

24 The next letter that's in your brown covered book is a
25 letter that I sent you when we got the information concerning
26 trapping on -- Congress' request to have more information about
27 trapping and leghold use on wildlife refuges. So I won't go
28 into that, but that's just to provide you that.

29

30 Also you received a letter that's in your file folder,
31 the yellow one. It's past the calendar, it's the first one
32 there. This is a letter that came in in January that was
33 received on January 13th and it was mailed on the 8th. This is
34 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game -- oh, this is a
35 response to your request on wolf harvest education. And on the
36 lower part of that letter is where it addressed your concerns.

37

38 And basically they have a trapper education program and
39 it's there to improve general trapping skills. They work
40 closely with the Alaska Trapper's Association and that way they
41 don't end up competing with that group in their outreach
42 efforts on trapping. Basically, the main thing to get across
43 is that they are doing outreach, they work through Alaska
44 Trapper's Association and that Roger Seavoy is working with the
45 Council, the Athabaskan Tribal Government to develop an
46 education program there.

47

48 That's it. Jim Woolington, the new area Biologist, may
49 have more information on it. They may also bring, I'm not
50 sure, I hate to put more pressure on, you know, but there are

0036

1 two tapes out there that the State has produced on trapping.
2 I've not seen either, other than to see them in the boxes. One
3 is I think trapping in general and one is trapping from a
4 village perspective that maybe you may want to talk to Jim or
5 maybe Mike or someone else about obtaining copies of that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I'd like to speak to these workshops
8 and recommend them to the others. They've held those twice in
9 McGrath and each time it resulted in some of the local trappers
10 become more efficient at setting traps for wolves. People took
11 interest in that and they actually were given very practical
12 training in there that really helped them catch them.

13
14 So if other areas are interested in that, improving
15 their efficiency as trappers for wolves, they might request
16 that training from Department of Fish and Game because they're
17 good workshops, good information. Oh, I'm sorry, Richard, yes?

18
19 MR. PETERS: I just had a question. People come in
20 from the community have comments and they want to comment on
21 issues that are being discussed during the meeting, would they
22 have to wait until the public comment come up, or could they
23 ask questions or what's the process here?

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, I think with the number of
26 people involved I could probably recognize them to comment at
27 that time on some of these, unless it gets too lengthy.

28
29 MR. PETERS: Too lengthy.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

32
33 MR. PETERS: I just wanted to ask. And my question
34 was, these workshops that you requested, how many days do they
35 have workshops on these?

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: It was a one day workshop that they
38 put on.

39
40 MR. PETERS: Oh, that's great. Well, that's the two
41 questions I had. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you. I'll check. How
44 do members feel on that? Do you have any problem if I
45 recognize people if they have comments?

46
47 MR. R. SAM: No. I think that since they're hosting
48 this meeting we should recognize them and their concerns.

49
50 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

0037

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I encourage the audience to
2 participate in the meeting. I feel that if the people take the
3 time to come to the meeting that they should be -- if they have
4 concerns, that we should recognize it right away.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you, Richard, for
7 bringing that to my attention. The public testimony is usually
8 kind of something that isn't on the agenda or a specific item
9 that they want to testify at length; they can come in and
10 testify on that. Sometimes we set up a topic with this, but I
11 will recognize people if they have comments on some of these
12 things that were under current discussion. Vince.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Next, if we're ready to go through
15 correspondence is to turn to Q, and that's the letter we used
16 using your letterhead. The first one is a response to Wilson
17 Sam. At the last meeting Bill Derendoff brought a letter from
18 Wilson Sam and this is your response with that. And basically
19 you responded to their concerns and said that you needed to
20 bring this request to the Local Advisory Committee and that the
21 request was forwarded to Pollock Simon and to Jim Marcotte.
22 Pollock Simon being the Chair. I believe he's still the Chair.
23 I'm not sure at this moment, but he is on the Advisory
24 Committee, and to Jim Marcotte, the State Coordinator. And so
25 that went that way.

26
27 And the other letter we already addressed earlier, is
28 your request to Larry Holmes of the Board of Game concerning
29 the Koyukuk River and that it be an agenda change request.
30 And then that was November 5th.

31
32 Then there was a letter sent on January 13th to Cindy
33 Smith of Boards and Commissions. Just going over your request
34 on the Lake Clark appointments.

35
36 On the back of the next page is something new that I've
37 been doing and kind of want your input or support and report
38 back on. For both the Regional Councils I work with, within a
39 day or two after the meeting I try to do a news release. And I
40 will be working with the Anchorage Staff more on this, but that
41 way we try to capture what you did at the meeting in a one
42 sheet piece of paper and then provide it to the media, the
43 local media of the area, the local radio station if there
44 happens to be any, and the local newspapers. So I suppose if
45 you have a moment to look at that to see if that's okay and if
46 you heard that being picked up on the radio station in McGrath,
47 or was it picked up on different radio stations.

48
49 The reason I'm doing this is two objectives, is (1) to
50 give more recognition to the Regional Councils and (2) to give

0038

1 immediate response to local communities what happened at the
2 meeting. Because a lot of people up and down river hear
3 there's a meeting going on and they're going to talk about
4 subsistence, but then they never find out what was talked
5 about. So this is an attempt to do that. I don't know if
6 anybody wants to comment.

7

8 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I think this is really a
9 good idea because a lot of people, you know, might be out on
10 their trap line or something and listen to the local radio
11 station and want to know what's going on and don't have access
12 to the newspapers and the newspapers might be old by the time
13 they get them, like me. So I think this is really a good idea
14 to disseminate what transpired at the Western Interior Regional
15 Council meetings.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: All right. The final letter that was used
18 was to Dan Reed, the Regional Supervisor of Alaska Department
19 of Fish and Game, January 20th. And that was basically
20 following-up requests from your Chair, Ray Collins, wanting a
21 summary of harvest data for the past moose season on the
22 Koyukuk River in 21(D) and what else is going on in that area.

23

24 I don't think it got in here, but I apologize for that.
25 We did get a letter back from Dan Reed and I think I have it in
26 my box, so I'll pass it out later. But, anyway, it's
27 confirming that he received the letter and that they would be
28 sending Jim Woolington to present that information. There was
29 no detail in the letter. I don't see Jim here so I'm hoping
30 that the weather didn't prevent him from making it because
31 there was also going to be a representative from Sport Fish and
32 maybe from Commercial Fisheries from the State to listen in and
33 participate in the meeting.

34

35 And that's all the correspondence that I know of. If
36 anyone else has received something; sometimes agencies or
37 others send you directly and a copy is not given to either the
38 Anchorage office or to me. So if you know of any other
39 correspondence please let me know.

40

41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: No, I didn't have any that come
42 direct that you haven't brought up here that I'm aware of.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: And that completes that agenda item.

45

46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Annual Report to the Federal
47 Subsistence Board.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's in your file
50 again. And to make it easy to find I did it on blue paper.

0039

1 Okay. On that I need to explain partially what has transpired
2 with that and then we will work together to come up with a good
3 annual report. The process with this Regional Council has been
4 evolved to that in fall the topic of annual reports come up,
5 the Council brings up issues and ideas and concerns that should
6 be included in that annual report. Then from that fall meeting
7 to this meeting I and your Chair work out the annual report.

8
9 I couldn't meet that deadline because of family
10 concerns. So this was just drafted last week. So Ray has not
11 seen this. And I think what may be the best way to go through
12 would be to either go topic by topic in there and in areas
13 where I wasn't sure what you meant in there I put in brackets
14 or in italics what did you want to say or something to that
15 effect because I didn't have an indication.

16
17 And then after that, at the end are charts that I put
18 together based on the community profile database, which is by
19 the State, of the harvesting and estimated pounds and et cetera
20 per community. I didn't have time to take the data from the
21 harvest tickets reports. I do have it but due to not having
22 access to certain software I wasn't able to condense that down.
23 But I would be able to do that.

24
25 Basically this Council wanted to start this round to
26 have a baseline annual report with harvest data and community
27 study data so we could start from there and go forward. So
28 then I'll be quiet to let you look over the annual report.

29
30 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

33
34 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: I'd like to at this time recognize
35 the Chief from Anvik, Carl Jerue.

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Carl. As Vince mentioned, I haven't
38 had a chance to see this since it was just developed. And the
39 answer to that one question on Henry's concern in 21(E), I'd
40 say yes because I would expand this part on the long range
41 solutions. I think it's important that we identify problems
42 developing that we see. And so this is the other major area in
43 our unit where there's growing hunting every year, or seems to
44 be. Here we don't necessarily have the statistics because
45 there's no check point, but the impression I get from local
46 people is that the hunting pressure is growing every year.

47
48 And rather than wait until we've got a biological
49 problem with too many moose being harvested, we ought to be on
50 top of that and be doing some planning and try to fix it before

0040

1 it gets to that point. So I'd like to target that in the
2 annual report, saying that that's an area that needs attention,
3 as well as the Koyukuk area.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: As you remember at the Joint Chairs Board
6 meeting that they wanted more specifics.

7
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: And I know that they also don't want you
11 to lay out in complete detail, you know, they don't expect
12 that. But you're indicating here that we would flag the issue
13 but are there any other tools or suggestions that you would
14 give to the Board as to how to handle that situation? One,
15 you're saying there needs to be planning done, but is there
16 anything else?

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, I could write a summary of
19 what I see as the issue, you know, who the groups involved are
20 and some of that for their information. It's a little
21 different here in that we have the local hunters using that, we
22 have Yupik hunters from adjacent game management unit coming up
23 river, an that seems to be growing, and then there is sport
24 hunting and other fly-in hunting too. So there's actually
25 three groups, there's recreational hunters or sport hunters
26 using part of the lands, there's the local pressure, which
27 probably is about the same, the population isn't really
28 growing. So that's probably about the same in terms of local.

29
30 But there's more hunters either from down river in the
31 fall season, or in the winter it's from as far away as Bethel.
32 So those are kind of the group, is that right?

33
34 MR. PETERS: Yeah, the topic of outside pressure. Look
35 at outside pressure by outside hunters, aircraft sport hunters
36 and people that really need the subsistence meat, you know,
37 like local hunters and people coming -- now we have people
38 coming in with big motors, like 150 horses, big motors, you
39 know, and their capability of getting to the refuge, you know,
40 and knocking down a lot of moose there.

41
42 And there's other things we have to look at too that
43 plays a big thing with the Federal lands. Some years we have a
44 lot of snow and in the past I know we have lost a lot of moose,
45 you know, due to that. And we've got to look at the impact.
46 This is a really good time to review and look at the
47 alternatives. How could we keep the resources there that are
48 there. We've been brought up on the -- our diet was moose
49 meat. And looking at the employment-wise, you know, jobs,
50 seasonal jobs here in the community of Holy Cross. And I think

0041

1 that's more and more pressure that we're looking at now, other
2 things like fire during the summer. And there's a lot of other
3 things that we need to focus on.

4
5 And I think this would be a good idea because we're
6 discussing it now. And rather than wait till it's too late,
7 you know, too late we're starting to talk about it. And this
8 is a good time for representatives from the communities that do
9 come to the meetings and sit in the meetings and we all wonder
10 what's been going on, you know. And some of the ideas that
11 people have no time to come to the meetings, but we do have
12 communication with people. And I think this newsletter and
13 this communication through our local radio stations, you know,
14 will get people involved. And it's a matter of getting
15 information out how it's going to affect each community and
16 where we're living, where we come from.

17
18 But I think we're going about -- we're starting the
19 process now. You know, what could we do? What are the
20 alternatives? I know we have problems out there but I think
21 we're going about it the right way and let's keep on going.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Henry.

24
25 MR. DEACON: I had a question for Vince. What specific
26 duty -- what kind of recommendation would you recommend that we
27 put here, you know? We explain impact of hunters and all that
28 stuff. How more can we describe that? You as the expert
29 should know that answer for us.

30
31 MR. R. SAM: I would have to look at.....

32
33 MR. DEACON: Wait. I've still got the floor. We talk
34 about even compact -- I mean partners. I call it partners with
35 the Federal government on Federal land with the tribal co-
36 management they call it. Could we suggest something like that
37 for more management control for the future?

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I can -- if I understand you, what
40 Henry is asking is he's asking me for advice as to what
41 alternatives could be brought up to address this since you've
42 already discussed several times the concerns of the area. And
43 you're asking about could there be exploring in co-management
44 discussions for this area and I think that could be a request
45 you could have to the Federal Subsistence Board; would be to
46 have some type of workshop on this issue in the area to explore
47 possible solutions, including co-management. Okay. I'm trying
48 to get confirmation from others and I've got that confirmation.

49
50 I don't know -- we'd have to explore -- that would be

0042

1 one to provide to the Board, that you're requesting that there
2 be a special meeting that would be a workshop to explore long
3 range plans for Unit 21(E) moose usage. And maybe then you
4 want to define it as the full Council coming or who else should
5 be involved. I would suggest that you would want the local
6 Advisory Committees, you would want to ask Village Council
7 representation, the over-arching organizations of Tanana Chiefs
8 and other organizations like that to be asked to participate in
9 this workshop.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Just a minute, Ron, I'll recognize
12 you. But I want us to realize what we're doing right now.
13 What we're doing right now is looking at our annual report that
14 we'll be sending to the Board. And in the annual report we're
15 trying to say what we are concerned about. We're not trying to
16 fix things with the report. We're trying to bring to their
17 attention where we see the problem areas are right now.

18
19 And what was suggested here in long range solutions in
20 the report was that for the area up in Yukon-Koyukuk, they
21 needed to get all of those players together and have a meeting.
22 And I was suggesting here that we add that we also need that
23 kind of a meeting to go on down here in the report. We won't
24 be trying to suggest fixes in the report, but we'll be saying
25 this is a problem that needs to be addressed, this is how you
26 could address it by a meeting of all the players. Go ahead,
27 Ron.

28
29 MR. R. SAM: Oh, I was going to address some of the
30 things that we have already started and at this time I'd just
31 like to continue with the annual report then.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. So I mean it's easy in these
34 to start discussing the issues and get them expanded, but if we
35 can focus right on the report here and say what should we put
36 in this report that we're concerned about.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: So if I understand correctly, Ray, then
39 that you would be providing kind of a write-up summary of the
40 groups involved with this and more expanding of the issue so
41 the Board can understand that.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes. I would help you in writing
44 that. Yeah.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: And then that the Regional Council will
47 be requesting that the model that was used on the Koyukuk of
48 meeting with all the players involved be applied to this
49 situation. And that it may require a single meeting because
50 the one on the Koyukuk was various meetings that took place and

0043

1 then there was communication thereof.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. You're down to Land Status
4 Maps.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Right. If that's okay with everybody.
7 You've talked over time that there needs to be maps that are
8 accurate and useable for users to make sure they know where
9 Federal and State lands is. But your perspective is wider than
10 that by the fact that a lot of these issues that end up into
11 regulatory proposals are addressing trespassing.

12

13 So you were trying to say that if there was maybe a
14 good map, and I know that there are some technical difficulties
15 with that, but minus that, that might resolve a lot of these
16 issues short of going to regulatory changes in seasons and
17 harvest limits, that causes more confusion for all the users,
18 but may cause a lot of confusion for subsistence users. So
19 that's kind of what I tried to capture here.

20

21 I suppose the next one that came up that I didn't know
22 what to do with was -- and I wish Harold was here, but he made
23 a strong statement that he was concerned about the frustration
24 that Council members were having with the Board not respecting
25 the Regional Council's recommendations. So I being -- I went
26 down the middle of the road. So please read that over to see if
27 that captures the intent of Harold and also this Council in
28 that plea and frustration.

29

30 Harold was quite frustrated with the way things went
31 with the Lower Koyukuk. That was before all this had worked
32 out in Koyukuk, you know, and we don't know what the State
33 recommendations are. So I don't know if his frustration is as
34 high. So I need to know does the Council still want that in
35 here and if they do, did what I put down there, does that
36 reflect your intent?

37

38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I have some reservations about that.
39 Harold was the Chair up until this last meeting, I guess, when
40 we had new elections again. So I don't know what went on at
41 the Federal meeting when our proposals went in before. But
42 what I observed last November is the Federal Board was
43 listening very closely to our recommendations. So I thought
44 that that has improved if it was poor before. I can't speak
45 for Harold, but that's my impression, that they did listen to
46 our proposals. In fact, they adopted our proposals in November
47 and then the State asked them to reconsider and they had that
48 audio-conference and reconsidered that one. So they did go
49 along with us, even on the Koyukuk; they adopted what we
50 proposed.

0044

1 So I think that's improving from my perspective. But
2 maybe a statement to say that we hope that the Board will
3 continue to listen very closely to the Councils, something like
4 that. Ron.

5
6 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think
7 that we should go ahead and leave this there because without
8 direct communications with the Federal Board I think we would
9 weaken our powers as a Regional Board -- Regional Council
10 Board.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

15
16 MR. REAKOFF: I feel everybody gets frustrated with the
17 speed of government, but I feel that the Federal Board has
18 responded to a lot of the Regional Council's proposals and
19 actions by affirming the Council's actions positively most of
20 the time. So I don't feel that -- I feel that Harold's concern
21 should be kept within the Council of Western Interior Council,
22 not transmitted to the Board.

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: I mean everybody feels frustrated with
27 the slowness of government, but I feel that the Federal Board
28 has been fairly speedy in their adoptions or looking at our
29 recommendations.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any other comments by members on
32 that issue?

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: I may need clarification because I've
35 heard that it should stay in and I've heard that it should stay
36 out. So what is in here now, should that go forward on page 4.

37
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, I'm not sure we understood.
39 What were you saying, Ron, in regard to that?

40
41 MR. R. SAM: I think that we should continue addressing
42 the issue of the interaction between the Regional Boards and
43 the Federal Boards. I think that would keep this position in
44 there, whether it just be under a name only, or middle of the
45 road like you put it. Just withdraw names and times and dates
46 would be fine because I think that we -- no matter what we do,
47 we have to keep improving on our relations with the Federal
48 Board.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: So if I take that then, these two

0045

1 paragraphs would just stay in, is that fine with everyone? I
2 didn't get into the specifics of Harold's concerns. And that's
3 why I've flagged it there.

4
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. I think that what you have
6 written there, I think that.....

7
8 MR. R. SAM: Middle of the road, you know.

9
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, right. I think those are good
11 statements, what you've got in here. Right.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: The next section that is there, I just
14 put in a summary of your actions. This has become somewhat
15 important, at least for my perspective. When the Board now
16 really looks at these annual reports they kind of also look at
17 what you did at the meetings and it kind of gives them a
18 summary.

19
20 Remember, they're just like you, they get that mountain
21 of papers and books and et cetera and yep, it's all in there,
22 but what did you guys really do? Well, it's in that book. I
23 think this summary thing is somewhat helpful. I look at the
24 annual reports as a historic document. So that's where I'm
25 coming from.

26
27 The summary of harvest information I just need your
28 ideas. Is that okay? That's directly from the community
29 profile database, which is put together by the State. What
30 does that mean? That meant those were those community studies,
31 if there was one done in your community where people came out,
32 had an interview form, asked questions and et cetera. Mike
33 Coffing's here, he's done several of those for areas nearby
34 here. This is just the numbers spit out of it but the intent
35 of this was for members like Jack that may not know what
36 happens down in this area, he can get an education over time of
37 the usage down here in addition to the testimony and exposure.

38
39 The other part of it which didn't get completed was to
40 show you a comparison or show you in a table format the harvest
41 ticket information. So you get an idea, it's a baseline thing
42 and as it says in the report here, we would only put in
43 additions or changes in future annual reports. So this is kind
44 of a baseline document that would be used as a training tool
45 both for new members, for the Council as it evolves and as the
46 Board evolves over time.

47
48 And again we would do the same thing. Once we get this
49 over with here and move on it, then I will draft things up,
50 send them to Ray, Ray will use his red pen or green pen and

0046

1 then he'll call me back and we'll do a couple of those and then
2 finally we'll get to a final report that he'll sign off, and
3 that'll be submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. And the
4 Federal Subsistence Board will be reviewing it this summer.
5 And when you meet, whoever is the representative, either the
6 Chair or someone else, in the fall they will discuss these
7 more. There'll be a fall meeting with the Chairs and the
8 Board. So we actually now have a cycle with the annual
9 reports. And so we're trying to plug into that.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I have a comment on these resource
12 harvesting. If we're going to start doing this in the report,
13 since we are directly connected with these villages, I think it
14 would really be good if we had an act -- from the villages'
15 standpoint a report on the harvest level of moose or specific
16 animals like that. Because often the tickets that go in is not
17 very accurate. And this might be a mechanism for establishing
18 harvest levels, if we had a way of doing it.

19
20 Like Lime, I know they do a community survey, but if
21 the communities wanted to work with us like for Hughes, or
22 Allakaket, any of those, if they wanted that you could go
23 around and get your own information and say we harvested this
24 many moose this year or whatever.

25
26 The reason I think that's important is when they start
27 looking at the allocation of those moose or the number
28 harvested up there, that if you aren't documenting how many
29 you're taking each year, some time in the future you may be
30 limited to the number you could, you see what I mean? Because
31 there isn't very accurate information on what the need is in
32 the village or what their -- comments on that?

33
34 MR. R. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to call
35 Gabe Sam of Tanana Chiefs up to the other mike at this time.

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, okay.

38
39 MR. R. SAM: And while he's getting up here, the reason
40 I'm calling him up there is because that we do -- I think
41 Tanana Chiefs hits everyone of our villages and we accurately
42 or close to as accurately as possible, we fill out the
43 subsistence form as to the take and harvest of our moose,
44 caribou, bear, ducks and everything including fish. Is this
45 still ongoing, Gabe?

46
47 MR. G. SAM: Yes, it is. Last fall it was aggressively
48 for especially Huslia. They've handed out the moose tags and
49 if you didn't use it, turn it back anyway. And so they made
50 sure there was a good count. And they explained to everybody

0047

1 that the ticket was good -- used for census for accurate counts
2 of how much moose is being taken out from a certain area and,
3 you know, what size the antlers were and, you know, what area
4 they took it out from.

5
6 And I don't know exactly what the system is for down
7 this way. I mean, you know, how the turn out is for returning
8 these tickets or, you know, a lot of people seem to think that
9 if they don't turn it in, maybe the moose count will be better
10 for next year. You know, they'll get a better idea of how much
11 moose they can take out. And so I don't understand exactly
12 what that question was there, Mr. Sam.

13
14 MR. R. SAM: I think we came close, but there was
15 another survey done with or without the tickets. And I think
16 that people just went ahead and reported what they took and
17 used without signing any kind of papers.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I guess what we're saying is, if
20 that information's available, rather than just having the pound
21 summary there, that there would be a summary of moose or
22 whatever with actual number of moose taken. You can still do
23 the poundage, but what do you base that on? That there were 50
24 moose, 40 moose, 30 moose, whatever. Maybe we could start
25 getting that kind of data that we would put in our annual
26 report, if it's available.

27
28 MR. G. SAM: The area biologist do a census report, a
29 count of moose every what was that five years or something like
30 that? And so we got our report from Mr. Osborne before he
31 left.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, yes. That's on how many animals
34 are here. But I'm thinking of what the villages are
35 harvesting, if we could get that information.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, maybe I can help clarify
38 this and others may help out on this. I think what Mr. Sam is
39 asking for Ronald is there was a cooperative agreement that we
40 had with Tanana Chiefs Conference to collect harvest data for I
41 believe large animal species in areas of Tanana Chiefs'
42 district or jurisdiction. And I think that's what you're
43 talking about.

44
45 That was going on and that was before Gabe came on
46 board. So that's -- Gabe is explaining the State system of
47 filling out the tickets. This was a separate thing and I've
48 already talked to Rosa. Rosa may have more to talk about that
49 but that's a cooperative agreement that we had with Tanana
50 Chiefs and we also had a cooperative agreement with Council of

0048

1 Athabaskan Tribal Governments on the upper part of Eastern
2 Interior, AVCP and I'm leaving someone else out. But we have
3 several cooperative agreements.

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So this is based on the State's
6 database?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

9

10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And I guess what I'm saying is we
11 ought to try to have our own database that accurately reflects
12 what's going on in our communities if we can that we would put
13 in. Maybe both, or alongside.

14

15 MS. MEEHAN: Mr. Chairman, I think that's the intent of
16 the cooperative agreement, that we have in place with Tanana
17 Chiefs, as Vince was mentioning. And the idea was to gather
18 harvest information -- community based harvest information that
19 can be used in a sense to supplement the State data so that
20 we've got some specific data that addresses many of the issues
21 you brought up.

22

23 The specific cooperative agreement that we have with
24 TCC was to gather information from I believe it was '93 through
25 '95, specific harvest information for those years. TCC was
26 going to help by compiling that information. And as far as I
27 know, the process is ongoing. And we look forward to getting
28 that information in place.

29

30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

31

32 MS. MEEHAN: Similarly with CATG.

33

34 MR. R. SAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think we mentioned
35 the moose count instead of the poundage through this thing.

36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

38

39 MR. R. SAM: I strongly believe in that moose count
40 because when we go before the State Board of Game with our
41 proposals, the moose count and the actual taken really does
42 back up our proposals.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: So if I understand correctly, that Ray's
45 request to the Council members is to still encourage villages
46 to report through you of harvest data that's going on, correct?

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, also if we have access to
49 other databases like we just mentioned here, that report come
50 in, that we not be just reporting what Alaska Department of

0049

1 Fish and Game, their summary, but we have our own data in here
2 if we can get it. Yeah.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, on the bottom it says that
5 -- it lists the villages that haven't had harvest data
6 reporting. And Wiseman, the village that I'm from, is down
7 there. That's the University of Alaska in conjunction with the
8 National Park Service did a subsistence survey and that data
9 base should also be accessed for these harvest data. That was
10 done in a cooperative thesis. That report is not finalized for
11 the Park Service, but there's a thesis about some of these
12 statistics. And so I think that the -- all databases should be
13 accessed for not only Alaska (indiscernible), but a Fish and
14 Game, Tanana Chiefs and any contract University work.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on that then that report is
17 not completed then, correct?

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: Well that thesis is completed. There's
20 data. That thesis has been completed for several years now,
21 like 1993 or something. And that's in the University data.
22 Like your thesis.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Right. I have a copy of the thesis but I
25 suppose what I'm really asking for is do we want it in the
26 annual report Jack's request that the Regional Council be
27 exposed to various databases that have harvest data and that be
28 made available to them to make decisions when they have
29 proposals in front of them?

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. The more information we have
32 the better.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I think this is really a
35 good idea to have these harvest data per village. And the most
36 current you can obtain, you know, some of these are 1983.

37
38 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman?

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

41
42 MR. BRELSFORD: If I could offer a comment on this
43 point. I think the starting point of this effort to develop
44 some baseline data was a request on the part of the Council.
45 It's obviously a very first step. Some other Councils have
46 made similar requests and the first cut was a little rough as
47 well. I think you've made some very important points about
48 being more inclusive, that the community based studies through
49 the Tribal Association with TCC and CATG are a key part of the
50 story in this region. You guys are familiar with it, it ought

0050

1 to be part of the baseline account.

2

3 The same comment would apply to Carol Scott's study
4 from the Community of Wiseman. So I think, you know, we kind
5 of stepped over this lightly. This was a first shot, a first
6 effort at compiling some information. It was done rather
7 quickly with really limited access to the full range of
8 resource materials. So let's try and beef this one up a little
9 bit before the draft is final and then in the years to come I
10 think you all -- you know the purpose of this was not to make a
11 table, the purpose of it was to have some knowledge, some
12 background information. So we'll keep our eye on that goal and
13 try and get a little better at it next year and from now own.

14

15 But your points about gaps are very well taken and
16 that's exactly the reason you review a draft together; you kind
17 of pick out the blind spots and fix them.

18

19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And I think one thing, when we think
20 of what we do with this report, one thing we can do is send
21 this back to each village and then they can look at that and
22 see what's being reported and they can see, well, is that true
23 of our village or not. Because if that's the information we're
24 using on developing proposals and making decisions on, villages
25 should know what we're looking at and they should say, hey,
26 that's not -- we're using a lot more than that or something.
27 Maybe it would be a way of getting more information to us too
28 by sending the reports back to the villages.

29

30 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chairman?

31

32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Bill.

33

34 MR. DERENDOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think most
35 of these, like the population should be updated too. Because
36 take Huslia, for instance, it says the population 207, and I
37 believe it's way more than that now. And some of these I can't
38 understand. Like the birds and eggs in our area, I don't
39 remember if anybody taken eggs up this date but it says eggs on
40 there. And it should be more defined. I can see the birds 75
41 percent harvesting on birds, but the eggs part I don't know.
42 And you were saying that it should be more defined in the
43 information that was sent back and get updated. Because I
44 believe the Huslia population is up close to 300 now, 290-
45 something. And like further down the road make.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think probably what they're
48 putting here is the 1990 census that they're just quoting.

49

50 MR. DERENDOFF: But if the population is changing, if

0051

1 we had a way of ascertaining that we could probably update
2 those figures too.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: You lost me there. The census data is to
5 give you an idea of the population right now. I don't know
6 what the population was in 1983, if it was lower or higher. So
7 I don't know if we can do a direct correlation on population.
8 I'll have to turn to a social scientist on that to say -- I
9 mean when you have an increase in the population do you also
10 have an increase in the amount of harvest?

11

12 Logic says yes, but I would need others to verify that.
13 Because there's other resource inputs that I -- you know, we'd
14 have to incorporate.

15

16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think the point Bill's making here
17 is that the population given is for 1990 in here. The study
18 year is '83 or something else. They already don't correlate.
19 So if we're going to have a population, why not have the most
20 recent one in there, if we have it.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: No, that's another objective in this
23 thing. And I'll just be bold to say it, this is also to show
24 you that we have very limited data. For Huslia for 1983 we have
25 a community study. We have pending data from the cooperative
26 agreement with TCC which was done in '93 and '95. That's a big
27 distance between there and to be honest with you that's why I
28 want -- that's why I pushed to have these tables and charts put
29 in here, so you'd be aware that all that analysis that we put
30 in many words was based on these comprehensive one time
31 studies. And so that's another reason that Jack keyed in real
32 quickly when he looked to the bottom and saw these other
33 communities within the regions we don't have any community
34 studies. All we're going on is harvest ticket data, which
35 compliance in general is very low.

36

37 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I noticed in these
38 categories that they have vegetation. And it would seem that
39 this is edible vegetation like berries and so forth. But I
40 feel that subsistence also includes the use of wood and wood
41 products. And I feel that harvest of trees for -- because
42 subsistence under ANILCA includes for food, for fuel,
43 indicating wood for fires. And I think that a category for
44 wood harvest or wood vegetation in subsistence would be an
45 appropriate category also. I don't know if that could be
46 ascertained, but I mean it would be a rough idea as to how much
47 wood people are using.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Right. We can't go back in history. And
50 I'm looking towards Mike to see -- I don't think questions were

0052

1 asked of the community surveys of wood usage. It was. Okay.
2 So it is in the information? It's attainable of past community
3 studies, the amount of dependency on wood? And I'm calling
4 forth Mike Coffing of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

5
6 MR. COFFING: This is Mike Coffing. I guess to answer
7 your question, I think it depends on the study. Some studies
8 we ask about wood use, whether it was wood use for smoking
9 fish, wood use for heating homes, for fuel, for steam bath or
10 other vegetation. And it depends on the individual study. So
11 I guess there isn't one answer that would cover all studies.
12 You have to look at the studies individually. For many of them
13 wood was asked.

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: But I mean as far as future studies, wood
16 use should be an appropriate question for future studies
17 because it reflects the subsistence dependence on the natural
18 wild renewable resources.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Anything else on the report then or
21 comments?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: No, I will add in their access to
24 databases and that future studies look into the complete
25 spectrum of subsistence uses, including wood. The reason I'm
26 repeating that is George is not here, your Staff
27 Anthropologist. He would be the one that looks at the research
28 design. So this will give him direction.

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. The school is going to have
31 lunch ready at noon, is that the -- yeah, okay. I'd like since
32 we have time to continue -- this had to do with review and
33 approval. Do you feel comfortable now in acting on this as
34 we've described it? I'll work with Vince and we'll go ahead
35 and add those other items and then I'll sign that and submit
36 it. We'll send a copy to you but we there may not be time to
37 send it to you and get feedback and so on. What do you want to
38 do concerning that?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm looking for Taylor here on
41 that. I don't think there'd be time for us to work out an
42 annual report and then send it to each Council member to do
43 editorial. You cannot make a decision -- we have to have a
44 public meeting for you to approve the annual report but for
45 editing we could do that. But I don't know the timing on that.
46 I don't think we have time to pull that off.

47
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So what I would need would be a
49 motion at this time to approve the submission of an annual
50 report as discussed here or something like that.

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1 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt this report with
2 the amendments discussed.

3
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Is there a second.

5
6 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

7
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Moved by Jack and seconded by
9 Angela to approve the annual report as discussed and amended.

10
11 MR. R. SAM: And one more addition.

12
13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

14
15 MR. R. SAM: That the final report be reviewed closely
16 by the Chair and discussed with Vince.

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

19
20 MR. R. SAM: With the understanding that it is going to
21 be.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. And we'll get copies to you
24 as soon as we have something. Maybe even a draft or something.
25 Okay. All those in favor signify by raising your hand? Okay.
26 It's yes votes for all members present. Motion carried.

27
28 Okay. The Implementation of Federal Subsistence
29 Fisheries Management Update.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: How long is this going to take?

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, lunch is served at 10 till 12:00.
36 Somebody whispered it in my ear. I don't know who it was. So
37 it.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: It might be better then to break now
40 and.....

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Take five minutes to get down there.
45 All right. Can we come back at a quarter to 1:00 then.
46 That'll give us a full hour from now. Is that enough or what's
47 your -- okay. Thank you. So we'll recess now for lunch. And
48 we will be back in session at about 12:45.

49
50 (Off record)

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1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS:order again. Next item, which
4 is the fisheries. Yes, go ahead.

5

6 MS. MEEHAN: Mr. Chairman, Rosa Meehan with the Office
7 of Subsistence Management. And what I'd like to share with you
8 today is an update on where we are in expanding Federal
9 Subsistence Management Programs and Fisheries.

10

11 And that action is being taken as we've mentioned
12 before in response to the 9th Circuit Court's recent decision
13 in the Katie John case. And the court directive was to the
14 Federal government that navigable waters in which the United
15 States has a reserved water right are appropriately managed
16 within the subsistence program. And so today what I want to do
17 is just catch you all up on where we are with this process.

18

19 To expand into fisheries jurisdiction there's
20 essentially two components. One we have to prepare an
21 Environmental Assessment, which is an EPA document, to evaluate
22 the decision. The second thing that we have to do is to
23 prepare a Preliminary Draft Proposed Rule. And so of these two
24 items the Environmental Assessment is essentially the written
25 background behind the decision. And what I will do today is
26 update you on where we are with preparing that Environmental
27 Assessment. So it's just information about that.

28

29 For the Preliminary Draft Proposed Rule what I want to
30 do is go through that, point out areas of particular concern
31 for the Councils to look at and elicit your comments or
32 concerns on the Proposed Rule. So continuing on with just the
33 informational part, here's just an update on the fisheries on
34 the Environmental Assessment.

35

36 We're looking at some alternatives. And the
37 alternatives are the different extent to which jurisdiction
38 could be assumed by the Federal government. For purposes of
39 discussion we're taking our alternative I in this analysis, is
40 no action. And that would be leaving all waters under State
41 jurisdiction. That's counter to the court directive but what
42 it does for us in doing analysis is it gives us a baseline.

43

44 Alternative II we're calling limited jurisdiction. And
45 what I'd like to do is draw your attention to the maps behind
46 you. And I apologize to the audience, I'd invite you to come
47 up and look at these maps afterwards. But if you'll look on
48 these maps behind you there are some drainages marked in red.
49 And the rest of them are in blue. Under the limited -- the
50 alternative that has limited jurisdiction, those drainages that

0055

1 cross the colored portions of the map, the pink areas and the
2 purple areas, would be included in the program, but the white
3 areas, the selected lands within the conservation units would
4 not be included. So that's in Alternate II. So another way to
5 say that is the selected lands would not be included under
6 Federal jurisdiction.

7
8 In Alternative III all of the areas within the
9 boundaries of a conservation system would be included under
10 Federal jurisdiction. And that would include the selected
11 lands within the conservation system units.

12
13 In doing the analysis -- is that clear the difference
14 between the alternatives?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: One alternative would be that the white
17 lands like on the Koyukuk-Nowitna -- can you hear me on the
18 mike?

19
20 MS. MEEHAN: Vince, I'll do it. Let's use your area
21 that we're working on, okay. If you look -- let's just look at
22 the Innoko Wildlife Refuge. And under Alternative I, all of
23 this area, all the rivers would be under State jurisdiction.
24 Okay. Under Alternative II the drainages that cross this pink
25 part of the map would be included in the Federal jurisdiction,
26 but this selected piece in here would not be included. Under
27 Alternative III everything within the outside boundary of the
28 refuges would be included. So that means this selected land,
29 that selected land and these pieces of selected land out here
30 would be included within Federal jurisdiction. Does that make
31 sense, Henry? It doesn't? It's where the rules -- it's where
32 there would be Federal rules in place. Okay.

33
34 So under Alternative I it would all be State rules.
35 Under Alternative II you would have Federal rules where the
36 pink is. Okay. And Alternative III you'd have Federal rules
37 within these outside boundaries. So selected lands would be
38 included. Okay. Does that make more sense? Jack?

39
40 MR. REAKOFF: Do the selected lands have water rights,
41 easements -- Federal water rights easements within those units?

42
43 MS. MEEHAN: Yes, they do.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: So then they theoretically should be
46 included?

47
48 MS. MEEHAN: That's correct. And that's why on
49 Alternative III is identified as the preferred alternative. So
50 by looking at the different alternatives it's a way of

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1 evaluating how far the jurisdiction could be spread. And it's
2 -- the decision has pretty much been made that we should go
3 with the outside boundaries because of that Federal reserve
4 water right.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Was there any question about
7 navigable lands and was that resolved, or waters I mean? It's
8 been resolved that within that it doesn't matter if they're
9 navigable or non-navigable, they'd still be under the program,
10 right?

11
12 MS. MEEHAN: Correct. The original -- the navigability
13 issue was at the lower court level. The first decision was
14 that all navigable waters were subject to Federal jurisdiction.
15 And that would mean all navigable waters across the State.
16 When it got to the appeals level, the district court level, the
17 ruling was that it was not -- that navigational servitude did
18 not necessarily indicate a Federal management right over that.
19 That a better doctrine to follow was the reserved water rights
20 doctrine. And so this picture of jurisdiction is painted on
21 reserve water rights, not on navigational servitude.

22
23 Navigational is not an inherent Federal interest is the
24 legal term on it. So navigation's not in issue.

25
26 MR. DEACON: I know there's a lot of local refuge. And
27 for the future they're a lot of sport hunters want to go up
28 there. And want to make even rough for the summer so they
29 don't land. But then where they put their garbage is -- I
30 think that was concern for the nearby village. That's my, you
31 know.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think that's partly a part, except
34 from where the fisheries would come in is if there's sport
35 fishing activities going on up there and it's in conflict with
36 the Federal management for subsistence.

37
38 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And that could be an issue.

41
42 MR. DEACON: It is an issue.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: yeah.

45
46 MR. DEACON: It is issue for the future.

47
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Right. We're not talking
49 about the land itself now or the game there, they're talking
50 just about the rivers and fish.

0057

1 MR. DEACON: The rivers.

2
3 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

4
5 MR. DEACON: I understand that. That's the part that's
6 going to be problem with the future.

7
8 MS. MEEHAN: Just to continue with a quick overview of
9 what's in the Environmental Assessment. Again we're looking at
10 fisheries from a statewide perspective. And so within the
11 Environmental Assessment we have set up some analysis areas.
12 And the one of particular interest to this Council is the
13 Yukon-Kuskokwim. And given the importance of looking at
14 fisheries on a drainage-wide basis, we decided that the best
15 way to evaluate this area was to look at the Yukon and
16 Kuskokwim as an integrated area, rather than breaking it up
17 into the three different areas as we have with Councils. So
18 we've essentially combined the Yukon-Delta area, which is
19 Region 5, and both the Interior Council areas into one big
20 region to analyze for the purpose of fisheries.

21
22 Carrying this example in looking at the alternatives,
23 we've got one way to describe some of the differences between
24 the alternatives. Is first of all to recognize that the Yukon-
25 Kuskokwim Drainage is a very large area. It's a little over a
26 third of the State and extends from the Canadian border down to
27 the Bering Sea. It includes a lot of National Wildlife
28 Refuges, as well as park lands and it's an area that's going to
29 be interesting to establish management within from a Federal
30 perspective -- actually from anybody perspective -- because of
31 the complexity of the five species of salmon that occur within
32 the drainage. There's mixed stock all up and down the drainage
33 and there's also a lot of mix within the user groups between
34 commercial and subsistence use. So it's going to be an
35 interesting area to work with..

36
37 There also is a cooperative management in place already
38 on the Yukon, and that's the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's
39 Association that does provide guidance to the State program.
40 And, Angela, you're on the group, aren't you?

41
42 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

43
44 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. And that's something that we
45 recognize is a very important group within this drainage. If
46 we look at the alternatives one thing that we are looking at is
47 the location of villages with respect to the adjacent waters
48 and trying to look at where people fish. And basically there's
49 about 75 major villages along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers
50 and if we look at where they're located, under Alternative II

0058

1 where the selected lands would not be included under Federal
2 jurisdiction, it turns out that all of the villages are located
3 on selected lands and therefore they would remain adjacent to
4 waters under State jurisdiction.

5
6 However, in the Alternative III, which includes
7 selected lands located within conservation units, there is
8 about 64 percent of the villages would be adjacent to Federal
9 waters. So there's a big difference between Alternative II and
10 Alternative III. Yes.

11
12 MR. R. SAM: When you mentioned selected lands you --
13 are you describing village or Regional Corporation lands or
14 just refuges?

15
16 MS. MEEHAN: It's Village and Regional Corporation
17 selected lands. Because the Federal jurisdiction is defined by
18 the boundaries of the conservation system units. So it would
19 be by the boundary of the refuge or by the boundary of the
20 park.

21
22 We've had an opportunity to gather a lot of public
23 input on this process. And as you may remember, we had
24 meetings around the State back in May of last year and we
25 received a tremendous amount of public testimony from those
26 meetings, as well as written comments. And in that case most
27 comments were either in support of the expansion of Federal
28 jurisdiction, or in contrast; they were in support of the State
29 retaining jurisdiction.

30
31 We also discussed fisheries at the Regional Council
32 meetings last fall and at the same time we sent a mailing out
33 requesting comments from the public. The comments from that
34 round of discussion mostly supported retention of the existing
35 -- there was a couple of things we asked about. One was do we
36 retain the existing Councils, retain the existing Council
37 borders and most Councils supported retaining the existing
38 Council structure and the existing Council boundaries to deal
39 with fisheries, however, all three of the Councils along the
40 Yukon River, which this one included, noted that there was
41 going to be a need for communication or work with all the
42 Councils involved in the Yukon Drainage.

43
44 Another issue that we asked about was customary trade.
45 And most commentators noted a strong regional component to
46 customary trade. And that a proposed statewide monetary limit
47 on customary trade, which was one of the original proposals,
48 was not appropriate.

49
50 With written comments we received quite a lot of

0059

1 written comments and the comments on customary trade in
2 particular we evenly divided between (1) prohibition of trade
3 or sale of subsistence caught resources period, (2) limit
4 customary trade to barter. In other words, no cash sale. And
5 a third category of comments was do not regulate customary
6 trade at all. So that just gives you a flavor of the type of
7 comments we have received on some of these issues.

8
9 MR. G. SAM: Rosa, I have a question. What.....

10
11 MS. MEEHAN: Can you come up to a microphone just so
12 she can get you. ANPR is the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule
13 Making and it was -- the program was directed last spring to
14 prepare a Draft Rule of what the -- what it would look like if
15 the Federal government did assume some level of jurisdiction
16 within fisheries. And it was regulatory language, it was
17 published and it was essentially the first part of the Proposed
18 Rule that we'll be talking about in a minute. And, Gabe, we
19 can get you a copy of that if you need it.

20
21 One of the important issues that we have not fully
22 settled yet is customary trade. And we've been looking at this
23 issue. I've relayed to you the public comments we've gotten on
24 that, but it is something that I would like to hear your -- get
25 some more input from this Council on.

26
27 And the concern that has been expressed by fisheries
28 managers is that sale of subsistence caught fish, particularly
29 salmon roe, could result in an increased market demand,
30 resulting in increased pressure on the fisheries. And so
31 there's a balance to be struck there between customary trade
32 and a commercial venture.

33
34 That wraps up what I brought to relay to you about the
35 Environmental Assessment. And what I would like to do now is
36 move into the Preliminary Draft Proposed Rule. And I see
37 you're all in the section where we've got the presentation. If
38 you could flip a couple of pages. I think it was on -- it's in
39 Section T. Behind Tab T. There's a letter that says, Dear
40 Regional Advisory Council Member. Okay. This letter gives a
41 real brief explanation of why we're doing this. And there are
42 some sections highlighted as having some important changes.
43 And that's what I'd like to do with you right now, is just
44 point out those changes in the rule.

45
46 And so if you'd turn to the next page, turn it over to
47 page 1, you see the start of the Proposed Rule. And the first
48 change that's important is actually on page 2. And you'll
49 notice that that shaded text, this is within the Subpart A of
50 the Proposed Rule -- of the regulations as we have them now.

0060

1 And this is a proposed addition to our regulations. And what
2 it does is it identifies areas or lands in which the Federal
3 government has reserve water rights. So this just is a written
4 description of the areas where the Federal program would apply.
5

6 And if you'll look down on that you'll see that it does
7 include the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge and Innoko is in
8 here as well. So it's just a listing of the places where it
9 applies.
10

11 And then if we move on to page 4 there's some
12 definitions added. And, again, this is to the existing Subpart
13 A of the regulations that we have in place today. These are
14 proposed changes to those regulations. And what these added
15 definitions do is address provisions that the court has
16 directed the Federal government to include within the
17 management program.
18

19 The one thing that I do want to point out is that
20 shaded area that's on the bottom third of the page. See where
21 it says number 4. And what this does -- there's a definition
22 down here for regulatory year. And the regulatory year for the
23 terrestrial program right now runs from July 1 to June 30. The
24 change for the fisheries program is that the regulatory year
25 would be from March 1 through February. And that change
26 follows the advice of the Regional Councils that the fisheries
27 regulations be set up to be opposite from the terrestrial
28 program.
29

30 In other words, we're not trying to do fisheries
31 regulations at the same time we're doing the terrestrial
32 program and we're also trying to set it up so that it would not
33 conflict with the fishing season.
34

35 If that's clear, I'd like to move on to page number 7.
36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: What does that last one mean in
38 terms of year? For instance, it starts on March 1, the
39 fisheries year right, is that what you're saying?
40

41 MS. MEEHAN: Yes. That's when the regulations would
42 take effect.
43

44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.
45

46 MS. MEEHAN: Is from March 1 to February 1.
47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So then it would mean in terms of
49 any of them being turned in and dealt with, they'd have to be
50 turned in and dealt with in the fall?

0061

1 MS. MEEHAN: It would mean that proposals would be
2 taken around this time.

3
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

5
6 MS. MEEHAN: In other -- okay.

7
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

9
10 MS. MEEHAN: So like you have the fall meeting where
11 you take proposals in the terrestrial program, for fisheries
12 you'd have that type of meeting around this time of year. So
13 you'd take proposal now.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. And then when do the Federal
16 Board deal with them, in the summer?

17
18 MS. MEEHAN: And then you would have a meeting in the
19 fall to go hear the proposal analyses and make recommendations.
20 Okay?

21
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

23
24 MS. MEEHAN: And then the Federal Board would make a
25 decision in January.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

28
29 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. So it's counter -- it's completely
30 opposite of the terrestrial program.

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

33
34 MS. MEEHAN: Does that make sense?

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

37
38 MR. R. SAM: What do you mean by the (indiscernible)?

39
40 MS. MEEHAN: Big game. Dealing with moose and dealing
41 with all of those guys.

42
43 MR. R. SAM: I just wanted that verified.

44
45 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. Sorry. It's the guys that walk on
46 land.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Ray, the Council earlier when this was
49 brought up felt the existing cycle structure was okay, the two
50 meetings per year. Just to remind you that that was what you

0062

1 felt earlier.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: And you can revisit it now if you have
6 concerns with that, but earlier on you felt that this
7 structure, size of Council and meeting structure was okay.

8

9 MS. MEEHAN: Thanks, Vince. Okay. The next point that
10 I would like to draw your attention to is on page number 7.
11 And this is in Subpart B and has to do with program structure.
12 And one of the issues that has come up frequently with fish has
13 to do with what has been termed extra-territorial jurisdiction.
14 And this means when there is an issue that happens off of
15 Federal lands that affects the ability of subsistence users to
16 meet their needs on Federal lands, the Federal government does
17 have the authority to take action. And the question is, how
18 would that happen?

19

20 And this part here that starts on page 7 explains that
21 the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the
22 Department of Agriculture do have that authority and they are
23 going to retain that authority. In other words, it is not
24 going to be done by the Federal Subsistence Board. And this is
25 carried on on page 8 and the top of page 9. And that portion
26 there describes that the role of the Federal Subsistence Board
27 will be to evaluate when that situation occurs.

28

29 In other words, if something is happening on State
30 lands that's affecting subsistence -- the ability of
31 subsistence users to meet their needs on Federal lands, that
32 the Board is to evaluate that situation and then make a
33 recommendation to the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of
34 the Department of Agriculture. The decision would take place
35 by the Secretary, not by the Federal Subsistence Board.

36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. A case in point is to get an
38 example out of.....

39

40 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah.

41

42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I know there's been an ongoing issue
43 on the State level let's say of the intercept fisheries at
44 False Pass.

45

46 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Which means that if the management
49 of that fishery is causing problems of escapement in the Yukon
50 or the Kuskokwim, then it could be that the Federal Board would

0063

1 ask for some action, but it would be the Secretaries that would
2 be making decisions about that; it wouldn't be the Board. Is
3 that the kind of.....

4
5 MS. MEEHAN: Yes, that's correct. And just to fill out
6 the rest of your example, if that's an issue that you as a
7 Council felt was very important and needed to be addressed,
8 that that would be an issue you would forward to the Federal
9 Subsistence Board and then the Federal Subsistence Board would
10 evaluate it -- you would evaluate it, give to the Federal
11 Subsistence Board, the Board would evaluate it and give it to
12 the Secretary. But I wanted to point this out because this has
13 been of great concern to a number of people. Is there another
14 question?

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, the question was, is this good
17 or not, his decision-making at that level? And.....

18
19 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah, I can't comment on that, good or
20 bad. The important thing is that this does outline a process.
21 And so there is a way to identify a problem and send it up so
22 that somebody has to take a look at it and deal with it.
23 Whereas right now there is not a process in place. So that's a
24 difference. Jack.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: I have a question as to whether the State
27 -- the State would have to counter-suit on a situation like
28 that, wouldn't they, as far as -- you know, as far as we can't
29 manage on the State lands. How would we manage fisheries on
30 their -- in their jurisdiction? I don't understand that part.

31
32 MS. MEEHAN: The intent with setting up a process like
33 this and the policy guidance on it is that at every step to the
34 complete extent possible to work with the State or work with
35 whoever the interested parties are and resolve the issue at the
36 lowest possible level. Because that's where you'll get the
37 most realistic solution to a problem.

38
39 If things totally fall apart and people are absolutely
40 at odds on a situation, this is a process you can follow to
41 elevate the issue. But it's definitely a process that's meant
42 for issues when there just is no local resolution. And it's
43 meant to be the odd case, not a common occurrence.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: And it's already been through the courts.
46 So it's already been decided that they have the jurisdiction to
47 do that, or is this an issue that would go back into court?

48
49 MS. MEEHAN: This has already been decided; that the
50 Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior do have this authority.

0064

1 It's been through the courts. There is case law on it.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: I understand the part about within the
4 navigable waters within the units, but this would elude to
5 outside of those units, out on the State lands. And my
6 question is how -- where did -- I never heard about that court
7 decision, you know, where it goes out in the peripheral into
8 State waters with no reserved water rights. How -- that's what
9 this is saying, that.....

10

11 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. That's correct. That is what this
12 is saying. I don't have that a case law on the top of my head.
13 I can give you the reference to you. But, again, this is not
14 meant to be something that happens -- it's meant to be very
15 unusual when this happens. But the authority is there and the
16 Secretaries are very adamant in having that authority. And
17 it's something that's always been there. But I can give you
18 the case law on it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, so you're saying this is not new
21 then. This is.....

22

23 MS. MEEHAN: No, this is not new. It's not new, it's
24 not new to the program. It's just that this is the first time
25 it's been articulated. It's been explained and it's been --
26 it's the first time that it's particularly been written down
27 within our regulations. So.....

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: And it's been applied in the Lower 48 in
30 different situations. So obviously if this happened the State
31 would go to court to question that. There's no doubt about
32 that. But we won't know what the court say on that. But there
33 is a case history behind Federal management extending beyond.
34 So we're -- you know, we'd have to have a good test case. The
35 Board's going to want good information and et cetera. So it's
36 going to be -- it's going to come at some point and we'll have
37 good facts behind it in the court, so that the State if they do
38 go to court would have to weigh that out.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: This kind of goes with like if somebody's
41 got a tree on their land that's obstructing your view you can
42 get a court ruling to saw that tree down or something like
43 that, or people can't build over a certain height to obstruct
44 views or. This has something to do with a case like that
45 or.....

46

47 MS. MEEHAN: No. It has to do with resource
48 management.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to know more about that.

0065

1 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. I'm smiling because I think I lost
2 my bet with my co-workers. I said, oh, no, there won't be any
3 questions on fish. So much for that.

4
5 The next place I'd like to draw your attention is to
6 page number 16. And this is -- number 16 starts with a new
7 part of the rule. And from page 16 on we've just reproduced
8 for you the part of the Preliminary Draft Proposed Rule that
9 pertains to your Council area.

10
11 And this first part within the box is the Subpart C. So
12 it's the customary and traditional use determinations for
13 fisheries within this Council area. And these are drawn from
14 the State's C&T determinations in 1989, which was the last time
15 that the State was in compliance with recognition of a rural
16 subsistence priority.

17
18 And we're now getting into a part of the rule that you
19 may want to have time to look at it at your leisure and flag
20 any particular problems that you see with it. So the rest of
21 it, which again starts on page 17, is Subpart D and this is the
22 specific regulations that pertain to the fisheries equivalent
23 of season and bag limits.

24
25 There is one part of this that I want to point out to
26 you and it's on page 20. And this has to do with customary
27 trade. This first part of the Subpart D regulations has
28 definitions that pertain to the program throughout the State.
29 On page 20, numbers 11 and 12, which are down toward the bottom
30 of the page, this is the definition of customary trade. And as
31 I've mentioned, customary trade is an issue that's been
32 identified loud and clear as a controversial issue and it's one
33 that we want to be careful about how we treat it.

34
35 In the proposed rule what we have is that no person may
36 buy or sell fish, their parts, or their eggs which have been
37 taken for subsistence uses, except as provided by the Federal
38 Subsistence Board. In other word, the Board is going to have
39 to identify what customary trade is. And the idea is that on a
40 regional basis, since we heard loud and clear from many
41 comments that customary trade is regional in nature, that the
42 Councils would bring a proposal to the Board, the proposal
43 would identify what customary trade is within the region. And
44 so you set it up through the annual regulatory process. And
45 then that would help build this regional definition of
46 customary trade.

47
48 The second part of this, number 12, reads, persons
49 licensed by the State of Alaska to engage in a fisheries
50 business may not receive for commercial purposes or barter or

0066

1 solicit to barter for subsistence taken salmon or their parts.
2 And what this means is that you cannot sell salmon or salmon
3 roe to a commercial enterprise, to a fish processor who's then
4 going to sell it on. It does allow the sale of fish roe or
5 salmon fish or salmon fish parts to somebody who is then going
6 to use that themselves. So if you wanted to sell salmon strips
7 to your neighbor, that's fine. If you want to sell salmon roe
8 to your cousin up river, that's fine. As long as they're going
9 to be using it. But it could not be sold for resale.

10
11 And this a provision that if you're ready to comment on
12 it now we'd be glad to write down comments, or if you want to
13 think about it and provide comments, this is a real important
14 part of the regulations and I'd encourage you to comment on it,
15 provide us with comments and think about it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any comments at this point by any
18 members?

19
20 MS. MEEHAN: The rest of the regulations here, as I'd
21 mentioned, do describe the catch limits, times, locations that
22 pertain to this Council's area. And I won't go through them
23 but again I encourage you to look at them.

24
25 In terms of process, of where this rule goes from here,
26 we would be interested in receiving comments from you up
27 through the middle of March. So up through March 10th. After
28 that time this Preliminary Draft Proposed Rule will be finished
29 up in its real preliminary stage, it's going to be sent to
30 Washington, D.C., along with the Environmental Assessment and
31 then the next step will be -- this is after it gets reviewed by
32 the Federal Subsistence Board in April.

33
34 So the Board is going to see it, pass on the
35 Preliminary Draft Proposed Rule, it then goes to Washington and
36 the next step will be publication in the Federal Register as a
37 Proposed Rule. When that happens there will be a round of
38 public meetings and another opportunity to comment. So what
39 you're getting here is a very early look at the Proposed Rule.

40
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I see one that may want comment on,
42 number 4. Any fishing gear used to take fish for subsistence
43 purposes may not obstruct more than one-half the width of any
44 stream. What does gear mean then? What I had in mind is
45 there's a traditional fishery on the Innoko River that involves
46 putting in a fence across the stream.

47
48 MS. MEEHAN: Right. And the way this is written that
49 would not be permitted. So.....

50

0067

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. We have to look at that
2 because that's been going on for thousands of years over there.
3 It doesn't -- fish can get through it because it has holes and
4 gaps, it doesn't completely block, but it does go all the way
5 across the stream. So if that's gear, then that would be
6 prohibiting that traditional fence over there on the Innoko.

7
8 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

9
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And I know there would be concern in
11 this area about that. I have never heard any argument that
12 that's detrimental to the fishery in any way. So we need to
13 make note of that and not allow that to go through without
14 marking it.

15
16 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Shageluk that's right, yeah.

19
20 MS. MEEHAN: All right.

21
22 MR. R. SAM: That same method of fence already has been
23 used on the South Fork of the Koyukuk River, but it's not from
24 year to year thing, but it has been used in that area too.

25
26 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

27
28 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: (Indiscernible-away from
29 microphone) for the white fish.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. So I think there has to be
32 some way to look at those individually and make exceptions or
33 something on those existing fisheries there, not a blanket rule
34 to apply everywhere. I don't know how we would approach that
35 but that would be one way, would be to.....

36
37 MS. MEEHAN: And that may be the most appropriate way
38 to do it, is to take that up within the annual regulatory cycle
39 so it gets put into the Subpart D.

40
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. But I would oppose this
42 going through before those exceptions are made.

43
44 MS. MEEHAN: Got it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We don't want to have go in and then
47 justify something that's already been going on after they've
48 stopped it.

49
50 MS. MEEHAN: Got it.

0068

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: It's better to have it in
2 beforehand, before it goes through.

3
4 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. I will pass that comment on. And
5 again, the opportunity you will have to check on this again and
6 have a formal comment opportunity is when this is published in
7 the Federal Register. So we're gathering these comments now.
8 I don't know if he wants to take questions from the floor if
9 anybody's got them. This is basically the end of the
10 presentation that I have for you and I'm willing to answer any
11 questions on it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any questions? You might
14 want to take a minute and kind of look through these. That
15 just happened to catch my eye, there may be other things like
16 that in there that.....

17
18 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And you're saying that there's a
21 fishery like that up on the Koyukuk River as well.

22
23 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, but it's not an annual thing either.
24 So we've got to look at that very closely before we do even
25 make comments or anything.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

28
29 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We'd have to look at item 10 because
32 that may be described as weir. It's a kind of obstruction and
33 they put nets or dips behind that.

34
35 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. I made the same note that there's a
36 same concern not to prohibit something out of hand that you
37 want to.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That has been going on.....

40
41 MS. MEEHAN: That has been going on.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS:traditionally.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Ray.

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: If that's been going on now, has there
50 been any problem with the State at all? These are essentially

0069

1 State regs here. And so we don't have a commercial fisheries
2 biologist here, but has there been a problem?

3

4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I don't know if they've ever looked
5 at it or made a ruling or what the situation is on that because
6 I know there was a fishery like that in the Upper Kuskokwim
7 that was going on when I arrived in the '60s and the State
8 stopped it in '65. They used to put in a salmon weir like that
9 across and they had to stop. It had been going on up till that
10 time as far as I know, you know, from a long time ago. But I
11 don't know what -- if anybody's ever looked at the Shageluk
12 fishery and said one way or another.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: The reason I brought it up was that it
15 may be already covered in the regulations here. And I was
16 hoping maybe somebody with the State could say that, and that
17 way you wouldn't have to look into further, but it's noted.

18

19 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: It's a small fishery there. It's
20 white fish.

21

22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Did you have comments?

23

24 MR. COFFING: I'll make it brief. I don't know whether
25 that particular item is covered. There are fisheries on the Y-
26 K Delta where they put a fence across for white fish and dip,
27 and it may be similar to what's happening at Shageluk. That
28 has not been a problem. But I don't know if it's not been a
29 problem because the regs haven't been enforced, or if the
30 regulation is only for like salmon streams, and anadromous
31 streams. The white fish fishery I'm familiar with is not an
32 anadromous stream, it's just white fish. So I guess I would
33 just urge you to look at the regs for all of that and then
34 comment appropriately on it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Go ahead, Gabe.

37

38 MR. G. SAM: Yes. Mr. Chair, I just have one comment
39 on page 20, number 11. It says no person may buy or sell fish,
40 their parts or their eggs which have been taken for subsistence
41 uses, except as provided for by the Federal Subsistence Board.
42 One comment I have on that is takes a lot of time, money and
43 people to fish out there and a lot of the people fish for --
44 you know, to subsidize their income. And it takes a lot of
45 fuel to go out fishing. And a lot of people like sell strips,
46 you know, to equal the balance of the cost of fishing. And
47 that's just about all the comments I have on that.

48

49 MS. MEEHAN: The intent of the way this is written is
50 not to prohibit the sale, but rather to limit the sale to what

0070

1 we would term an end user. In other words, if somebody wants
2 to sell salmon roe or salmon strips to another person that is
3 going to use the salmon roe or use the strips themselves, that
4 that's fine. The limitation which is actually in number 12 is
5 to prohibit the sale to a commercial processor.

6
7 MR. G. SAM: Yeah, I understand number 12, but that
8 doesn't say that in number 11, the way it's written.

9
10 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. Number 11, the intent of that is
11 one of the -- a primary comment that we received from the
12 Councils when we've been asking for comments earlier in the
13 fall and when we had the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule
14 Making; was that customary trade is very regional around the
15 State and that one single definition of customary trade would
16 not apply as well on the Yukon River as it does out on the
17 Seward Peninsula, as it does down in Southeast Alaska. And
18 rather than have a single definition, that there needs to be a
19 regional definition of them.

20
21 And so this language in number 11 is meant to provide a
22 way for the Councils to identify what customary trade is within
23 their area, get it incorporated into the regulations so you
24 have a regional definition of customary trade. There is a
25 problem that it has to be defined first before it becomes a
26 part of the program. And that is an issue.

27
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So if these are then adopted at the
29 Federal level there's liable to be a time gap because that
30 means we have to come in with proposals then that would allow
31 that.

32
33 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So it becomes illegal as soon as
36 these are adopted?

37
38 MS. MEEHAN: Correct.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And there's no way of having
41 proposals in that are approved that would go into effect at the
42 same time as this? Have the Board act ahead of time so that
43 the things go out together? That's what I'm -- I'm concerned
44 about prohibiting something that's been going on.

45
46 MS. MEEHAN: Right.

47
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: See I saw this, in example, in the
49 Federal management of Denali Park on cabin permits. There was
50 somebody on there that wanted to rebuild a cabin. They had to

0071

1 wait about seven or eight years to replace that cabin, waiting
2 for the Federal agency to get regulations and things in place.
3 I wouldn't like to see that kind of problem here. To have them
4 get proposals in to sell your strips next year and have to be
5 published in the Federal Register and so on. That doesn't seem
6 right. That's not a continuation of a standard traditional
7 subsistence practice.

8
9 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

12
13 MR. G. SAM: I mean especially if you have to, you know
14 declare it as income and then that becomes even a bigger
15 problem. And, you know, I just want it for the record known
16 that it's not a big operation, you know, it's small scale.
17 And I think it would just create more of a hassle.

18
19 MS. MEEHAN: Ray, what I've noted here, I just want to
20 make sure I've caught the comment that Gabe was expressing.
21 Was that there's a problem of prohibition at the outset, that
22 you need to have a provision that provides for a continuation
23 of existing practices.

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Or a waiver or something like that
26 until the Federal Board has had time to -- yeah.

27
28 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Angela and then Richard.

31
32 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Rosa, could you explain to me
33 section number 8, about fishing under the ice?

34
35 MS. MEEHAN: This is a provision that's taken from the
36 State. And the intent is to have -- if there is a structure
37 that's underneath the ice, to just have it identified as to
38 whose gear it is. So that if it is left there past an opening,
39 that somebody has a way of getting back to the owner of the
40 gear and reminding them to take it out. So it's strictly an
41 identification thing.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is that okay? Richard.

44
45 MR. PETERS: I have a couple of questions. My first
46 question is, looking at the balance of subsistence fishing and
47 commercial fishing, and that take quite a bit of participation
48 from the Yukon and Kuskokwim River. And at the present time
49 one area biologist that controls the fishery when it's opened
50 and when it closed. And also I think we need more

0072

1 participation from the villagers, like the Western Advisory
2 Group, you know, during the fishing season. Are they -- and
3 some communication between the area biologist from the Lower
4 Yukon and the Fairbanks area, you know, how strong the run is.
5 Who makes the final decision, you know? It has to be a group
6 decision making that we're keeping a balance between commercial
7 fishing and subsistence. You know, make sure that we have
8 enough resources available.

9
10 And my second question was the Regional Council propose
11 -- you know, looking at these 15 items here that's up for draft
12 now, and look at the time-wise, you know, this is new
13 information to me. It would take me some time to go back and
14 review it. And I would like to know, you know, when the
15 hearing's going to be and, you know, when is the hearing going
16 to come up. And so we can have the time to comment and really
17 look at these really strongly because that's going to affect
18 the Yukon villages on how we balance the fisheries and --
19 balance commercial fishing and subsistence users.

20
21 MS. MEEHAN: Thanks for your comment. I appreciate the
22 complexity of these regulations. And they're not something you
23 can just sit down and review quickly. Our purpose in bringing
24 this to you now is so that you will have a significant amount
25 of time to review it. What you're seeing here is a really
26 preliminary write of the rules. This has not gone to
27 Washington yet. So you have this opportunity to look at it.
28 And then this will be published ultimately in the Federal
29 Register, but not before next fall. And at that time there
30 will be public meetings and you will have another opportunity
31 to comment. So you will have from now until this is published
32 in the Federal Register to look at it and review it, talk to
33 your neighbors, to other concerned people, and then be ready
34 for the hearings when they happen.

35
36 I cannot give you a specific time on the hearings. And
37 the reason is that in our appropriations bills, which is the
38 bill that gives money to the Federal agencies to do what we
39 need to do, there is what's called moratorium language in it
40 that says that the Federal government cannot publish a final
41 rule with regards to fishery management. And so this Federal
42 fiscal year we cannot publish this. So we can't publish
43 anything before September 30th.

44
45 Now, when the next fiscal year starts, October 1st,
46 theoretically we could go ahead and publish this. And so
47 that's roughly how our timing is set up. We're doing all the
48 background work we can, trying to get everything ready in D.C.,
49 ready to publish as soon as we can, but that will not happen
50 before October 1st. And we will definitely provide Advance

0073

1 Public Notice of the publication and make sure that copies get
2 circulated when that happens.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: I wanted to comment on that waiver for
9 traditional trade. That language should also be inserted as to
10 of a limited nature for sale, you know. We don't want to start
11 a subsistence commercial fishery, you know, and get a big
12 division with the State right off the bat. We want to maintain
13 customary and traditional subsistence type fishery.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there any plans for those of you
16 working in the Federal fisheries to be looking at traditional
17 trade and taking input? I mean if we're going to have to all
18 over the State implement regulations regionally, I see a time
19 frame there and I don't know if you have any baseline data on
20 what's going on now. I would think that it would behoove you,
21 wasn't part of the Environmental Assessment, but very soon to
22 be doing that kind of thing so that we would have information
23 to develop proposals and so on on.

24
25 MS. MEEHAN: Well, this is where we're kind of caught
26 between that proverbial rock and a hard place. And the issue
27 is that same moratorium language that said we can't do this,
28 also said we can't spend any money on it. And so we don't have
29 the resources to do that. And believe me, it's not that we
30 don't recognize it as being of critical importance, it's just
31 we do not have a way to substantively address it right now.
32 And it's an issue we're going to have to deal with as soon as
33 we can.

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: There were comments that I made in
36 Galena and I'd like to make them again now for the people here
37 and get them into the record. Is that in this area of
38 traditional trade things have been changing because people have
39 become dependent on the ability to buy strips.

40
41 For instance, every year when I come over here I've got
42 elders from the McGrath area that may give me money to buy
43 strips for somebody here put up because they don't have the
44 ability to get those strips themselves and people in the
45 community put them up and sell them. That's not under
46 commercial because if they were doing that under the commercial
47 then they'd get into all these regulations on drying and
48 inspection and all of that other thing. So in my mind that's
49 going on under traditional trade.

50

0074

1 So that traditional trade and sale is not necessarily
2 to outside, it's between villagers. Those few who are still
3 putting up strips like that, they've got a whole -- sometimes
4 in their own community they've got many people dependent on
5 them to be able to buy their fish because they're working or
6 other things. So this is a very important issue and they need
7 to be able to continue that without it having stopped and
8 waiting to get regulations in place before they can do it.

9
10 So, you know, because the issue was, well, they're
11 going to be selling these in town and all over the place and so
12 on. But subsistence users themselves are dependent on this.
13 They don't all put up their own fish. They buy them from those
14 who do. So that's the reason why we need this waiver. We
15 don't want to get the people into trouble on something they
16 have been doing and that people are depending on to get their
17 fish. Is that correct? Am I correct in saying that?

18
19 MR. R. SAM: If you go up to where we're located,
20 Alatna, the fish are in such poor condition that most of us
21 don't even try to make strips. We kept them, it's mostly dog
22 food. They're so dry and half-rotted that we have begun to buy
23 more and more subsistence salmon strips from the Yukon-
24 Kuskokwim by finding more and more friends. You know we can't
25 -- you just can't get the fish up in our area in good enough
26 shape to even try to preserve them.

27
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Vince.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Ray, it might be good to see if anyone
31 else has any comments.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. I'm willing to take comments
34 from the audience if there are on some of those things we've
35 just been talking about, or if you have questions that you want
36 to ask in relation to fisheries.

37
38 MR. G. SAM: I've just got one more comment on the
39 strips.

40
41 MS. MEEHAN: Please come up to a microphone.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, you'll have to use a
44 microphone to get it on the tape.

45
46 MR. G. SAM: A lot of our elders, like you were saying,
47 don't have access to strips and, you know, all their life they
48 grew up with fish as a part of their diet. There's like some
49 elders in our nursing homes, they can't live on canned food,
50 you know, they'll eat it but it's just not enough, especially

0075

1 if you grew up on it all your life.

2

3 And so what they end up doing is their family, you
4 know, buying strips from other villages like down this way and
5 so they eat their traditional foods. And it's being practiced,
6 it's customary to trade. You know, I trade a lot of my friends
7 for moose meat for strips. Because like Ron was saying, up the
8 Koyukuk River, by the time they get up there they're ready to
9 die almost, you know. It's an important part of the culture,
10 especially if you grew up on it all your life. And so that is
11 all I have to say on that.

12

13 MR. SOMMER: I was just reading this thing here. I'm a
14 commercial fisherman and I live up on the Koyukuk River. And
15 it says here on page 21 in parenthesis (g) no person may
16 possess or transport subsistence taken fish or their parts
17 which have been taken contrary to Federal or State law or
18 regulation.

19

20 I use the fish that I take the roe out of for purpose
21 of subsistence for my dog team. Now, is it against the rules
22 for me to transport that fish from my commercial site to where
23 I live? My dog's got to eat something. That fish got to go
24 somewhere. And my name is Rudy.

25

26 MS. MEEHAN: The intent is not to prohibit that type of
27 an action, transporting fish. This is the type of comment we
28 would like to have in writing so that we can look at it and
29 make sure that the regulation is written so that the
30 traditional practices or what you need to do to make your
31 living can be carried out. What's written here is straight
32 from the State regulations. So we just picked them up and
33 adopted them right into this.

34

35 MR. SOMMER: It's illegal for me to transport dead
36 fish from the Yukon River up to where I live?

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: To clarify that, if you legally took
43 those fish within the correct seasons and whenever there were
44 openings and everything was legal, no, you can transport. If
45 you fish during a closure and took fish illegally and
46 transported them back home you would be in violation. But as
47 long as you're legal fishing you can transport them. That's
48 what this is saying.

49

50 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. Thanks, Jack.

0076

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Richard.

2

3 MR. PETERS: I just have one more comment or question.

4 We have number of people that do set underwater fish nets
5 during the winter and use State land. And my question is, you
6 know, a lot of people that couldn't go out and fish and they
7 sell -- I know some people have been selling their fish, you
8 know, and in some cases some people have been selling and many
9 of us give them away. And my question was do we still have
10 that right in doing what we've been doing all these years and
11 that's been passed down by our, you know, passed down over the
12 years?

13

14 And also during the summer, that summer chum and fall
15 chum, that late season too -- on that too, we had a number of
16 people that go out there and put that away and also sell that
17 too. And they don't make a hell of a lot of money. They're
18 just, you know, selling to local people, like people from out
19 of town coming in to buy, you know. It's not a big thing going
20 on. Nobody's making big money off it, you know, like a couple
21 thousand dollars. You know, people have been subsistence
22 fishing and using that fall chum and summer chum, you know,
23 selling it to like Ray said, the people that don't have no
24 access to it, don't have the boats or the motors to go out
25 there and do it. And, you know, we've been doing it all these
26 years. It's been passed on by our parents and it's still going
27 on.

28

29 MS. MEEHAN: I do want to clarify this point. And that
30 is, that the way these regulations are written and certainly
31 the intent of the regulations is to permit exactly that type of
32 traditional activity. Because what you're talking about is
33 selling the fish to somebody who is then going to use the fish.
34 Somebody who's unable to go out and get it themselves can buy
35 it from somebody who does have the capability to go out and
36 harvest the fish. That's the type of practice that we
37 specifically want to protect.

38

39 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton with Anchorage District BLM.
40 Ray mentioned something earlier and it's come up but it's kind
41 of vague. But if Ray comes over here and buys fish for other
42 folks in McGrath, really what's written in this regulation
43 doesn't provide for that secondary transfer. Ray would be
44 doing something illegal because he's not the end point user.
45 But he's actually doing a service for those other folks in
46 McGrath. And this regulation doesn't provide for that second
47 tertiary end user, even though they're giving him the money to
48 buy it. They're not directly buying it and he's not directly
49 the end user and that is not provided for here.

50

0077

1 And I would suspect that is probably a more common
2 practice than the end user buying it. That's just a comment.
3 That probably we need to find some way to accommodate that in
4 the regulation.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That's a good point. I hadn't
7 thought about that. Sometimes they write out the check for
8 them and I'm just the carrier of it.

9
10 MR. DENTON: Right.

11
12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: But they're not physically present
13 there.

14
15 MR. DENTON: Yeah, you're basically an agent for them
16 is what it amounts to.

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

19
20 MS. MEEHAN: I see your point. I would call it a fine
21 point that I think could be accommodated. The thing that would
22 make it a problem is that in this case Ray was making money on
23 the transfer. Then that would be counter to the regulations.
24 But as long as Ray is just carrying things back and forth it
25 is, I agree, it's not quite provided for but I don't -- it's
26 not an insurmountable problem.

27
28 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I think it would be very easily
29 accommodated in the regulation to allow for that.

30
31 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah.

32
33 MR. DENTON: Because whoever the enforcement person is
34 and Ray makes the exchange of dollars for fish and he's not the
35 intended end user, in reality what the regulations say is what
36 he's doing is illegal. So.....

37
38 MS. MEEHAN: Yes. Okay.

39
40 MR. DENTON: Thank you.

41
42 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Henry.

45
46 MR. DEACON: Sharing. You know that's traditional from
47 a long time ago, if you share.....

48
49 MS. MEEHAN: Sharing is absolutely provided for.

50

0078

1 MR. DEACON: Oh, okay.

2
3 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah, absolutely.

4
5 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: I also would like -- it would seem to me
10 that most of this inter-regional sale occurs within the Western
11 Interior. Would my assumption be correct? That most of these
12 strips that are sold are all occurring within this region. So
13 any waivers could be made primarily for the regional trade.

14
15 MS. MEEHAN: Um-hum.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, that could be because the fish
18 are in much better condition down here, they're much richer.
19 That's why that happens. It's people that are closest to the
20 river mouth.

21
22 MR. REAKOFF: I see where the managers are worried that
23 these fish are going to be sold outside of the region and go
24 off to Japanese markets and so forth. But the people here are
25 concerned with customary trade within the region. And a
26 regional waiver would be very appropriate, the way I see it.

27
28 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And I guess the other point we were
31 making, it's come home even stronger, that there is a real need
32 to document actually what's going on very early on at some
33 point so that we've got that information to base regulations
34 on.

35
36 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We don't have to sit here and
39 speculate or even just speak from our own experience, but we
40 actually know what's going on in the area when we act on
41 proposals. So that's going to have to be early on the agenda
42 when they do free money that that kind of thing is done.

43
44 MS. MEEHAN: I agree with you completely.

45
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any other questions then
47 related to the fisheries? Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: I have one more question. I see some of
50 these State regulations have stricken some of these drainages

0079

1 and I was wondering who. Was that the Planning Committee that
2 struck these drainages, or how did that occur?

3
4 MS. MEEHAN: The areas that are stricken are areas that
5 would not be under Federal jurisdiction.

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Oh.

8
9 MS. MEEHAN: So they're waters that will remain State
10 waters under any of the alternatives. And on that I would
11 plead that that was done in an office in Anchorage and that we
12 would really look to you to please look at those carefully and
13 make sure we've got all of that local geographic information
14 correct.

15
16 Since you're looking on BLM lands, I'd like to point
17 out that waters across BLM lands would not be included under
18 Federal jurisdiction because on those lands there's no Federal
19 reserve water rights, with the exception of some BLM lands that
20 have a specific purpose, like the Steese-White Mountain
21 Recreation Area, the National Petroleum Reserve up on the North
22 Slope. I'm not sure if there are any wild and scenic rivers
23 down in this part of the world.

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you. I think that
26 we're ready to move to the next.

27
28 MS. MEEHAN: Thanks for your comments. I appreciate
29 it.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I'd like to bring to the attention
32 of the Board and the others here that we do have a group of
33 students from the school here. Does someone want to introduce
34 the students, please? And do you have any questions for us or
35 comments?

36
37 MS. WALKER: My name is Judy Demientieff Walker and I'm
38 a teacher at Holy Cross School. And I'm here with my students,
39 they can introduce themselves.

40
41 MR. TURNER: David Turner, 10th grade.

42
43 MR. J. DEMIENTIEFF: Jason Demientieff, 9th grade.

44
45 MR. WALTON: Edward Walton (indiscernible).

46
47 MR. GREGORY: I'm Phillip Gregory, 9th grade.

48
49 MS. C. DEMIENTIEFF: Charlene Demientieff, 9th grade.

50

0080

1 MR. TURNER: Lynn Turner, high school.

2
3 MR. GUNDERSON: I'm Ken Gunderson and I teach high
4 school.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Students and teachers, before you leave
9 please have the students sign in. We need to have a record of
10 who's here and et cetera. And just to put a little bug in your
11 ear, you are the future leaders. So if you have any questions
12 while this is going on, you can get the attention of the Chair
13 or someone else, please ask. That's why this is a public
14 meeting.

15
16 And, finally, in summary on the fisheries, I think it
17 would be wise for you to take the regulations that you have in
18 here, look at them. As she mentioned, by the middle of March
19 to get comments in. Fishing season is not too far around the
20 corner. When you're out there fishing if you happen to have
21 these with, look at them again and see how they apply. That
22 way you'll be ready when the Proposed Rule comes out in fall.
23 So start talking to your fellow subsistence users about fishing
24 so next fall you'll be ready to roll if the money and all of
25 the other things go forward.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And where is that sign-up that they
28 need to sign, is it going around?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: The sign-up for the students is over on
31 the corner of the table here. It would help. It's part of the
32 record. And for those of -- the students need to realize
33 that's part of a meeting process, is to note who's here because
34 these meetings are not -- they're expensive to have and others
35 look and if they see low attendance then they say, well, what's
36 the effect of having this meeting. But then if they see a high
37 attendance with students and et cetera, it helps defend the
38 program. So there's more to it than just forcing students to
39 write their names on a piece of paper, which teachers love to
40 do.

41
42 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, we also had some new guys come
43 in. Who's that?

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the request from Gabe was
46 we had other State Staff that came in and Federal Staff, I'm
47 sorry about that, there's both. And I'll introduce and then
48 you -- well, they can go up to the mike and introduce
49 themselves. We're trying to get people into the mikes because
50 we're really losing a lot of the conversation. So if Vince

0081

1 with com-fish wants to use the mike over there and then people
2 can introduce themselves. That way everyone will know
3 throughout the meeting who to contact on different issues.
4 Thank you. It's a very sensitive mike.

5
6 MR. GOLEMBESKI: I'm Vincent Golembeski with the Alaska
7 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management
8 and Development Division.

9
10 MR. BURR: I got here just before lunch. I'm John Burr
11 also with the Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fishing
12 Division out of the Fairbanks Office.

13
14 MR. McCULLEN: I'm Greg McCullen with US Fish and
15 Wildlife Service, Subsistence Coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti
16 and Yukon Flats Refuge.

17
18 MR. EARLY: I'm Tom Early, Manager of Kanuti National
19 Wildlife Refuge.

20
21 MR. WOOLINGTON: Jim Woolington, Alaska Department of
22 Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Galena.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Since we've gone through those
25 introductions there's two things that maybe we want to address
26 right now so they can schedule their time.

27
28 When we get to agency reports, which are coming up here
29 real quick, I suppose I'm asking your advice or giving
30 direction. Maybe when we get to the agency report of Alaska
31 Department of Fish and Game would be to have Jim Woolington go
32 over Unit 21(D) and that whole issue we discussed earlier.
33 Would that be fine with the Council? Okay. I gather everyone
34 agrees with that.

35
36 Also there has been a request just to help it along,
37 before the National Park Service presents their materials
38 there's some items that the Subsistence Management Office wants
39 to talk about. So just before under G would be a Report on the
40 Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Alaska.

41
42 And when we get to the 21(D) one, Jim and others, feel
43 free if we want to move tables and that. This floor plan is
44 not working as well as I would like. So we may want to move
45 some tables to get it rolling, okay. So feel free to do that.
46 Because people going over there and coming back is -- we may
47 want to work something else out.

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. We're down to item E which is
50 the Regional Council Charter, update on the work Rural.

0082

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Mr. Chairman, it's under Tab U, as
2 in Utah. And basically this is an informational item. It's
3 not an action item. It's just to inform you of the evolution
4 of this issue of having rural be a requirement for membership
5 on the Regional Council.

6
7 Basically it's quoting to Solicitor's opinion all the
8 way through Washington, that rural is not a requirement to be a
9 member of this Regional Council. In your last couple of
10 meetings you've discussed this and felt that as a Council felt
11 it was not a concern since you did not have a urban area within
12 your region

13
14 Under Tab U you can see the charts that show where the
15 other Regional Councils have felt on this from their last
16 meetings. And then there is the Solicitor letters going in
17 quite detailed as to the basis on the face reading of the law,
18 of what it meant, that it did not have rural in there and that
19 was intentional. And I don't know what else to really say on
20 that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Maybe I should say a word for the
23 sake of the students so they'll know what we're talking about.
24 When these Councils were set up we represent regions of the
25 State and one of the qualifications that was being followed or
26 was suggested should be followed is that to sit on one of these
27 Councils you should be a rural resident.

28
29 Well, it's not an issue in ours because we don't have
30 any urban communities within the Western Interior. In places
31 like Southeast Alaska where they've got Ketchikan and
32 surrounding villages, Ketchikan's not rural, but the
33 communities right across the water are. And the question was
34 -- but the boundaries includes all of that. Can someone from
35 Ketchikan sit on the Council down there and so on. That's why
36 it's a non-issue here, because we don't have any of those urban
37 areas within. But it's of concern elsewhere.

38
39 In fact the current Chair from the Southeast one now is
40 from an urban area.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And you're.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: But he grew up in the village and he
45 knows the issues and that's who they wanted on the Council.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: And since -- for the students and others,
48 there are other requirements for being on the Council. You
49 have to have extensive knowledge and understanding of
50 subsistence uses within the area. So that is also enforced in

0083

1 there. And your sister Council to the east, Eastern Interior
2 did have one or two members that was from Fairbanks, which is
3 an urban area.

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Okay. Moving on then to the
6 next item. Nomination Process Update.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think on that I
9 need to use the overhead. You're catching me flat-footed here,
10 but basically this is to give you an update of what -- can
11 everybody hear me? This thing kind of fades out. Where we are
12 with nominations at this point, and we're just going to dazzle
13 you with some maps here.

14

15 This is a map of your region. The dots in the
16 communities identified there have representation on this
17 Regional Council. So that represents that. The diamond shapes
18 are the member seats that are up this round. So Herman
19 Morgan's seat from Aniak is up, Angela's seat in Holy Cross and
20 Harold Huntington's of Koyukuk.

21

22 I have talked with Harold, he's not going to re-apply,
23 at least as of last conversation. Angela I believe is going to
24 submit an application and Herman Morgan I'll ask when he
25 arrives on that. So those are the seats -- the members that
26 have seats that are opened. These are all at large seats. As
27 of not too long ago, a week or two ago, maybe even sooner than
28 that, I think it was the last couple of days, for Region 6 we
29 have essentially three seats opened. We've had four people
30 apply. And the names, I'll just read them off, because
31 Councils can support a recommendation, or on their own support
32 a recommendation on their own as private individuals.

33

34 Pollock Simon, Sr. of Allakaket filled out an
35 application, Robert Edwards of Holy Cross, Carl Morgan of Aniak
36 and Benedict Jones of Koyukuk. There may be some other that
37 are in the mail that are coming, but for those that know of
38 people that might be interested in applying for this, the due
39 date for applications is February 28th. I have copies,
40 Taylor's probably got copies of applications here somewhere and
41 we can get them to people or help them fill it out and that.
42 And then we have a nominations panel that basically interview
43 the people that apply, their references. Then we consult with
44 Village Corporations, Tribal Councils and different groups to
45 get a better understanding of the person.

46

47 Then we rate them and then we rank them and then we
48 make our recommendation as a panel to the Federal Subsistence
49 Board and then they make their recommendations to the Secretary
50 of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretaries then

0084

1 appoint then appoint the members for three year terms. So
2 that's the status of applicants for the area. And that's it.

3
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any questions about that process or
5 what's going on on the part of anybody?

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: There's applications on the counter over
8 here and I have some in my briefcase. And to be honest with
9 you, I'm not real -- we have some excellent names here, don't
10 get me wrong, but I was hoping there would more applicants in
11 number. So we need to work on that over time. And we do have
12 a good representation across the region. We don't have any
13 gaps in the region. Eastern Interior is an example, we need to
14 work on getting somebody from the Parks Highway area, as an
15 example, and then Eagle. But Western Interior is pretty well
16 represented as we speak now across the region.

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you. We're down then
19 to the Federal/State and other agency reports.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The first one would be the Office
22 of Subsistence Management. Wanted to talk about the -- I
23 believe there's a memorandum of understanding that we had with
24 the State. And I think Rosa or -- Rosa is going to be
25 presenting that.

26
27 MS. MEEHAN: What I am passing out to you is a letter
28 from Tom Boyd, head of the Office of Subsistence Management.
29 And it's a letter that explains some correspondence that we've
30 received from the Department of Fish and Game and it pertains
31 to the relationship between the Department of Fish and Game and
32 the Federal Subsistence Program.

33
34 And basically what's going on is we're exploring the
35 possibility of developing a Memorandum of Agreement with the
36 Department of Fish and Game to clarify how the subsistence
37 program and the Department can work together cooperatively. And
38 the Department of Fish and Game is quite important to this
39 program. As you'll see as we go through the proposal process,
40 we rely very heavily on information provided by the Department.

41
42 If we get into fisheries management cooperation with
43 the Department of Fish and Game will become even more
44 important. And so with that as something that may be happening
45 in the future, and in recognition of the things that are
46 already going on, we're exploring developing this Memorandum of
47 Agreement.

48
49 And if you flip the one page over, there is a letter
50 from the State of Alaska to Fish and Wildlife Service that

0085

1 brings up the need to develop this specific type of an
2 agreement and it outlines four points that the State thinks are
3 very important to include in an agreement.

4
5 And just to highlight these four points for you, the
6 first one is to improve interaction between the State and
7 Federal Boards. And this is getting at the issue of places
8 where we've got resource issues that cross Federal and State
9 lands and we're looking for mechanisms to make sure we have a
10 coordinated approach on it.

11
12 A second point is improved involvement by the State in
13 the Staff Committee process. A third point is appropriate and
14 adequate compensation for State assistance to the Federal
15 Subsistence Program. In other words, we rely quite heavily on
16 the Department for information for studies. And so they're
17 looking for compensation.

18
19 And a fourth point is the development of a coordination
20 plan and supplemental plans for situations where Federal and
21 State authorities overlap. And so I'm sharing this with you to
22 let you know that we've started some very preliminary
23 discussions with the State. The development of any agreement
24 with the State is something that we certainly want to do, with
25 you as a Council, your full involvement and full understanding
26 of the issues that we're addressing and some of the problems
27 that we're trying to address through this process.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any questions regarding that? It
30 looks like some of the items we brought up fall under this,
31 like the joint -- you know, some meetings of coming together on
32 some of these issues regionally.

33
34 MS. MEEHAN: Absolutely.

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Would fall under this because of the
37 overlapping authority. Okay. Thank you. Who's next?

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: The next one is National Park Service,
40 dealing with -- well, we'll leave them to decide how they're
41 going to do that. But basically they have a statewide issue
42 and then there is reports from the different units.

43
44 MR. TWITCHELL: I'm Hollis Twitchell, I'm with Denali
45 National Park. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for that area.
46 What I'd like to bring before you today is an update on a
47 review that the Park Service is conducting on subsistence law
48 and National Park Service regulations that guides subsistence
49 use on park lands.

50

0086

1 MR. R. SAM: Pardon me. Do we have any paperwork on
2 that?

3
4 MR. TWITCHELL: If you look under Tab V in your
5 notebooks. Tab V in your notebooks has the NPS paper with
6 comments that have been received up till January 16th, 1997.

7
8 The Park Service started a review of the regulations
9 about a year and a half ago. And one of the reasons for that
10 is it's been 17 years since ANILCA was passed and many years
11 since our own Park Service regulations were passed as well.
12 There's been many changes in the Federal program, as well as
13 changes in managers and park areas and changes in communities.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Can we switch mikes?

16
17 MR. TWITCHELL: Would it help if I speak closer?

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. It would.

20
21 MR. TWITCHELL: Okay. How is this?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: A lot better.

24
25 MR. TWITCHELL: All right. Just a quick recap, the
26 Park Service is reviewing its regulations. It's been a lot of
27 years since ANILCA and the Park regulations were passed and
28 many managers felt it was appropriate to take another look at
29 them to see where there are problem areas and where we can work
30 to try to improve the subsistence program for subsistence
31 users.

32
33 The paper that you have in Tab V has been out for about
34 a year and a half. And comments have been received from some
35 individuals. The paper you have has those comments up to
36 January 17 of '97 in them. We're looking for comments through
37 March of this year from any advisory groups, public,
38 committees, et cetera.

39
40 If you have any comments I would like the comments to
41 be sent to either Bob Barbee, who is the Regional Director in
42 Alaska for the Park Service, or your local Superintendents if
43 there is Park areas near your area. You can see comments in
44 individually, or if the commission chooses to send them in in
45 the form of motions that would be appropriate as well.

46
47 The Park will plan to review comments received in April
48 and determine what's the best course of action to proceed.
49 This approach is certainly an open-ended one. Many of these
50 issues are difficult and in all likelihood will be coming back

0087

1 before advisory commissions and this Council, as well as the
2 subsistence users in the park. And the Park Service will try
3 to work through some of these issues. So you'll be certain to
4 see some of these topics come before this Advisory Council
5 again in the future.

6
7 And I guess the underlying thing is that we recognize
8 within the Agency that we need to continually look and develop
9 and modify the program based on input from the public and
10 subsistence users and advisory groups.

11
12 Within the paper there are several topic areas that are
13 covered. General issues in the initial part of the paper would
14 cover items such as traditional use areas and identifying where
15 those are, selected lands, both Native and State selected land
16 within the park unit areas, and preserves and how preserves are
17 handled or are different than from park areas.

18
19 The other topics in the report would be eligibility,
20 the process the Park Service uses to identify local, rural
21 users which is a process of resident zones, identifying
22 resident zones and individual permits. Access, in terms of how
23 access is afforded and preserved in park lands, the use of
24 cabins for subsistence purposes, trapping and trapping
25 programs, customary trade and subsistence resource commissions.
26 Those commissions were organized through ANILCA as first level
27 advisory groups to the Park regarding subsistence hunting and
28 trapping and fishing.

29
30 Those would be the main topics that are in the paper.
31 At this point I'll just leave it opened to the Council to tell
32 me how you would like to proceed. If you have individual
33 questions on the topics or issues I'd be happy to try to
34 address those. So I guess I'll leave it to you, Ray, on how
35 you would like the Council to go through.

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Do you have questions or
38 comments specifically about any parts of this, any of you, that
39 you'd like him to go into more detail on?

40
41 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

44
45 MR. R. SAM: Okay. I'm still unclear about the
46 trapping issue within the parks and the wildlife refuges.
47 Maybe you could cover the parks area at this time. I
48 understand that there is a study being done whether or not we
49 are still able to trap within the parks or within the refuges.
50 Can you cover that?

0088

1 MR. TWITCHELL: I believe the issue on trapping in the
2 refuges will be covered a little bit later today, and the
3 inquiry or the call for comments are specific to wildlife
4 refuges, in that Congressional inquiry.

5
6 ANILCA provides for trapping on park and preserve and
7 monument lands. So subsistence trapping is allowed within the
8 park. And sport and subsistence trapping are allowed within
9 the preserves. The most -- one of the controversial issues
10 regarding Park Service and trapping deals with the Park Service
11 definition of what traps are. That definition doesn't include
12 a firearm. So taking of free-roaming furbearers under a
13 trapping authority is not defined in our Park Service
14 regulations that way. That caused a lot of concern by
15 commissions and other subsistence users. So that issue will
16 need to be addressed in the future.

17
18 The other aspect in terms of trapping that has raised
19 many questions is customary trade. The Park Service
20 regulations recognizes the sale of furs for cash as a component
21 to customary trade. The use of plant materials, the selling of
22 birch bark baskets and other products from plant materials
23 currently are just identified in two areas. So the question
24 out to the public is, should the concept of customary trade
25 apply to other park areas such as the selling of birch bark
26 baskets or snow shoes or dog sleds or other plant material
27 products. Those two particular questions would be useful to
28 have comments on.

29
30 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering if there's been any
35 definitive decision within the Park Service about this free-
36 ranging furbearer issues. The last thing I knew they were
37 still battling it around whether they wanted to change their
38 regulations to comply with customary and traditional practice
39 of shooting free-ranging furbearers. And what's their decision
40 so far?

41
42 MR. TWITCHELL: There's been no decision on that as yet
43 because there was so much public comment -- negative comment
44 regarding the definition of trapping that the Park Service
45 uses, that it's been pulled back and no action is taken on it
46 as yet. The Agency probably will proceed again and pick it up
47 again at another time, but there's no timetable as when that's
48 going to occur.

49
50 The Subsistence Resource Commissions that have advised

0089

1 the Park Service do not like the Park Service's definition of
2 trapping and have recommended that the traditional practices,
3 one of which is taking free-ranging furbearers with a firearm
4 be incorporated into the definition. So those comments is
5 received from Gates of the Arctic and Denali National Park
6 Commissions.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Other questions?

11
12 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

15
16 MR. DERENDOFF: I get kind of confused on this what
17 they call customary trade. Customary, like trading baskets for
18 money, is it the same as trading a basket for another -- not
19 money, but for something like maybe snow shoes for a sled or
20 something like that? Is it the same as trading a basket for
21 money or another item?

22
23 MR. TWITCHELL: Another item for another item would be
24 considered bartering and that is allowed. The customary trade
25 implies the selling of the product for cash. And that's where
26 -- that's the issue I raised with selling a birch bark basket
27 for money rather than exchanging it for another product.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And you were saying that that's not
30 clear at this point whether that's allowed or not, or it
31 hasn't.....

32
33 MR. TWITCHELL: Right now there are two areas that are
34 identified, the selling of plant materials through customary
35 trade is appropriate, but most of the other Park areas have not
36 identified that within their special regulations as a practice.

37
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I guess that's it. Thank you,
39 Hollis. And now there were specific reports. Where are we at
40 on.....

41
42 MR. TWITCHELL: I have a hand-out. Just an
43 informational hand-out regarding a range of issues at Denali.
44 I can hand that out to you at this time.

45
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Please do. And is Gates of the
47 Arctic going to speak too? I would encourage the agencies that
48 are here too, just there may be interest on the part of the
49 school to talk about some issues or something. If you've got
50 time, let them know that you'd be willing to come to the school

0090

1 to talk about anything in relation to your agencies while
2 you're here, if they're interested.

3

4 MR. TWITCHELL: I guess I'll just leave this update
5 briefing with you and if you had any particular questions about
6 any of the topics or issues, I'd be happy to go over them in
7 detail.

8

9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thanks, Hollis.

10

11 MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Steve Ulvi, ANILCA
12 Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National Park
13 and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. I'm out of
14 Fairbanks and certainly appreciate the opportunity to be here
15 in Holy Cross. I'm enjoying the old fashioned bush hospitality
16 greatly. It's real rejuvenating and I appreciate it.

17

18 As far as wildlife surveys and monitoring up in Gates
19 of the Arctic Park, which is in the northernmost region --
20 portion of Region 6 here, we've really got nothing new going on
21 since the Galena meeting for GUM 24. We expect the final
22 report from the Department of Fish and Game and the National
23 Park Service on the sheep survey that was conducted there last
24 July in the northernmost portion of GMU 24 and in GMU 26, there
25 around Anaktuvuk Pass, we expect that final report in the next
26 couple of months. And that will be circulated then to the
27 Chairs. And so you should get one, Mr. Chairman, and as well
28 as Vince.

29

30 And this coming spring of '97, as a follow-up to that
31 sheep survey and having to do with Proposal 75 and 76, which we
32 will be talking about tomorrow having to go with sheep in
33 Anaktuvuk Pass, the National Park Service has obtained funding
34 to conduct a sheep collaring project primarily in areas
35 immediately adjacent to Anaktuvuk Pass in attempts to better
36 understand the seasonal movement of those sheep and better
37 understand distinct sub-populations. Some of that would be in
38 the extreme northern part of GMU 24. So we'll try to keep you
39 abreast of that also as that comes about.

40

41 As far as the Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates
42 of the Arctic Park, our last meeting was in mid-November. There
43 were no significant actions having to do with GMU 24 that I can
44 remember. And perhaps Jack Reakoff, who is a Commission member
45 can rattle my memory if I leave anything out. They did have
46 several important actions, but they had to do with GMU 26 and
47 GMU 23.

48

49 We hope that the next SRC meeting will be in early May,
50 perhaps in Fairbanks. One of the issues I was just speaking

0091

1 with a high school teacher about, and I'm sorry to see that
2 many of the kids had to go, is an update on Earth Quest Camp,
3 which is the third year that this diverse partnership of Native
4 Organizations and State and Federal agencies putting on a camp
5 for high school aged students from primarily the Doyon region,
6 but also Northwest Alaska and a couple adjacent areas.

7
8 This will be the third year where we've all come
9 together and put this 10 day camp on for an opportunity for
10 students to work with resource professionals, with hands-on
11 data gathering and training and a little exposure to resource
12 management decision making. This camp will take place from
13 June 7th till the 17th at Cold Creek Camp in Yukon-Charley
14 Rivers National Preserve between Eagle and Circle. And once --
15 the application packages are just about to be mailed out. We
16 have had students from down this way before. I don't know
17 about Holy Cross in particular, but I know Shageluk and McGrath
18 and up river here, Galena and Kotzebue. Anyway, some of the
19 areas roughly out in this region we have had students
20 participate from before. So I'm going to do everything I can
21 to get the word out while I'm here and hope to engender some
22 interest.

23
24 And once a student is selected it's a \$25.00
25 application fee and from then on it's all paid for by sponsors.
26 The air transportation and food and lodging and everything else
27 is provided for that 10 day period.

28
29 The only other thing I have I guess is a question. And
30 I've been wondering about this for a couple of years and then I
31 heard some discussion over here at the lodge the other night,
32 and I don't know if it was Ray or who it was, but one of the
33 things is there really isn't kind of a formalized feedback loop
34 where when you appoint people to our SRC for a report back on
35 activities by that SRC, and it sounds like a very good idea.
36 And I would like to know if you have any ideas how we might do
37 that?

38
39 For instance, you have reappointed Pollock Simon from
40 Allakaket and he's a very valuable member, however he's not a
41 member of this group. So I was thinking that at the SRC
42 meeting where we have Regional Advisory Council members on our
43 SRC, and I know that meetings are coming up, I could perhaps
44 get aside with them and ask them some things or ask them if
45 they wanted to write something up and send it to Vince or to
46 you, or I could take the notes and give the report for them or
47 something where these issues, you know, would be from their
48 perspective, not my perspective of the Park Service's, and we
49 could get a feedback loop going that way.

50

0092

1 So I'm open to any ideas you might have. Because I
2 certainly try to cover what's going on in my report, but that's
3 from a Park Service perspective. So there might be some other
4 ways to do that. And that's really all I have.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Vince.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: That issue came up because in the Eastern
9 Interior we don't have a linkage like you have here with the
10 other SRCs, but that doesn't mean it shouldn't still happen;
11 that we would set aside time for either you -- well, the SRC
12 members on the Council to share what the SRC did, the
13 Subsistence Resource Commission.

14
15 So that way we're all covering the same issues, so that
16 way things can work out better. So I think that's what Steve
17 is saying here. If you want to kind of help out in a written
18 format, that's fine, or if we want to schedule into the agenda.
19 Because some of the other Council members don't use Park
20 Service lands, but these issues are going to be back before
21 them as Council members.

22
23 So if we can keep this dialog over time, then they're
24 up to speed on it and they won't feel so left out. So that's
25 where it's coming from. Eastern Interior, we'll be working out
26 some other ways of doing it because there's no member that's on
27 both Commission and Council. So we have to -- Hollis and I
28 have to do a little bit more leg work on that.

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think when you work out something
31 that would work there you can share that with us and see if we
32 want to implement it here. I don't know about requiring
33 written reports from them, whether that would be easy or not.
34 What happens here is, if there's an issue comes up that relates
35 to one that we talked about in a Denali meeting, and because I
36 was at the meeting I can share it, and I think that's probably
37 what Jack has done too. But where there isn't a direct
38 connection, I don't know how we would do that.

39
40 MR. ULVI: Well, Mr. Chairman, one of the issues that
41 has come up is that when a person comes up for reconsideration
42 or reappointment for their Regional Council seat or for the SRC
43 seat, oftentimes people in the other body don't really know how
44 often they've attended meetings, how well they represent their
45 area or their village, their concerns. And so it's hard to
46 measure people's performance and abilities. I think that's one
47 way there could be a feedback loop.

48
49 And, again, I'm certainly willing to try to convey
50 those issues at opportunities like this, but it's certainly

0093

1 going to be from a Park Service perspective or my perspective.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack.

4

5 MR. REAKOFF: I've got one question on that Earth

6 Quest. What dates were you going to have that camp?

7

8 MR. ULVI: I believe it's June 7th to the 17th, Jack.

9 And there's a travel day on the front and one on the back, and

10 basically it's about eight and a half days or nine days or

11 instruction.

12

13 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any other? Thank you. Who's next?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Next would be -- I don't see him here. I

18 must be missing him. Bureau of Land Management from either any

19 of the districts or the office want to speak. I may need

20 glasses.

21

22 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Dave

23 Yokel. Can you hear me? With Bureau of Land Management's

24 Northern District Office in Fairbanks. And the BLM lands that

25 we manage out of the Northern District, that overlap with this

26 region, would be those up in GMU 24 and the northern part of

27 GMU 21. And I have just two topics that I'd like to cover with

28 you very briefly today. And then also if you have any

29 questions about those BLM lands in the northern district I'd

30 try to answer them.

31

32 The first topic is just to bring you up to date on the

33 Lake Tokhakklantien special management area. This was created by

34 Congress last fall. It's a 37,000 acre area just outside of

35 the southwestern corner of the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

36 This area was designated by Congress in response to a loss of

37 refuge lands from the conservation unit system on the Kenai

38 Peninsula. And this area was withdrawn from the mining law by

39 Congress and it will be managed by the Bureau of Land

40 Management in the future in a way that will protect the

41 fisheries and wildlife of the area and the subsistence use of

42 those resources in the area.

43

44 There will be an advisory council that is established

45 under FACA, the Federal Advisory Council Act, to advise BLM on

46 how to manage this area and two members of that Council will

47 come from Alatna, Allakaket, Hughes and Tanana. The BLM is

48 beginning some of the paperwork to establish that Council but I

49 don't believe they'll be sending out the call for nominations

50 for council members until after the Kenai Native Association

0094

1 signs off on their part of the agreement with the Federal
2 government. So once that part's finalized, then the Lake
3 Tokhakklanten area will go forward and you will be hearing from
4 the BLM on getting council members.

5
6 So is there any questions on the Lake Tokhakklanten
7 area before I go on?

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering what the duration of that
10 council would be? Is it just a steering council meeting once a
11 year for a limited time frame?

12
13 MR. YOKEL: The council will meet at least once a year,
14 let's see, to discuss management issues within the special
15 management area. The BLM shall not allow any new type of
16 activity in the special management area without first
17 conferring with the committee in a timely manner. So it will
18 be at least once a year. Probably not more than once a year,
19 unless there is some issue that comes up and cannot wait until
20 the next scheduled annual meeting.

21
22 I don't know if there's anything within the law
23 established there that discuss the term of members. Maybe
24 that's covered in FACA itself. This law does say that members
25 of the committee shall serve without pay.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any other questions?

28
29 MR. R. SAM: Just a comment. We've had a few tele-
30 conference called meetings on this part and like our BLM
31 representative said, nothing is finalized on this. And for the
32 most part all residents of these villages that were mentioned,
33 they're just waiting for the first real meeting actually, and
34 then we want to decide the terms and who serves on this
35 meeting. So at this time we're just playing a waiting game on
36 Kenai.

37
38 MR. YOKEL: Exactly.

39
40 MR. R. SAM: Thank you.

41
42 MR. YOKEL: The only other thing that I have is not an
43 issue. One of our biologists have completed a study on water
44 fowl production in the Hog River Flats in relation to a natural
45 burn in the area. The Hog River Flats is in the Kobuk Drainage
46 actually, just outside of your regional boundary but it's
47 within range of the Villages of Hughes and Huslia. And she
48 just asked me to present this report.

49
50 The summary conclusions basically are that there was no

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1 evidence of any negative impact on water fowl production as a
2 result of this burn within three years following that burn. And
3 she said that she does have some limited copies of this report
4 and if any of you are especially interested in this topic I
5 could ask her to mail something to you, Ray.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Anybody want to get a copy?

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: I'll take one.

10
11 MR. YOKEL: Okay. And other than that I don't have any
12 BLM issues. Nothing new has come up since last fall's meeting.
13 I regret having to miss the meeting in Galena last fall, but I
14 had some issues on NPRA to attend to. I'll answer any other
15 questions at this time if the Council has any?

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I guess that's it then. Thank you,
18 Dave.

19
20 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Council.

21
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jeff, you had a report? I plan to
23 take a break here at 3:00 for the benefit of the members here.

24
25 MR. DENTON: That's good. We'll make it quick. I'm
26 Jeff Denton with the Anchorage District BLM. And in terms of
27 the Anchorage district lands, probably the biggest portion of
28 the yellow in the southern third of your region are all
29 Anchorage district lands. It includes the lands around the
30 Farewell area, south of McGrath to Lime Village, the George
31 River, Iditarod Country, and the Anvik Drainage, Bonasila,
32 Kozaroski (ph) and then the Innoko-Yukon bottoms there, south
33 of the Innoko Refuge.

34
35 So BLM has a considerable amount of lands in your
36 region in the southern portion here. In the recent years --
37 last three years there's been about two and a half million
38 acres that have come back of State selected lands that have
39 actually been relinquished back to BLM. That if you've noted
40 or been tracking, that the yellow on that map has been
41 increasing every year for the last two years. This very last
42 year very little land has been relinquished back, but the two
43 previous years before that there was close to two and a half
44 million acres that came back under the jurisdiction of the
45 Federal Subsistence Board.

46
47 Projects that we're looking at; there's going to be a
48 large scale project basically in this region around Holy Cross,
49 Aniak, and Grayling over the next two years. It's a satellite
50 mapping of vegetation types and there's a bunch of ground

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1 cruising and helicopter activity associated with that. The
2 reason for that is we're trying to get a comprehensive look at
3 vegetation types, habitat types, monitor long term either
4 climatic change, like what global warming may or may not be
5 causing over large regions. It's part of a statewide plan in
6 five years actually to cover all BLM lands in Alaska.

7

8 The NPRA that Mr. Yokel deals with directly, I think --
9 was that totally done last year?

10

11 MR. YOKEL: Past three years.

12

13 MR. DENTON: Past three years is part of this overall
14 project. So this is just the next phase of this statewide look
15 at things. But it will do us a lot of good in terms of
16 identifying distribution of caribou habitats, both used and
17 unused and how they change over time. These satellites can pick
18 up areas of real heavy lichen densities and also identify a few
19 years later if those lichen densities are starting to go
20 downhill. So there's moose habitat shows up fairly well, we
21 know how it's distributed, we can lay on top of that the
22 inventories and counts and surveys we do with moose to see
23 where we have opportunities.

24

25 It also allows us to attract burns and see areas where
26 we have high potential for perhaps prescribed burns to either
27 enhance wildlife habitats or manage them over a long period of
28 time to alleviate some various types of problems that may be
29 coming up.

30

31 All of this region of Alaska is dynamic through time,
32 whether it be fire or climate or flooding, and as all you folks
33 know, that's probably what makes it as productive as it is, and
34 this particular region is extremely productive compared with
35 many areas. So I think that we've got to be able to get a
36 handle on that to benefit everybody. And we're slowly but
37 surely working at that. If you have any questions; that's
38 really all we have going on right now.

39

40 MR. DEACON: Did he say fire?

41

42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The question was what your comments
43 were in relation to fire or fire mapping?

44

45 MR. DENTON: Yes. This whole region of Interior Alaska
46 in general is a fire-driven ecosystem. Fires are probably the
47 major what you'd call change element that changes the landscape
48 here over the centuries. And it has a great deal of influence
49 on quality of habitat. A lot of these areas have fairly short
50 fire cycles, you know, some of them less than a hundred years.

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1 And most of you folks know, moose respond to fire quite well in
2 those areas when the fire burns create a great deal of browse
3 in moose habitat for 20 or 30 years after a fire.

4
5 So there's a lot of areas adjacent, for an example, to
6 the west of here between here and the Yukon Delta Refuge, you
7 know, the last big fire was 1941 in that country and now
8 basically it's a very non-productive area. It's mostly all
9 black spruce and a very little browse. And we flew moose
10 surveys in there two years ago and extremely low densities of
11 moose. And it has opportunities to be managed for moose should
12 there be a need to alleviate a problem or a shortage of moose.

13
14 There's habitat things that can be done to resolve
15 problems and that's one thing I think in terms of a lot of
16 these Subsistence Councils, we need to look beyond just
17 populations and what's going on today, but look at the
18 opportunities of what Mother Nature gives us to create those
19 areas as well and help alleviate some of the conflicts.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Do you have plans to do that now or
22 what would it take to have that happen to have, you know,
23 prescribed burns and that kind of thing?

24
25 MR. DENTON: We would have to -- as an example, we're
26 working right now with Jack Whitman there in McGrath to do some
27 burns in and around the old Farewell burn. It's actually in a
28 point where it needs to be recycled again for the bison out
29 there, as well as some moose habitats. It'll take an
30 interagency planning effort so we know exactly what objective
31 the State has and other folks have for populations and
32 distribution of critters. We've got to watch out for caribou
33 when you burn too. There are some conflicts with burning. But
34 you've got to do it well planned.

35
36 We engaged a real fire specialist down at the Alaska
37 Fire Service who are prescribe burn specialists to set the
38 prescriptions and how to control those burns to do exactly what
39 we want them to do. And then it's a matter of getting the
40 dollars and the manpower and the right time of the year to do
41 it and carry it out.

42
43 And what I look at is looking a hundred to 200 year
44 windows of burn programs that have repeated burns and so you
45 can manage the distribution area in your treatments through
46 time so you always have somewhere in those areas a good habitat
47 diversity of age classes of various habitat types so you can
48 accommodate all of your species.

49
50 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Do you see the Councils having any

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1 role in that, or is it a matter you would be reporting to us
2 after the fact of the burn or what.....

3
4 MR. DENTON: I would see some of both. I would expect
5 maybe the Councils when we do some of these surveys, or if
6 there's some recognized problems where prescribed burns or some
7 other type of habitat treatments might help alleviate a
8 localized problem or a conflict with -- you know, up river/down
9 river conflicts. Maybe there's ways to do some habitat things
10 to enhance their moose situation down river by providing better
11 habitat situation down there and alleviate.

12
13 There's ways of maybe through time and space with
14 treatments and habitat management to help resolve some of the
15 conflicts I think. That's something we really haven't look at
16 very good.

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I would think that if you have
19 financial problems in that area or something and it definitely
20 is something let's say that would improve subsistence
21 opportunities, it might be that we would want to come in and
22 support and request that something like that be done. I don't
23 know, I'm just giving examples.

24
25 MR. DENTON: I think that's a possibility.

26
27 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman, that's the concern we had
28 last couple of weeks ago when we had the meeting there in
29 Anvik, that someone mentioned about burnt area up in Federal
30 land and they were kind of guess because there was not enough
31 information on those stuff. And why burn area, you know? As
32 far as you can see it, moose or whatever you're going to burn
33 the ground for, moose kind of -- summertime they go in the
34 lakes area, you know, they live on vegetation. In the
35 wintertime they live on the edge of willow -- on the willow
36 area. And there's a lot of that. Why burn somewhere in the
37 woods where, you know, just by curiosity for you people?

38
39 MR. DENTON: Well, there's a lot of different
40 situations where -- you know even natural fires performed
41 certain things here. And you may have old aged willow that
42 isn't available to moose any more, you may have -- you know, in
43 terms of your birch and your cottonwood bottoms here -- you
44 know, in the river bottom here the ice scouring does a lot of
45 the things that fire would do otherwise.

46
47 In the uplands after a fire you a lot of times get a
48 lot of willows and browse that'll be there for 15 to 25 years
49 where it's real effective and then the black spruce and white
50 spruce comes in and shades it out and your moose fade away

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1 because there's nothing there to sustain them. And then the
2 fire cycles that we have in Alaska -- a lot of Interior Alaska,
3 normally natural fires would occur every 70-80 years, depending
4 on where you're at and it would keep that cycling. So you'd
5 have a cycle of moose populations following those fires.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Go ahead, Ronald.

8
9 MR. R. SAM: I guess we've always had a concern about
10 this let burn policy that the BLM have come out with. For one
11 it takes away the only job that a lot of our boys can get,
12 seasonal jobs, plus a lot of our area is burned every 20 to 25
13 years, instead of the 60-70. And in the area of that burn
14 policy it's taking up all the trap line cabins and a lot of the
15 moose feed and all and everything else that gets in its way
16 seems like, including the long term lichen growth for caribou
17 feeds.

18
19 And is there anyway -- I guess we've asked this time
20 and time again. Is there anyway we can participate on setting
21 a policy for this, that burn policy that's being -- that's in
22 effect?

23
24 MR. DENTON: Yeah. I'm not familiar with what the fire
25 planning is up in your particular region. I can only speak for
26 I guess the stuff I deal with all the time. But we sit down on
27 an annual basis and go over the different -- we don't have a
28 let burn policy. A lot of it's economically driven, a lot of
29 it is some areas it's just uneconomical to fight fire in those
30 areas because of the resource values and so on and the
31 commitment of manpower and equipment. We just don't have the
32 money to do it any more.

33
34 But we go over those every year and modify the lines
35 that are full suppression areas where there is homes and fish
36 camps and villages and so on at risk, those areas are zoned out
37 for either full suppression or some similar type management
38 fire response. There's other areas there are modified
39 suppression which you go in and it's a more surgical sort of
40 operation to stop the fire in certain places, and other places
41 it's lower priority to stop it. Eventually we'll stop it, but
42 it's a matter of what manpower we have to commit to it.

43
44 And then there's other areas that basically you observe
45 them. And where they're real back country and not posing a
46 great deal of threat.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering what the --
49 with the prescribed burn program, is there a local hire
50 preference for people that would have a village nearby where

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1 the prescribed burn program is?

2

3 MR. DENTON: I would suspect in most any fire situation
4 the nearest resources are the manpower that would be used.
5 That's the only economical way to do it.

6

7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Bill.

8

9 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chairman, talking about this fire
10 to bring the moose back. Now, is there any kind of study on
11 the risk of the animals like the marten and furbearers on the
12 land?

13

14 MR. DENTON: Actually, over the last several years
15 there's been quite a bit of research, especially with
16 furbearers and marten. And I think there's a fellow at Galena
17 that's done a lot of that research. But he's finding that
18 there's a large -- and we did the same thing in the Farewell
19 burn as well because it was a concern several years ago. They
20 wanted to do some prescribed burn there and they didn't do it
21 because of marten. And the studies so far are showing that
22 most of the juvenile marten are dispersing into those burns and
23 actually those burns are providing a very important actually
24 resource that is a very good trapable resource of marten.

25

26 But the impacts on marten populations are not what was
27 suspected and actually those burns provide very, very good
28 habitat pockets for juvenile marten dispersing from regular --
29 you know, the old growth type spruce forest because they don't
30 have any place to disperse to. They're having to compete with
31 the territorial older animals there and they have to disperse
32 somewhere. And so that becomes a very dependable source for
33 trapping marten out there.

34

35 MR. DERENDOFF: That's not so.

36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I know in our area now where the
38 moose populations are depressed, the only exception in that
39 area is in that Farewell burn area where there's some healthy
40 populations. It's really made a difference in that country. I
41 don't know if that's true all over, but it sure.....

42

43 MR. DENTON: Yeah. And those burns were in the latter
44 '70s and they're starting to decline. And the bison herd is
45 was another thing that really responded to that burn at that
46 time. It's starting to get lower productivity and so on now
47 because the succession after fire is starting to have its
48 influences.

49

50 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The bison numbers were sitting right

00101

1 around a hundred I think and they went up to between 300 and
2 400 animals because of the burn. They moved into the burn and
3 really grew. Before that the population had been staying
4 pretty static, just over a hundred. So in some areas it can
5 make a real difference. I don't know about your country.

6
7 MR. DENTON: It's a matter of having people that really
8 know fire ecology and what responses you're going to get.
9 There's a right place and a wrong place to do burns. You just
10 don't go burning indiscriminately, it doesn't work.

11
12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. I guess that's it.
13 Let's take a break.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (On record)

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We're down to the Fish and Wildlife
20 Service, so if they could be ready to give their report. Who
21 is the first here? On the item it says the steel shot
22 enforcement update. Is that what you want to begin with? Who
23 is prepared to speak to that issue?

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Tony Booth. And I think he just
26 rant to the wash room. He just came back. So Tony will be
27 back and relieved and ready to go.

28
29 MR. BOOTH: Am I on?

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, you're on. And I was talking
32 to Tony about down under New Business C, fishing and wildlife
33 on the trapping issue. And he has some background information
34 that he might want to give on that as part of his report now.
35 Is that what you were asking?

36
37 MR. BOOTH: Yes, to give you some time before tomorrow,
38 if you want to decide what you want to do as action.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Any action on it would be
41 postponed until tomorrow. Go ahead with your report then.

42
43 MR. BOOTH: Okay. I notice on the agenda there's a
44 couple of things on there too that I think I can just go over
45 real quick here.

46
47 One for a presentation on moose/predator relationships.
48 And let me -- predator/prey relationships. Just real quickly,
49 we were developing last year a decision made to try to work out
50 an outreach or some information program targeted primarily for

00102

1 you because of the interest in wolf control and the concerns of
2 wolves up here.

3
4 And we had a meeting on what would be an effective way
5 to do that and Ray was there and Steve McGinnis from the
6 Eastern Interior and it was decided it would be two separate
7 programs. The first one was given at the last meeting by Tom
8 Early and it -- basically just what the refuge purpose is and
9 legal requirements for managing refuges were primarily.

10
11 The second phase would be more specific to moose/wolf
12 relationships and under what conditions might we want to
13 consider wolf control on a National Wildlife Refuge because
14 this is a very, very controversial issue when you talk about
15 national interest on that with respect to refuges.

16
17 Basically the original schedule was for us to have
18 Phase II of the second program ready for this round of
19 meetings. That's been delayed, we don't have that program. We
20 will be working on that during the summer and maybe by next
21 fall we should have maybe something available if you're
22 interested in a program on that.

23
24 The other thing I see, steel shot update on that; the
25 only thing I can tell you about the steel shot update is the
26 Fish and Wildlife Service does plan on beginning enforcement of
27 steel shot requirements for all water fowl hunting in Alaska in
28 1988. Current situation right now, we do enforce it for the
29 fall regular season, but during the spring water fowl season
30 there has been no enforcement of the steel shot requirements.
31 And we plan on implementing full enforcement of that by 1998.

32
33 MR. REAKOFF: Spring and fall?

34
35 MR. BOOTH: Spring and fall. We are on the verge of
36 completing the treaty amendments, getting it ratified. We've
37 been working on it for several years. That would allow us --
38 the treaty amendment's required to allow us to allow a spring
39 water fowl season. Previously there is under International
40 Treaty Agreements we've had with Canada and Mexico and I
41 believe Japan, we could not allow spring water fowl hunting,
42 legally, but there was -- as a result of a judge's decision we
43 could have some flexibility in enforcing that, even though we
44 could not legally provide a season. These new amendments will
45 allow a legal spring season and it will be regulated.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: That will be in 1998?

48
49 MR. BOOTH: That's when we plan to enforce the steel or
50 non-toxic shot requirements. That doesn't necessarily mean

00103

1 when the new regulations will be into effect.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: How are you going to enforce that if
4 there's no season?

5

6 MR. BOOTH: You're asking questions that I can't
7 answer. I've been wondering that myself. I would say in
8 addition to that there are some alternatives to steel shot that
9 are in the process of being approved. And I think I just saw
10 recently a notice where we did approve -- I think there was a
11 business, some alternatives to steel shot. And some of these
12 alternatives have ballistic properties more similar to what
13 people are familiar with with lead. A little bit higher
14 specific density and heavier things. And so they're in the
15 process. And then there is another one that's currently being
16 published. I can't remember which one. I think that's a
17 Tungsten 10 or some other alternative too.

18

19 I would suspect though that initially these
20 alternatives will be very expensive until the market is
21 gradually -- you know, get into mass production of these
22 alternatives, bring the cost down. That's the only thing I can
23 tell you about the steel shot update. It kind of caught me by
24 surprise here. I wasn't watching the agenda.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any questions on that so far? All
27 right. Ron.

28

29 MR. R. SAM: Wouldn't it be easier just to hit all the
30 merchants that sell these shots instead of just making a big
31 public outcry about enforcing this?

32

33 MR. BOOTH: That's been considered, you know. One of
34 the most effective ways is just to get it off the market. But
35 there's no law against selling lead shot. The only law is
36 right now you can't use it for hunting water fowl. You can
37 still use it for hunting other things. So you can't use lead
38 shot for hunting water fowl.

39

40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: But you can hunt grouse and other
41 things?

42

43 MR. BOOTH: But for anything other than water fowl you
44 can still use lead shot. So there's been no prohibition on the
45 sale or manufacturer of lead shot. I would agree that that
46 more effective strategy would just ban the manufacturer of it
47 all together, but then that would throw you into having to
48 require, you know, non-toxic shot for everything, upland game
49 species too.

50

00104

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Do you want to have
2 background report on this trapping report right now?

3
4 MR. BOOTH: Yeah, I wanted to dismiss of those two
5 things because they were on the agenda and I'll get into what,
6 you know, I think you guys were more expected to talk about,
7 was the trapping issue. There's actually two related trapping
8 issues here.

9
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And we will not get into discussion
11 of what we will report. I think we can do that tomorrow, you
12 know, what our response will be to this issue, but he can tell
13 us what he knows about what's happening.

14
15 MR. BOOTH: Yes. I think it's pretty well covered in
16 that briefing statement. There's not a whole lot to add to
17 that. I'll just give you a really brief background on it. It
18 just came up last summer, during the House negotiations when
19 they were negotiating the Interior Appropriations Bill. The
20 initial House version of the Interior Appropriations Bill had
21 some language inserted into that which basically would have
22 prohibited the use of steel leghold -- or leghold traps on
23 refuges, except for very specific purposes, which was law
24 enforcement or something. There wasn't much leeway for
25 exceptions there.

26
27 Okay. Now, this initial language came out last summer.
28 We were advised, you know, Washington office did call and we
29 sent them some comments. They also asked the Congressional --
30 the Staff that was introducing this legislation had asked for
31 certain information from the refuges. We did respond, we
32 provided them information. We did -- I know comments I sent
33 back. We did basically send comments back that said that said,
34 you know, hey, ANILCA requirements; there's a guarantee,
35 subsistence trapping is a very important item up here in Alaska
36 and, you know, it certainly wouldn't be appropriate to apply
37 something like this to Alaska, especially.

38
39 However, that -- the final Appropriations Bill came out
40 in September, had some revised language. They didn't go with a
41 complete prohibition on the use of traps, but there was
42 language that was retained in there that basically Congress
43 instructed the Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a task
44 force that would be comprised of various outside interests --
45 include outside interests, which they would look -- you know,
46 review the trapping on refuges and various aspects of trapping
47 and report back to Congress by March 1st, 1997.

48
49 That kind of snuck up on us. And I guess you
50 understand the process there. The Interior Appropriations Bill

00105

1 is normally a very large, complex bill and it's not at all an
2 uncommon practice for various interest groups working through
3 their Congressman or Senator to include various languages in
4 there that don't really have anything specific to do with
5 appropriations, but kind of like inserting riders into this
6 act. And that's basically what happened here, they snuck it in
7 there.

8
9 When we saw the initial draft language we probably
10 didn't take it as serious as we should have because we just
11 figured our Congressional delegation would knock it out pretty
12 fast. I guess in retrospect we should have taken it more
13 serious. It did sneak up on us. We do have now this
14 requirement that Congress placed on us to collect information.

15
16 However, during the creation of this task force we were
17 advised by our Solicitor's office that there are certain
18 requirements under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, FACA
19 requirements that we could not comply with in the time Congress
20 has given us to do this report and we would be subject to all
21 kinds of suits, litigation and everything.

22
23 So it was decided in Washington that rather than go
24 with any kind of task force we aborted that whole idea. We
25 just said we would open it for general comments to the public,
26 allow the public to comment, provide information and we would
27 provide Congress the general public comments that we received,
28 unedited, unaltered, give it to them.

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So there will be no summary report.
31 All of these comments that are coming in are just going to be
32 handed over to Congress then?

33
34 MR. BOOTH: Yes. The comments will be handed over. I
35 don't know that that necessarily precludes some summary or not.
36 And also, in addition to what we're receiving from the public
37 we've also been instructed all refuges nationwide have provided
38 information in response to a standard questionnaire that was
39 sent out on the amount of trapping, the type of species that
40 are trapped and non-target animals that might be trapped and
41 the methods and everything else. So, you know, we've had to
42 send all of our refuge -- we've had to dig out a lot of
43 information about just the level of trapping on each of the
44 refuges up here.

45
46 I also should point out earlier there was a concern
47 voiced that February -- public comments were due February 15th.
48 We're already past that. There has been a letter sent by Mitch
49 that we helped with, sent back to Washington saying in light of
50 the level of significance, the reports of trapping in Alaska

00106

1 and the timing of these Regional Councils and the importance of
2 these Councils, you know, to work in this process, ask that any
3 comments received by Councils after that we asked would be
4 accepted, or Mitch's letter asked that they be accepted.

5
6 I can't certainly speculate conclusively, but I would
7 anticipate that they would be favorably -- they would give an
8 extension to whatever Regional Council comments are received
9 after that date. But that's requested anyway. I'll try to
10 answer any questions on that.

11
12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack.

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering what that task force
15 composition -- you say there's outside interests, what kind of
16 Alaskan interests are on that task force as far as.....

17
18 MR. BOOTH: There is no task force. It was thrown out.

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: Oh.

21
22 MR. BOOTH: It was basically said that task force will
23 not work in the time we have.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

26
27 MR. BOOTH: Because there was so much -- so many
28 outside interests wanting to get involved on that. In the
29 interim before they aborted the whole idea of the task force we
30 had asked for -- there was a person from the Alaska Department
31 of Fish and Game that was going to be on that and we asked for
32 two Native -- you know, a couple of Native people supposedly we
33 had nominated to make sure we had Alaska interests represented
34 on that. But during the process, you know, the whole thing
35 became moot because they just abandoned that whole idea and
36 instead went with just general public notice.

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: I see.

39
40 MR. BOOTH: There's a copy of that general notice
41 published in the Federal Register in December and there's a
42 copy of that in your briefing booklet, I believe.

43
44 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

47
48 MR. G. SAM: My office's been saturated with propaganda
49 from these outside voices like Wild Voices, Sierra Club,
50 Friends of Animals and it's kind of the tactics that they used

00107

1 on the wolf issue. And I'm kind of curious as to where is it
2 heading now. I mean would you know?

3
4 MR. BOOTH: I'd be afraid to speculate on where it's
5 heading. It's -- you're right, typically when you get into one
6 of these things like emotional controversial issues like wolf
7 control or trapping, you generally -- some of these outside
8 interests are very well organized, they have a lot of --
9 they're really set up to where they have a good communication
10 network and they do tend to swamp the requestor with all kinds
11 of letters and postcard, form letters and whatever and, you
12 know, that's certainly anybody's prerogative to go that
13 approach and that's commonly done.

14
15 MR. G. SAM: Well, their war chest is much larger than
16 ours, you know, it's in the millions of dollars. Another thing
17 I -- the question I had about the steel shot, is there a
18 program that goes out and teaches people how to use these
19 shells?

20
21 MR. BOOTH: Yes, we've held a seminar or a workshop in
22 a variety of vill -- a lot of villages. And if you're, you
23 know, whatever village that's been missed, it's possible that
24 Fish and Game in cooperation with us have put on workshops in a
25 lot of villages on the use of steel shot.

26
27 MR. G. SAM: Okay. I heard there was another type of
28 shell that might be coming out.

29
30 MR. BOOTH: Yeah. And I can't remember. There's
31 several being tested. They have to be tested for toxicity.
32 You know, we don't want to substitute lead with something else
33 that's toxic too. And also they do a lot of ballistics to make
34 sure they're effective. They don't want to put something out
35 there that maintains a high crippling loss or something like
36 that. And I can't remember. One was just approved recently,
37 another alternative. I think it was a bismuth alloyed with
38 something else. It should be more like lead or similar to
39 lead. And there's another one, there's been a proposed
40 certification. I think it'll go out -- it should be approved in
41 the near future and I can't remember what it is.

42
43 MR. G. SAM: I understand it's the same shell that
44 (indiscernible) uses. It's a shotgun that automatically shots
45 like an M-16.

46
47 MR. BOOTH: Oh, I don't know about that. I don't know.

48
49 MR. G. SAM: Well, it must be my underground
50 information.

00108

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any questions on this issue now? We
2 will be visiting that for action.

3
4 MR. BOOTH: Oh, okay, go ahead.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: No, we'll try to develop a response.
7 But is there any question about what's happened or how it came
8 about or.....

9
10 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chairman, I do have a question.
11 You were saying this special interest group, they had high
12 communication. And if they were that interested, why don't they
13 just come up here and (indiscernible-away from microphone).

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: We can't hear you back here.

16
17 MR. DERENDOFF: You were saying that they had good
18 communication. And to me it seems like actually it ain't very
19 good communication the way it came up to me, the way I heard it
20 and how fast it came up. And I thought if they wanted to have
21 good communication they should just come up here or send a
22 representative up here, one of the special interest group, and
23 go ahead and discuss this trapping issue with us.

24
25 MR. BOOTH: I certainly can't speak on behalf of the
26 tactics used by some of these other interest groups. Perhaps
27 it.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I could comment on what happened --
30 what our experience was in McGrath on the wolf issue. There
31 was a meeting held there that invited the State and the others,
32 and they were invited out there, but we're not the audience
33 they were trying to reach. They were spending their dollars to
34 get information -- because the State was going to vote on like
35 banning the land and shoot and so on. They spend their monies
36 in that area.

37
38 And I don't think it's not worth -- well, I'm
39 speculating again. But they're not trying to convince us,
40 they're trying to convince the Congressional delegation to pass
41 this legislation. That's why. So they're targeting who they
42 spend their money on for publicity. Although I guess they're
43 sending information to Tanana Chiefs, is that right?

44
45 MR. G. SAM: Oh, yeah. Well, actually, some guy faxed
46 -- I don't want to get up and run over there. Another
47 environmentalist out of Anchorage contact our office. And I
48 didn't bring the -- it's a one page article that was published
49 in some newspaper or something. And it states on there that
50 the Native population is so small that they're not the main

00109

1 people that are trapping here. It's the urban people that are
2 trapping just to trap, just for the fun of it. It's not
3 something that they do to make a living, it's just for
4 recreational use. That's what the whole article pertains to.
5 And it shows, of course, the animal caught in the trap with its
6 arm broken and, you know, it's dangling there.

7
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Vince.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: For your homework assignment, in your
11 files there are letters that Ray Collins has written, a
12 personal letter on this trapping issue, a copy of the North
13 Slope Borough's -- no, excuse me, North Slope Regional
14 Council's letter on trapping and then there's just a single
15 sheet of a paragraph on top signed by Craig Fleener in your
16 book under the tab that deals with trapping. That didn't get
17 copied.

18
19 And Jack has a copy of a letter that he wrote. So I
20 either pass it out now or wait until tomorrow when you deal
21 with it. It's up to you. But you'll have all these other
22 letters that have excellent points on

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Why don't you pass it out and let us
25 put it in here. If we're going to read them tonight, they
26 might want to read that too. And then we'll discuss it
27 tomorrow to see.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And then one of the points I raised
32 in my letter was the same as Mitch's. I was writing on behalf
33 of myself but I did state that I was Chair of one of these and
34 was protesting that they didn't give us time to get comments
35 in. And then that's in line with what Mitch had asked. Yes,
36 Ron.

37
38 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, the Alatna Tribal
39 Council also drew up a resolution and passed about the first or
40 second week in February, and I think it should be on the desk
41 of Tanana Chiefs and appropriate agencies that we are trying to
42 reach. I just want you to be aware of it, that we do have a
43 resolution out and I just can't find it in my bag full of
44 papers.

45
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. I think we're ready to move
47 on with the other Federal reports then -- or refuge reports.

48
49 MR. BOOTH: There's one more trapping issue.

50

00110

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, okay.

2

3 MR. BOOTH: It's of interest to you. And Vince is
4 handing out some information on that. This is not a specific
5 refuge issue per say coming up now. It doesn't have anything
6 to do specifically with refuges. It's a law enforcement
7 administrator's program. But last summer there was a
8 regulations that were developed and went into effect that
9 raises the import/export license fees for exporting wildlife,
10 wildlife parts, which of most concern to you is furs. And
11 there's been some fairly significant increases in those. You
12 may be aware of that. I think a lot of you are.

13

14 I thought it would be worthwhile to bring that up here.
15 That wasn't exactly on the agenda but it's certainly a trapping
16 related issue. In the handouts we've got it just has some
17 information. One, I asked law enforcement to put together some
18 information that help provide you that, you know, why this was
19 done and what these mean. And basically it's just an increase
20 in the fee requirements for -- and to make it clear, this only
21 applies to the import or export of fur or other wildlife parts,
22 international import. Say you're shipping furs over to Canada
23 or somewhere. But something you need to be aware of.

24

25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: As I understand it, the way it's
26 impacting local trappers, if you want to send furs to Canada to
27 get on the fur market now basically you have to have an export
28 permit, which is \$50.00.00, and then you have to pay \$55.00 to
29 have your furs inspected every time you go to send a batch over
30 to Canada.

31

32 MR. BOOTH: \$55.00 of more, depending on where you're
33 shipping from and what you're shipping.

34

35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

36

37 MR. BOOTH: And I don't want to -- previously there was
38 an exception for any business under \$25,000.00, didn't have to
39 have this import/export fee. Now, there is no exception,
40 everybody has to have it. Hopefully this will clarify what's
41 required. There are certain species that are covered under the
42 CITES permit. The CITES permit is the -- let me see if I can
43 get the wording down, it's Conservation of -- Convention of
44 International Trade on Endangered Species. And it deals with
45 import/export of endangered species or species that resemble.
46 In some case, you know, they can be mistaken or resemble
47 endangered species.

48

49 In Alaska we're talking about lynx, wolves and river
50 otters. And if you're shipping any of those three species it's

00111

1 a higher inspection fee. They're using the CITES permit
2 requirement for it.

3
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you.

5
6 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair?

7
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Gabe.

9
10 MR. G. SAM: I'm getting tired of coming up here.
11 Recently George Yaska was at Washington, he talked to somebody
12 named Rogers.

13
14 MR. BOOTH: Yeah, John Rogers.

15
16 MR. G. SAM: Yeah, John Rogers. And maybe if there was
17 enough input on this and, you know, that maybe this will be
18 waived next year some time. Because some people -- I mean
19 we're questioning why is US Fish and Wildlife charging, you
20 know, the trappers to inspect the furs. That don't make sense,
21 you know. A lot of these trappers out here every dollar they
22 get they need. I mean \$55.00 may not seem like a lot of them
23 but, you know, these trappers out here if they have to pay
24 \$25.00 for each lynx and sometimes lynx ain't even barely worth
25 \$25.00 as it is now. And, you know, that's just another
26 wasteful way of -- I mean, you know, US Fish and Wildlife on
27 how much money they're going to make off of it. But I don't
28 really think it's necessary.

29
30 And TCC's point -- stand on it now is we are dead set
31 against that and we're going to work every which way we could
32 to get that removed. And I'd just like that on record.

33
34 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chair, there is a person that do
35 these for selling fur, exporting fur to another country from
36 here in Alaska, does he has to pay this fee for exporting it
37 into Canada?

38
39 MR. BOOTH: Yes.

40
41 MR. DERENDOFF: This person that's working for the fur
42 company in Canada, he's just an agent here in Alaska and he
43 takes care of that. Like I send my fur to him then he takes
44 care of the rest. Is that what his fee.....

45
46 MR. BOOTH: Yes. Whoever exports those furs will have
47 to.....

48
49 MR. DERENDOFF: Well, he's responsible for paying the
50 fee but then he also take it off -- take it out.....

00112

1 MR. BOOTH: Indirectly you'll wind up -- he'll wind up
2 taking it out of your.....

3
4 MR. DERENDOFF: Yeah.

5
6 MR. BOOTH: What he pays you.

7
8 MR. DERENDOFF: So that's what you're saying?

9
10 MR. BOOTH: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes. Hollis.

13
14 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell, Denali National Park.
15 I wanted to bring up another issue that's developed in Denali
16 regarding trapping and specifically wolves.

17
18 In 1985 there was a wolf that was trapped illegally on
19 the east side of Denali, just outside of the park's boundary,
20 where the wolf was trapped after the trapping season in May.
21 And it was a radio collared wolf from the Denali pack. That
22 particular trapping incident was picked up by the different
23 special interest groups and it was publicized quite widely
24 across the Lower 48. And as a result of that generated over
25 1,200 letters to the Park since then asking the Superintendent
26 to close the park and preserve to trapping and particularly to
27 trapping of wolves.

28
29 The Park is still dealing with the ramifications of
30 that incident and we'll talk a little about it in Proposal 31
31 tomorrow. I just would like to point out that the public
32 response to that has been primarily from people outside of the
33 State. Many of them are in the form letter type of documents.
34 In addition to the letters directly to the Superintendent,
35 petitions have been submitted by different organizations, not
36 only to the Superintendent, but to the Regional Director in
37 Alaska, to the National Director, to the Alaska Delegation and
38 also to the President. So the forum for expressing these other
39 public concerns are quite widespread and goes all through the
40 different levels of influence.

41
42 One of the things is being challenged is that the
43 Superintendent is not meeting his ANILCA mandates for managing
44 wolves in the area. Much of the approach that's being taken
45 now is to try to get the Superintendent through his authority
46 to close the area. And that approach and that tactic is being
47 used, rather than going through the Federal Subsistence Board
48 to try to close trapping through that forum.

49
50 So just be aware, you know, that any time you have a

00113

1 trapping incident, especially something that's involving
2 wolves, and is an illegal harvest, it'll be used to a great
3 extent by other public interest groups.

4
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, Jack.

6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, the Park Service made a
8 transmittal to this Council that they would in the future after
9 this free ranging furbearer incident, that they would try to
10 channel all subsistence related issues through the Council.

11
12 So it behooves the Superintendent of Denali to maintain
13 that working relationship with the Council.

14
15 MR. TWITCHELL: Oh, there certainly is. And the Park's
16 position is that we have a healthy population of wolves in the
17 Denali, they are not being stressed in any sense and that
18 ANILCA does provide for the subsistence taking both in the park
19 and the preserve of wolves under trapping authorities, as well
20 as a sporttaking in the preserves. And that's the Park's
21 position, that it's a legal type of harvest, as long as it's
22 within season and within bag limits and the wolf population is
23 indeed doing fine.

24
25 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Thank you. You can continue
28 with the other reports.

29
30 MR. BOOTH: Yeah, from here I'll turn it over to the
31 individual refuge representatives.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. If we follow the list here,
34 Yukon -- oh, excuse me.

35
36 MR. SOMMER: I'm getting kind of upset here. It seems
37 like all the people in the outlying areas from the leghold
38 traps to regulating water fowl that people have been doing for
39 years and years and years. You people putting out regulations
40 and not backing up in the moose so-called sport urban hunter
41 moose hunters, that are filling up all these parts of these
42 regions. I don't know who -- that's all I say, I'm getting
43 upset. All this is in the villages and everything.

44
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think we hear what you're saying.
46 Part of what they're reporting though is they didn't initiate
47 this. They're reporting something that's being initiated by
48 someone else either in Congress or.....

49
50 MR. SOMMER: Wherever it's coming from.

00114

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. I know it.

2

3 MR. BOOTH: We're just as upset as you are. We're not
4 real happy either. Thanks.

5

6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thanks. It's always dangerous to be
7 the bearer of bad news.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the next would be if there
10 if someone here to speak for Koyukuk-Nowitna. I don't know if
11 there are any Staff here. The next would be Kanuti National
12 Wildlife Refuge, and that will be followed by Innoko National
13 Wildlife Refuge.

14

15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

16

17 MR. EARLY: Thank you. I'm Tom Early, Manager of the
18 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge located just to the east of
19 Allakaket and south of Bettles, kind of in a northern tier I
20 guess of the Interior.

21

22 There's about five things that we're doing that I'd
23 like to just talk about real quickly. And things that pertain
24 to subsistence, things that we've been -- that's mainly for the
25 most part ongoing and things that we're going to be doing this
26 summer also that you might have an interest in.

27

28 One of them, and I think we share this with Koyukuk-
29 Nowitna Refuge also, is our concern for the white fronted goose
30 populations. We talked about this a little bit last fall. But
31 we're continuing to monitor some radio collars on some white
32 fronted geese to determine a little better method of monitoring
33 those populations because we both -- both refuges feel like the
34 populations of those geese are dropping. We don't have real
35 hard proof of it but we're concerned about that drop. We don't
36 know exactly where that is occurring. Suspicion that it may be
37 south of our area, maybe on their way south when they're
38 migrating, getting hit possibly kind of hard by some hunting
39 pressure in Canada possibly.

40

41 The other project we're working on and we have been
42 working on for several years is trying to monitor furbearer
43 populations on the refuge. And part of that process is
44 continuing to buy carcasses from trappers, wolf, lynx, marten,
45 wolverine, fox, et cetera. And this is an effort for us so
46 that we can determine the health of these species. See if the
47 population in general of these species are good or if something
48 appears to be going a little bit wrong with them. And we do
49 offer some cash for the carcass and we do honor the tradition
50 that you have for disposal of these carcasses also.

00115

1 The other issue or the other topic is the fact that we
2 have been regarding the fire policies on refuges. There have
3 been some concerns by both the Allakaket and the Alatna
4 Villages of fire around those villages now, especially the fact
5 that they're relocated in some heavy stands of spruce. And we
6 are trying to work with the Alaska Fire Service and we've had
7 some discussions with the Alaska Fire Service and the villages
8 to try to establish some black lines around those villages, if
9 we can, and just see if we can alleviate some of those
10 potential threats for wild fires in that part of the Interior.

11
12 The other thing that we've been doing is collaring some
13 individual wolves on the refuge. We collared 10 last spring.
14 And we're trying to come up with kind of an economical, it's
15 not real economical, but a method that's the most economical I
16 guess to try to come up with a long term means to monitor wolf
17 populations on the refuge, or at least to get a trend of the
18 populations. And we had five packs that had radio collars in
19 those packs so that we could relocate those packs to determine
20 their movements and relative size of the packs. We lost track
21 of one of those packs during the course of the summer and the
22 fall. We still have four on the air, basically.

23
24 And for all indications, it appears the pack sizes are
25 stable or declining some. And it's always kind of frustrating
26 because sometimes the weather holds you back or the conditions
27 are not very good for observing the exact numbers in these wolf
28 packs, but some packs went from 12 down to probably about half
29 of that. There's one pack that's increasing from five to eight
30 from '96 until '97, this year. And the others seem to be
31 slightly decreasing.

32
33 Now, we're hoping, and from all indications the way we
34 set up the packs, looking at the packs to collar, it looks like
35 this may be kind of the general trend for at least our area.
36 And I think if we continue to follow these packs maybe we'll
37 have some more information on this but we're trying to come up
38 with a long term monitoring program for wolf populations, at
39 least in our area.

40
41 The last item I have is just to let people know that we
42 will be advertising for what we call a Refuge Information
43 Technician Position. Several years ago Johnson Moses, an elder
44 from Allakaket Village, filled this position for quite a few
45 years. He retired several years ago and we are just being able
46 to refill this position. Hopefully that'll give us a little
47 better interface with the villagers in the area, and probably
48 be advertising that in optimistically a month, maybe a little
49 less.

50

00116

1 That's about all that I have. If there are any
2 questions I'd be glad to answer them.

3
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any questions?

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering what pup size litters
7 they were having? Are they producing pups or.....

8
9 MR. EARLY: Yeah. There was only one pack where we saw
10 pups. And now we may have missed a couple. There's one pack
11 that's just really weary and it's really hard to locate them.
12 They seem to take off at the sound of an airplane so we have --
13 and that's one of the larger packs that we think have increased
14 in size. But there's just about two packs that have pups. I'm
15 sorry I don't have the exact information, but there's not a lot
16 of pups out there this year like we had seen in some other
17 years.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes. Henry.

20
21 MR. DEACON: I don't know, my question for you is, do
22 you know how much pack wolf can eat moose a week or month?

23
24 MR. EARLY: The State might be able to answer that too.
25 I think that -- oh, I've heard some figures on that and I don't
26 know if I could really say that with any reliability, but I
27 think about one moose a week for a normal size pack is pretty
28 close. I don't know if that's close to it, but it's something
29 in that neighborhood.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Anyone have better information on
32 that?

33
34 MR. EARLY: I know in some of the studies -- we did
35 have a pretty intensive study in '92 -- '93, the spring of '93
36 for about a month period surveying feeding habits for one
37 specific pack. And -- well, no, it was more than one pack, it
38 was three packs, I guess. And one pack was doing quite well,
39 was able to get an animal. There was caribou in the area at
40 the time. About one a week and either caribou or a moose. And
41 some of the other packs didn't seem to be near as successful.
42 They were eating fish and beaver. That's a pretty good
43 substitute species also or maybe a primary species. I think
44 they like beaver quite a bit too. But some packs do better
45 than others is all I can say.

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you.

48
49 MR. EARLY: Thank you.

50

00117

1 MS. REID: Good afternoon. My name is Laura Reid and
2 I'm the Assistant Manager at Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.
3 And looking at the minutes from the last meeting when the
4 Manager, Ed Merritt, was in Galena, I don't have a whole lot of
5 new information since October. We don't really do a lot of
6 projects in the wintertime. Other than we've been doing a snow
7 survey in cooperation with the State, trying to record the snow
8 depths out on the refuge and apply that to some other
9 information we're trying to collect that can relate to a lot of
10 different things including, you know, moose habitat, critical
11 moose winter habitat and the use of it.

12
13 I'll kind of reiterate some of the things that Ed
14 covered in the fall. We have done moose surveys in March of
15 '94 and '96. And we estimate on the high end about 4,000 moose
16 throughout the refuge. And basically that's all the
17 information I have on that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: What would be the low end of that
20 estimate? Do you have that too?

21
22 MS. REID: I'm including like calves during the
23 summertime and all of that, about 4,000. Probably close to
24 3,000, 3,500 somewhere right in that area. When you're talking
25 about mortality over the winter, you know, calf mortality,
26 winter kill, predator kill, all those things are included into
27 the March surveys when we do our moose survey. So it just
28 depends on the year, you know, and the weather.

29
30 I've had some questions regarding fire and prescribed
31 burning on the refuge. Apparently that was brought up at the
32 meeting in Anvik in respects to Innoko Refuge having some plans
33 for doing some prescribed burning in the near future. And I
34 spoke to our Manager about that. He did do a fire management
35 plan in 1995, October of 1995, and it does mention prescribed
36 burning in there and we're using -- that is a management tool
37 that we're not going to eliminate.

38
39 But we have no immediate plans to do any prescribed
40 burning on the Innoko Refuge, primarily because we don't feel
41 we have enough information to justify something that can be
42 very costly and can not necessarily improve anything, make
43 anything better. You have to really know what you're doing
44 when it comes to prescribed burning in such a natural area as
45 the Innoko Refuge before you can proceed with something like
46 that. So we're going to -- we're not saying we won't do it in
47 the future, but right now we don't feel we have the information
48 to justify doing something that's so costly and can do some
49 damage. So does anyone have any questions about that before I
50 -- okay.

00118

1 MR. PETERS: You said something about the snow, what's
2 the purpose of it and how long you do -- and what's the purpose
3 of that?

4
5 MS. REID: The snow depths surveys?

6
7 MR. PETERS: Yes.

8
9 MS. REID: Yeah. We feel and a lot of other biologists
10 feel that snow -- and I think you -- if you've been on the land
11 you can see that during the deep snow years it's a lot harder
12 for the moose to survive, you know, because they're more
13 concentrated in areas where there's a denser supply of food,
14 primarily willow. So that would be the river corridors.

15
16 And during the deeper snow years they're pushed more
17 into the river corridors. So by having that information on
18 snow depths we can add that to the information we have on
19 habitat on moose and kind of predict and also see what's going
20 to happen over the winter to the moose population.

21
22 And also there's other factors, you know, fire also.
23 You have -- if you've got a lot of snow you're not going have
24 as drier year and you can have -- use that as a prediction for
25 wild fires that could occur. And that sort of thing. So it's
26 also a source for moisture, you know, information.

27
28 MR. PETERS: During last year's hunt how many people
29 went into the Innoko Wildlife Refuge? Do you have any idea how
30 many moose were taken out of there, how many by sport fishermen
31 and people that attended by boats?

32
33 MS. REID: Yeah. The information that I have is on the
34 folks that get special use permits to operate on the refuge,
35 commercial operations. That includes air taxi operators and
36 guide outfitters. And back in 1993 we divided the refuge into
37 four separate guide use areas and folks basically competed for
38 those areas and as exclusive guide use areas. So there wasn't
39 -- and provide for a quality hunt, there wouldn't be a lot of
40 guides in the refuge, you know. Mostly provide for a quality
41 hunt. And so the four areas on the refuge were bid.

42
43 And so we actually only have three guides on the refuge
44 operating right now because the fourth area, the guide died
45 before he actually even got out to do -- during the fall
46 season. He was killed in a plane crash. And we have not
47 offered that area up since then. We offered it twice. I take
48 it back. We've offered it up twice and there was no interest
49 in it.

50

00119

1 It includes this part, this southeast corner of the
2 refuge that includes the Paradise Control Use Area, so we feel
3 that's why there's not much interest in guiding in that area
4 because you can't land a plane in the Paradise Control Use
5 Area.

6
7 But we have three guides and this year we had five air
8 taxi operators and three sport fish guide operators. And I
9 have information from those folks. This year the total for air
10 taxis, guides and fish guides, they took in 106 clients and
11 they harvested 45 moose. That's what they reported.

12
13 MR. PETERS: The other question I have is.....

14
15 MS. REID: 45.

16
17 MR. PETERS:what about, you know, keeping a
18 better monitor on the moose population, also the moose taken
19 out of the area? Are there any plans at the present time or,
20 you know, to make monitors more closely?

21
22 MS. REID: For the non-permitted hunting that goes on
23 in the refuge?

24
25 MR. PETERS: Right. Yes.

26
27 MS. REID: The State is the only one that has that
28 information. We have no means right now to collect that type
29 of information. And it's important, but we -- other than
30 harvest reports we don't -- we could get it from the State. We
31 don't have a harvest report for the US Fish and Wildlife
32 Service. We don't have means of collecting that information.

33
34 MR. PETERS: The only reason I asked that is I'm
35 looking at long term, you know, protecting the resource out
36 there, the moose population. And suppose we get a large
37 increase of boats and outside pressure, you know, coming up
38 from Lower Yukon and from other areas, you know, killing off
39 one area. Over the years I've seen that really increasing.
40 And we've got to start looking at long term, you know, how can
41 we protect the resource.

42
43 Because my parents could trap up there long time ago
44 and we have people up there, you know, are trapping annually
45 and using that Innoko Wildlife Refuge. And we've got to look
46 at -- you know, start looking at long term solutions or
47 alternatives or get some comments on how can we control the
48 resource out there rather than having them die off, you know,
49 regardless to sport hunters or nature like we said earlier,
50 like fire or a big flood, you know, that could be beyond our

00120

1 control.

2

3 MS. REID: Right. I agree. And that's the basis of
4 our program. A big part of our program is addressing things
5 like moose on the refuge, as well as other fish and wildlife
6 resources that we have on the refuge. We start out our field
7 season doing a moose browse survey and I've talked about that
8 in detail in the past. And what that is is basically going out
9 in the areas.

10

11 We have in the past in combination with our aerial --
12 our moose surveys where we go out and count the moose, we not
13 only count the moose in March, but we also identify where
14 they're at by a GPS location, a global positioning system. We
15 take a location where those moose are at and then use that as a
16 layer that we add to a basic vegetation habitat map that we've
17 developed over the years and we overlay those moose locations
18 on top of that vegetation habitat layer and we can determine
19 from that where the critical winter moose areas are at. And
20 we've done that and I can show you some maps that I have in our
21 fire management plan that we've developed that critical winter
22 moose habitat.

23

24 And we feel it's very, very important to identify this
25 critical winter moose habitat because it's really the bottle
26 neck time for the moose. You know, when they may or may not
27 survive, especially during snow depths and deep snow years.
28 And so we've identified this winter habitat and we've gone in
29 and we're doing browse surveys where we're identifying the
30 amount of food available in these areas to the moose and how
31 much of it they've used. And we get a utilization from that,
32 percentage utilization of available browse.

33

34 And we've found depending on the habitat, we're not
35 always in the best habitat. Sometimes we do our hiking
36 through, you know, just a little bit of willows and we run into
37 some alders, you know, like you might find on some of the Yukon
38 River areas. We find utilization between 50 and 86 percent.
39 And we feel this is a better indicator of the health of the
40 moose population on the refuge and we feel based on this
41 information it's very healthy.

42

43 And so we're not just taking the number of moose.
44 We're using that more as a trend, but the health of the
45 population is how much of the available food, which is their
46 habitat -- part of their habitat requirements, are they using
47 on the refuge. And we're finding it's very high. And it's
48 even higher during deeper snow years. And this is going to be
49 our fifth year of doing these browse surveys. So we're
50 concerned as you are as well, but what we're finding right now

00121

1 is the moose population is healthy based on this data that
2 we've been collecting.

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: Are those browse statistics on the -- in
5 the winter range usage, or is that just generally throughout
6 the whole refuge?

7

8 MS. REID: We're focusing on the areas that we've
9 identified. There's a broad area that we've identified as the
10 moose winter habitat and it's in the river corridors. I think
11 anyone here that's been out in the wintertime would say the
12 moose are in the rivers towards the end of the year, you know,
13 that's where the thick willow is at, and especially during deep
14 snow years. And so we're doing that, but it's not like we're
15 focusing completely on the best primary moose habitat in those
16 areas.

17

18 We pick a point, we divide the number of sample sites
19 that we want to do on a river section and we have a
20 predetermined distance between each sample site. So, you know,
21 it's still objective in that respect, but it is in the winter
22 habitat that we do these surveys. So it's not necessarily
23 always in the prime. We may go past an area that's prime
24 because otherwise you'd end up with a hundred percent
25 utilization and it'd be biased. The data would be -- it
26 wouldn't be as valuable.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Laura.

29

30 MS. REID: Any other questions?

31

32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Henry.

33

34 MS. REID: Yes.

35

36 MR. DEACON: There was a concern last summer about
37 hunting on those closed area, plane areas and those planes land
38 on land and then they go out in the creek -- by the creek to go
39 out to the river.

40

41 MS. REID: You mean the river-connected lakes?

42

43 MR. DEACON: Yeah. Somewhere, or the lake close by.
44 That was a concern last fall that was brought up, you know. I
45 don't know what we can do about that, but I think we should act
46 on that part of it.

47

48 MS. REID: Our Manager, Ed Merritt, I believe has talked
49 to you, Ray, and.....

50

00122

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

2

3 MS. REID:also Jack Whitman, our State Biologist,
4 about that issue and I think everybody's kind of in agreement
5 that it would not be a bad idea to include those river-
6 connected lakes in that Paradise Control Use Area. So that's
7 where it stands right now. I'm not sure what the status is or
8 where it's going to go from that. I think there has to be --
9 go ahead, Ray.

10

11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. I talked to Ed about that.
12 He was pointing out what the problem was that you'd raised
13 there. I had meant to try to develop a personal proposal and
14 get it in and that wasn't done. So what the next step would be
15 either the G.A.S.H. Advisory or this group or another one would
16 have to develop proposals and submit them to the area to expand
17 the control use area to include those lakes. And then that
18 would be -- right now it's legal for them to do that. So we've
19 got to get proposals in to the right agencies to act on it.
20 And I think it's the State that would have jurisdiction in this
21 case.

22

23 MS. REID: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So we've got to try to get them --
26 and 1998 is when the State proposals come up with the Interior.
27 So this next year we've got to get proposals in.

28

29 MS. REID: Okay.

30

31 MR. DEACON: Even on Federal land?

32

33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The lakes that they're using I think
34 are on State land, are they not, or was it Federal land?

35

36 MS. REID: I'm not sure exactly where in the Paradise
37 Control Use Area they're landing. I'm not really sure about
38 that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The control use area was set up by
41 the State. I guess that's what it was. There is no Federal.

42

43 MS. REID: Oh, yeah, that's right. That's true.

44

45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That's why it has to go through the
46 State; they're the ones that set up the control use area.

47

48 MS. REID: But they're landing outside the Paradise
49 Control Use Area, is what I understand. I don't know if this
50 is.....

00123

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

2

3 MS. REID:Henry's concern, on lakes that are
4 connected to the river. And they're not supposed to be landing
5 in the Paradise Control Use Area.

6

7 MR. DEACON: Also what really concerns the people in
8 that area too is the guides. The guides that's up in -- below
9 mouth of Iditarod. You know, that's too much for that small of
10 an area to take that many pack of moose, you know.

11

12 MS. REID: I'm sorry, Henry, what area are we talking
13 about? I couldn't hear you.

14

15 MR. DEACON: That's below mouth of Iditarod.

16

17 MS. REID: Oh, the mouth of Iditarod. Okay.

18

19 MR. DEACON: About five or 10 miles below there. And I
20 see that with my own eyes. That's too much for that; the
21 amount of moose that was taken out of there. So I'd like to
22 see that managing or don't put too many guides in that area
23 because people need that moose for, you know.

24

25 MS. REID: Well, we only have one guide that actually
26 operates out of the Iditarod area, that's a guide, a guide
27 outfitter that actually takes clients in and guides them on a
28 hunt. All our air taxi operators will bring clients in and
29 drop them off, and they'll float the river or they'll stay in
30 one location and walk about, but mostly though the float the
31 rivers. And so I have information on that. But we only have
32 one guide that actually takes clients into the area and guides
33 them in the Iditarod area.

34

35 MR. P. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

38

39 MR. P. DEMIENTIEFF: My name is Phillip Demientieff.
40 I've got a question or Laura on the fire burn. Do you have
41 pros and cons of a long term fire? You know, the pros and cons
42 of a fire burn in Innoko, you guys were going to.....

43

44 MS. REID: The pros and cons of a prescribed burn?

45

46 MR. P. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah.

47

48 MS. REID: The pros -- let me start with the cons first
49 and then I'll go with the pros. The cons are it's very costly
50 and if you don't know the benefits, you know, the costs can be

00124

1 prohibitive. So it's not a decision you make on subjective
2 information. You want to have good solid data to do it. So in
3 relation to moose, I think that's most folks concern, that
4 they've seen areas that have burned and there's been moose
5 habitat produced.

6
7 On the Innoko Refuge, and I can't speak for other
8 areas, especially places like Farewell where they don't get as
9 much snow as we do on the Innoko, you may have moose willow
10 areas produced after these fires occur, but they don't seem to
11 produce on the Innoko the densities.

12
13 We have studied some of the fires that have occurred
14 naturally on the refuge. They don't seem to produce the
15 density of willows that you might find down in the river
16 corridors. Just the conditions aren't the same. And that's
17 where the critical winter moose habitat is at. So you might --
18 a con would be you might increase the moose population during
19 the low snow years because they're up in those hills. And this
20 is just something that could happen. They're up in the hills
21 feeding and you get a heavy snow year and they're all forced
22 back down on those rivers and they've been depending on those
23 bars up in the hills and now they're down the river and there's
24 only so much browse down there that they can utilize. So, you
25 know, they could eat themselves out before the end of the
26 winter. So we're not really sure of what the response would be
27 or if it would be valuable to do that in respect to moose.

28
29 Plus, there's other species to consider; marten, song
30 birds, all kinds of things that utilize these areas and if we
31 change the vegetation the successional stage of the vegetation
32 in this area we don't know what the response will be. We're
33 still not completely aware of that on the Innoko.

34
35 MR. P. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering what the natural burn
38 succession with lightening strikes in this poorer moose habitat
39 like in the eastern part of the Innoko, what is it -- what's
40 the normal? You get some burn in there every summer or it
41 doesn't burn that often or.....

42
43 MS. REID: We get some burns every summer pretty much.
44 It depends. Varying degrees. We've had some do'zies (ph), you
45 know, several thousands of acres. It just depends. And we're
46 trying to study those areas. We've found that in order to set
47 the stage back to where you've got willow, ash, you know, birch
48 type stand, it has to burn pretty hot and it has to burn the
49 organic layer to really set it back to where you've
50 accomplished that, if that's your goal. And that doesn't

00125

1 always happen with some of these natural fires.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: It'll come back as a tussock sedge right
4 away if it doesn't burn down to the mineral?

5

6 MS. REID: Sometimes, you know, the spruce survive.
7 Some of the burns aren't even hot enough. We get kind of a
8 mosaic where you get some areas that burn hotter than other and
9 that's good. That's a good thing. We want that where you get
10 to find age classes created by these fires. So it just
11 depends.

12

13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, Laura.

14

15 MS. REID: One last thing I'd just like to put a plug
16 in for, I don't know how many especially on the Yukon Villages
17 are aware of our science camp that we have very year. This is
18 going to be our fifth year for having it. It's in cooperation
19 with the Iditarod School District and we're recruiting students
20 in grades nine and 10 and looking for folks that -- on the
21 Yukon Villages and also, you know, McGrath area. We take a lot
22 of students from the McGrath area. And it's a two week
23 program, it's in mid-August. and we'll bring the students over
24 if they're interested. And I'd encourage you to talk to the
25 students in the schools in the Yukon Village.

26

27 And I know there are other refuges that have similar
28 camps or environmental education programs, but there's a lot of
29 things similar to the Earth Quest camp, they meet with folks in
30 the field of natural resources and kind of learn about the
31 environment, as well as we bring in -- it's not a camp
32 exclusively for Native students, there's a mix group, but we
33 also bring Native elders in to talk about traditional uses of
34 plants, tell Native stories. So that's part of the camp as
35 well. So we've had a lot of positive feedback. And the camp
36 is being held now just outside of McGrath at a outdoor
37 classroom that we constructed in cooperation with the Iditarod
38 School District, it's a nice building up on State land. So the
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game provided the land for us to
40 build the site and we have wall tents for the kids to sleep in
41 and they're up there for the two weeks and they just have a
42 really good time. So we'll be recruiting for that science camp
43 shortly. That's something else that we're doing.

44

45 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Laura.

46

47 MS. REID: Yeah.

48

49 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Is there a limit on how many times
50 they can go to that camp because one of our students went last

00126

1 year and he would like to go back again. He's a 10th grader
2 this year.

3
4 MS. REID: The only reason we wouldn't take repeat
5 students is if we had enough interest from first time students,
6 you know, because we only -- we're taking 12 right now, but
7 there's talk in the -- it's become a mini course for the
8 McGrath School, a two week mini course, so they'd like to
9 increase the number of students. The principal at McGrath
10 School, Karen Ladagar (ph) would like to increase the students
11 to 16. And she's willing to provide an extra teacher for that
12 to happen. So if that happens we may take repeat students.
13 There may be openings enough to take repeat students.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you.

16
17 MS. REID: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We had some more guests arrive and
20 we wanted to welcome the group. I believe all from Shageluk,
21 is that right? Yeah, welcome. Franklin, could you introduce
22 the group we're being asked here. You want to do that.

23
24 MR. BENJAMIN: Yeah. My name is Frank Benjamin from
25 Shageluk, we have Allen John, Tommy Dutchman, Ralph Woodford.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. I'm going to keep going
28 because we're going to have to break shortly after 5:00 in
29 order for them to set up for the potluck supper. And so let's
30 see how far we can get. We're down now to the State Department
31 of Fish and Game. And we'll ask them for area reports.

32
33 And also we had postponed information earlier. I don't
34 know, maybe we should begin with that. Well, what is your
35 wishes, the group that came in for.....

36
37 MR. WOOLINGTON: Did you want the 21 -- did you want the
38 Galena moose stuff?

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. I think there's a lot of
41 interest in that. And we will be dealing with that tomorrow.
42 Or we may be taking action but, yeah, if you want to report on
43 that maybe that'd be a place to start.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Jim, we've also got maps if you need maps
46 of the area of whatever, overheads. I don't know how you want
47 to proceed with this. So if you need overheads we do have.

48
49 MR. WOOLINGTON: No, I've got some handouts, though.

50

00127

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I forgot. We do
2 have Greg McCullen here that may, while this is passing around,
3 may just want to introduce himself because he's involved with
4 what you deal with. So I apologize for that. And it'll fit in
5 well while he's passing that around.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Unless he's going to do a dissertation
10 on.....

11
12 MR. McCULLEN: I want to introduce myself. My name is
13 Greg McCullen, and like I said, I was the Subsistence
14 Coordinator for Kanuti Refuge here in the western region, also
15 Yukon Flats and Arctic Refuge in the eastern Interior, North
16 Slope region. I'm replacing David James who I'm sure most of
17 you probably met.

18
19 But what the Subsistence Coordinator primarily is
20 facilitator of subsistence information between the refuges and
21 then the villages within the refuges and to be a primary person
22 where there's somebody assigned that they can go out to the
23 villages and talk with the local people and get their concerns,
24 and that be one of their primary responsibilities rather than
25 having the managers or assistant managers who may have other
26 things that keep them from going out, to be somebody that local
27 folks in the villages within the refuges know they can contact
28 and voice their concerns. And so I look forward to working
29 with the Council and the villages on Kanuti Refuges and Yukon
30 Flats and Arctic Refuge.

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you.

33
34 MR. McCULLEN: Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, go ahead.

37
38 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Jim Woolington,
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife
40 Conservation in Galena. I'm the new Area Biologist that has
41 recently replaced Tim Osborne who retired after 15 years there
42 in Galena.

43
44 As I said, I'm fairly new there, although I was the
45 Assistant for the Galena area for two and a half years, I'm
46 pretty new into the Galena office and I'm still trying to
47 figure out Tim's filing system and where he has some of the
48 stuff hidden on the computer. So bear in mind that I may not
49 have -- there may be some things I just can't find yet, but
50 I'll find them eventually.

00128

1 I guess the main issue here that you're wanting to talk
2 about is Koyukuk River moose. And just a little bit of
3 background on that. For the '96 moose season the Board of Game
4 adopted a proposal from the middle Yukon Advisory Committee to
5 create several registration moose hunts in the Koyukuk
6 Controlled Use Area below Huslia. And that basically was four
7 registration hunts, two in 21(D), one for subsistence and one
8 for general hunt, and two in unit 24 below Huslia, again one
9 subsistence and one general hunt.

10
11 In the subsistence hunt for either areas, the bag limit
12 was any moose and all the meat had to stay on the bone, but
13 because we wanted to I guess you'd say convince folks who were
14 not specifically subsistence hunting, not to go for any moose
15 or any -- some of the smaller bulls, the -- under our
16 discretionary authority it was decided that we would destroy
17 the trophy value on the antlers. In other words, we'd cut the
18 antlers.

19
20 For the general hunt it was a cow or a bull over 50
21 inches, or four brow tines in a side. And again the meat had
22 to stay on the bone in the area. The rationale for this change
23 was to address the increased hunter numbers and decreasing
24 bull/cow ratios in some of the trend count areas up in the
25 Koyukuk River. One of the trend count areas that is probably
26 the most well known is in the Three Day Slough area, which has
27 probably one of the highest densities of moose in North
28 America.

29
30 A couple of years ago it was 13 moose per square mile
31 during the November counts. This last November it was 11 moose
32 per square mile. That's a tremendous number of moose for --
33 it's about a hundred square mile area. Surrounding areas have
34 a lower moose density but still far better than something say
35 comparable on maybe like the Yukon Flats or other areas of low
36 moose densities. It's still pretty good, but it's not as good
37 as Three Day Slough area.

38
39 However, our management objectives are to manage the
40 area for around 30 bulls per hundred cows. And even though we
41 have a large number of moose, the last couple of years we've
42 had a lowered bull/cow ratio. In '95 it was 23 bulls per
43 hundred cows and this last year, '96, it came up slightly but
44 not very much at 24 bulls per hundred cows. I think that this
45 survey was probably done after your last -- your meeting in
46 Galena. So Tim didn't have that information for you.

47
48 As I said, at 11 or 12 moose per square mile, that's
49 still a lot of bulls. But we still -- well, on table two that I
50 handed out shows harvest numbers for coming down through the

00129

1 Koyukuk River check station. And it shows that despite our
2 efforts to try and reduce hunter numbers up in the area, we
3 still had an increase. We had an increase in both hunter
4 numbers and moose harvest.

5
6 At the bottom of the page there it shows the increase
7 from -- '96 numbers, the increase from the '95 numbers. And it
8 shows from Unit 21 residents the 89 hunters, other Alaska
9 residents 46 hunters, non-residents 26. Total hunter increase,
10 '96 -- 1996 from 1995 was 162 hunters. Of those 89 came from
11 Unit 21.

12
13 And one thing that I would like to point out that I
14 discovered late at night just the other night, for some reason
15 that I don't understand Tim included for prior to 1996, so for
16 '83 through '94, the total hunter numbers and total moose are
17 only those moose from Unit 21(D). And from '95 and '96 it's
18 the total hunter numbers and total moose numbers for both 21(D)
19 and 24 that came through the check station. So on the other
20 table that I handed out, reported moose harvest 1991 through
21 '96 for 21(B), 21(C), 21(D) and 24, this table here. It shows
22 the check station numbers broken down for both 21(D) and 24.

23
24 So for 1995 instead of 287 total moose, it was 261. In
25 1996 instead of 353 moose, it was 329 just for 21(D) to make it
26 com -- to be able to compare the numbers in the column above.
27 In any event, we still had an increase, but the increase wasn't
28 as dramatic as what Tim first thought. But still we have a
29 lowered bull/cow ratio that we don't want and still we have
30 increasing moose hunter numbers.

31
32 Based on recommendations from a moose management
33 meeting held at Koyukuk Tribal Council meeting in November and
34 the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee meeting held in November,
35 recommendations were forwarded to the Department and we
36 approached the Board of Game to make some changes in this
37 upcoming 1997 September moose hunt there in the Koyukuk
38 Controlled Use Area.

39
40 And I have a bit of a map that I handed out. And
41 again, what we had before was there were four separate
42 registration hunts. It was a paperwork nightmare. I've still
43 got a pile of cards and everything stacked on my desk. What we
44 have decided to do, it's going to be two registration hunts and
45 it'll be 21(D) and 24 subsistence -- or, excuse me, 21(D) and
46 24 subsistence hunt will be combined into one registration
47 card. And that's the 24 below Huslia there in the controlled
48 use area. And then the general hunt for 21(D) and 24 -- the
49 portion of 24 it addresses will be in one registration hunt.

50

00130

1 I have some of the information on both of these hunts
2 down there. We made several other changes. Last year the
3 registration subsistence hunt opened September 1st through the
4 25th, any moose. And with the idea -- and also for the general
5 hunt it's a cow or 50 inch bull. The idea is we've got a large
6 number of moose up in some of those areas and we need to take
7 some of the cows. We have the moose there but we have a
8 lowering bull/cow ratio which we're uncomfortable with. So
9 there are cows there that can be harvested and it will not hurt
10 the population and we can provide some harvest there.

11
12 A problem that happened that was kind of unforeseen was
13 we had more cows taken in the lower part of the river than
14 we're really comfortable with. From the Gisasa River
15 downstream to Koyukuk, in other years hunters have taken up to
16 about four moose. Well this last year they took 15. So
17 another one of the changes that we made for this year is that
18 prior to the 21st of September you can't take cows below the
19 Gisasa River. From the 21st through the 25th you can take cows
20 below the Gisasa River. From the 1st through the 25th cows can
21 be taken above the Gisasa River or any bull in the subsistence
22 hunt.

23
24 We would like to reduce the bull harvest and increase
25 the cow harvest in the area between the Kateel River and Dulbi
26 Slough or up stream to the Dulbi River/Dulbi Slough area. And
27 had a few more than what we're comfortable with. So this year
28 we've restricted the general hunt, and that's the cow or 50
29 inch bull or four brow tine hunt, general hunt, registration
30 hunt, to only that area between the Kateel River and Dulbi
31 Slough, including those two drainages.

32
33 And the subsistence registration hunt will be the
34 entire area up to Huslia. Above Huslia there is not a
35 registration hunt. It's just on the general harvest card with
36 general regulations. I think that one of the -- another big
37 change that we're making on the general registration hunt is
38 that we're going to limit it -- it's going to be valid only for
39 the drainages of the Koyukuk between the Gisasa River and Dulbi
40 Slough, including those drainages, but we're also going to
41 limit it to a maximum of 250 permits issued at any one time,
42 issued on a first come, first serve basis. And we'll have
43 probably 235 of those available at Ella's Cabin and 15
44 available at Huslia.

45
46 The reason we're doing this is an attempt to further --
47 another attempt to decrease the number of hunters in the area
48 on the general registration hunt. There is no limit on the
49 subsistence hunt permits, but there is a limit on the general
50 hunt permits. But what we're going to be face with is

00131

1 providing up-to-date and at least, in a minimum, daily permit
2 numbers; numbers of hunters that have gone through the check
3 station to Galena, to Fairbanks, to the Yukon River check
4 station, which I assume is going to be run this year. Quite
5 frankly, it's going to be a logistics nightmare. We're going
6 to have our hands full.

7
8 What we've talked about is going ahead and buying a
9 satellite phone so that we can stay in contact with the other
10 areas. We don't have one yet. We're hoping to get one.

11
12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And the permits are issued at the
13 check station?

14
15 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yes, at the check station. Same as
16 last year. And Huslia.

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So once that total is reached then
19 boats would be turned back from there, is that right?

20
21 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yeah. Right. That's the reason why
22 we're going to have to stay in contact with the Fairbanks
23 office, with the Yukon River Bridge, to let people know there's
24 no more permits or to let them know that there's still permits
25 there at that time and they can take a gamble on heading down
26 there and trying to get in.

27
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And these were the solutions that
29 were worked out at that meeting, or is this what you've come up
30 with after the meeting?

31
32 MR. WOOLINGTON: No, these were recommendations that
33 were forwarded through Tim through the Department from the
34 Koyukuk Village Tribal Council meeting and the Middle Yukon
35 Advisory committee meeting that were in -- they were in late
36 November.

37
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Let's open for questions from
39 Council members here on this report.

40
41 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Gabe.

44
45 MR. G. SAM: I was hoping those guys were going to be
46 here. They should -- that's why they're here, but I don't know
47 where they went. One of the problems they had was up -- from
48 what I understand you said, from Gisasa up to Dulbi Slough.

49
50 MR. WOOLINGTON: Um-hum.

00132

1 MR. G. SAM: Well, I personally witnessed hunters going
2 past Dulbi Slough. There was no -- it was the general hunt.

3
4 MR. WOOLINGTON: That's this year.

5
6 MR. G. SAM: Yeah. That was this year.

7
8 MR. WOOLINGTON: Last year it was all the way up to
9 below Huslia.

10
11 MR. G. SAM: Well, from what I understand, people were
12 saying that they had to stop at Dulbi Slough and turn around
13 there.

14
15 MR. WOOLINGTON: Not last year.

16
17 MR. G. SAM: I mean this year, 1996.

18
19 MR. WOOLINGTON: This coming year. In 1997.

20
21 MR. G. SAM: 1997.

22
23 MR. WOOLINGTON: In 1996 the registration hunt was from
24 the mouth up to Huslia for both the subsistence hunt and the
25 general hunt permits.

26
27 See, that's the change we're making for this coming
28 year, for 1997. The general hunt will only be between Kateel
29 River and Dulbi Slough, including those two drainages.

30
31 MR. G. SAM: So it's going to be a registration hunt up
32 to 250 you said?

33
34 MR. WOOLINGTON: There will be 250 permits valid at any
35 one time.

36
37 MR. G. SAM: Okay. And that's for bull moose from 50
38 inches on up?

39
40 MR. WOOLINGTON: Or a cow.

41
42 MR. G. SAM: Okay. Another issue that's being faced is
43 the wanton waste. I know they have these check stations, but
44 after you pass all these check stations there's records that
45 show -- there's people like in Tanana that are ready to testify
46 that these boats land in Tanana and you can just smell the meat
47 rotting, you know. And even in Fairbanks the dump is just full
48 of moose meat from -- I don't know where they're coming from.
49 So do you have any idea how you're going to deal with that
50 issue?

00133

1 MR. WOOLINGTON: That would be law enforcement. That
2 would be Department of Public Safety rather than -- I mean Fish
3 and Game, we manage the hunt and what not, but as far as
4 somebody when they're, you know, breaking the law like that,
5 those sort of activities, that's pretty much the realm of
6 Public Safety.

7
8 MR. G. SAM: I don't know, the numbers on here where
9 we're talking about is -- I mean if you look at '95-'96, the
10 total hunts was 446 and '96-'97 it jumped up to 608.

11
12 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yeah. 89 of which were Unit 21
13 residents. Unit 21(D) residents. Or, excuse me, Unit 21
14 residents, not just 21. Part of the big jump last year
15 apparently-- and now I spent the whole month at the check
16 station on the Nowitna, so I wasn't up on the Koyukuk.

17
18 But what I was told was there are a number of people
19 from down further on the Yukon River, the water was so low that
20 they were not able to hunt where they normally did, so they
21 went up the Koyukuk River.

22
23 MR. G. SAM: That's what we understood. But then
24 there's conflicting information that there were more hunters
25 from outside. If you looked at Dulbi River there were camps
26 that stretched all the way around the bin about a half a mile
27 back the river there. I mean, you know, like big base camps.

28
29 MR. WOOLINGTON: Well, that was -- I think, from my
30 understanding, that was again part of the problem up there.
31 The water was so low that people couldn't get spread out as
32 much as they do in years when the water's higher.

33
34 So, in fact, I heard that there were a lot of -- later
35 on in the season you couldn't even get up to Three Day Slough
36 the water was so low. That might be why people were all camped
37 -- it looked like big camps. But still there is an increase in
38 total number of hunters and that's what we're attempting to
39 address with this limited number of permits, and restricting
40 the general hunt area.

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

43
44 MR. R. SAM: Yeah. Do you have a State meeting
45 scheduled for Huslia coming up soon?

46
47 MR. WOOLINGTON: I don't know. Are you part of the
48 Advisory Committee? I don't schedule the Advisory Committee
49 meetings.

50

00134

1 MR. R. SAM: Well, I sat on a few and you probably
2 won't see my name on there, but.....

3
4 MR. WOOLINGTON: Okay. Well, I would like to have one.
5 I've been asking about when we're going to have a Koyukuk River
6 Advisory Committee meeting and I can't find out.

7
8 MR. R. SAM: Because I think that at our last meeting
9 up at Evansville we scheduled -- we had a tentative meeting
10 scheduled for Huslia the last week of February or the first
11 week of March and it's supposed to go through. Maybe you can
12 get a hold of Jim Marcotte on this because it's imperative we
13 have it because of these regulation changes, especially that
14 lower 24, 21(D) area. And I think that we should get a hold of
15 Jim Marcotte and finalize that meeting.

16
17 MR. WOOLINGTON: In fact earlier -- see we had a --
18 right at the end of January, January 31st and February 1st we
19 had a Middle Yukon Advisory Committee meeting. It was a joint
20 meeting with Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross meeting.
21 And I asked Jim about when -- what about an Upper Koyukuk River
22 and he said he didn't know. He didn't know when it was
23 schedule.

24
25 MR. G. SAM: Okay. I think that was one of the reasons
26 that we scheduled it for Huslia and ask that this -- your
27 proposal be included on the -- before the Board of Game this
28 year because of the increase of numbers yearly at the end of
29 Lower 24.

30
31 MR. WOOLINGTON: Okay. This not a proposal. The Board
32 of Game will not be addressing Koyukuk River moose this 1997.
33 It will be -- it is something that can be addressed in 1998.
34 We're doing this -- after consulting with the Board we're doing
35 this under our discretionary authority granted by the Board.
36 And it's the Alaska Administrative Code 92 point something.

37
38 MR. G. SAM: I feel comfortable with that, but I'd say
39 that you should educate the people of Huslia on the use of this
40 power and get to them right away because they are concerned.

41
42 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yeah. I understand. And I was under
43 the impression there was supposed to be a moose -- oh, I forget
44 what it was called. I didn't see any -- I was told there was
45 going to be one, I think it was December 16th there was
46 supposed to be a meeting at was it -- no, that's not it. A
47 meeting was it at Allakaket or Alatna, over moose management.
48 Tim was still the area biologist then so I don't know what
49 happened then. I was under the impression there was supposed
50 to be a meeting there, but I don't know what happened.

00135

1 One thing I should add, that I almost forgot here, is
2 that this is actually just a part of what we can do. What
3 we're -- we want to take a good look and see what happens here.
4 And what we're thinking about doing -- and, of course, you
5 know, the Department won't do it or what -- there's a
6 possibility that when Interior moose is up for consideration by
7 the Board, that we can get a proposal for the general hunt on a
8 drawing hunt. So there will just be a specific number of
9 permits. And that can either be lower or greater than the 250.
10 We don't know.

11
12 That will be something that the Board will address. If
13 that is a proposal to the Board, then that'll go through that
14 process. But this -- it was recognized when we first started
15 this whole thing last year, that it was going to be a step-wise
16 process. We didn't want to go whole hog right off the bat, but
17 we have to address something.

18
19 See, one of our concerns, and Jeff from BLM alluded to
20 it there, is that willows eventually can grow out of the reach
21 of moose. We're in Three Day Slough supporting 11-12 moose per
22 square mile. That's not going to last forever. Tim was a very
23 fortunate in that for most of his career, for the last eight or
24 nine years of it, he had very high moose numbers in that area.
25 And my understanding is that there was a lot of wolf harvest in
26 that area too.

27
28 And then the last few winters we've had have been very
29 easy winters. If we get some -- until in November when moose
30 -- when Tim was doing the moose surveys up in that area, he saw
31 one pack of 20 wolves and one pack of 22 wolves in the Three
32 Day Slough area. You know, I would love to have -- love to
33 maintain those sort of numbers of moose up there, but it has
34 never happened -- for a long term it has never happened
35 anywhere else in the world, or at least in North America. And
36 I doubt if it will happen -- it will stay forever like that up
37 there.

38
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ron.

40
41 MR. R. SAM: Just one other comment. The meeting that
42 you were alluding to up at Allakaket/Alatna was that we were
43 just more or less trying to educate the public on writing and
44 presenting these proposals to the State Board of Game.
45 However, because of the lack of participation we didn't get
46 very far on it.

47
48 And we had some long term members on the Koyukuk River
49 Advisory Committee that we feel comfortable bringing anything
50 before the Board of Game. We've been very successful using Tim

00136

1 Osborne's number. And I think that you should go ahead and get
2 a hold of Jim Marcotte and schedule that meeting at Huslia as
3 soon as possible.

4
5 MR. WOOLINGTON: I would like to do that. In fact,
6 we'll see when we can schedule it. And if we can't have it
7 soon enough, I'll see if maybe I can go up to Huslia and just
8 talk -- maybe we can have a meeting to get people together some
9 evening or something and we'll -- and I'll present this same
10 information, if.....

11
12 MR. R. SAM: I'd feel comfortable with that. And I
13 think that's the reason the Huslia Tribal Council sent two
14 members down here from their Council on their own.

15
16 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Gabe.

19
20 MR. G. SAM: The wolf population around there is very
21 healthy. And, you know, I think a part of the reason why the
22 moose population is healthy otherwise is we have our own system
23 of managing the population around there. But from outside
24 forces coming in, it's getting to the point where I mean if you
25 look -- regardless whether if it's down river people coming up,
26 there couldn't be that much people coming up from down river.
27 It is on the rise every year by a hundred or two hundred.

28
29 And if it still continues to rise like that, our elders
30 believe that the moose population is going to crash eventually.
31 And that's what we're telling these people; that where are
32 these hunters going to go once it crashes. And, you know,
33 that's one of the concerns we have up there. After it crashes
34 we won't have any problems like this. There won't be any
35 people coming up there. And, you know, we've been talking
36 about this for years and years and, you know, the time is
37 coming to the point where it's going to eventually crash.

38
39 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yeah, I share those concerns. And
40 another concern I have is when we restrict the number of
41 permits going into this area, where are these other people
42 going to go. I don't know. I don't have the answer for that.
43 And I'm hoping it doesn't create a problem somewhere else.

44
45 MR. G. SAM: Well, personally I like the idea of having
46 some type of meeting in Huslia. Not that because I'm from
47 Huslia, but you know I'd like to give them this information.
48 They missed out a couple of times and now they missed out
49 again, you know, to voice their opinion. I've told them time
50 and time again that they've got to keep their -- I learned from

00137

1 Mr. Steve Ulvi over there how to keep my temper to an even keel
2 to try and communicate properly, you know.

3
4 I have really strong feelings about this because my
5 people's way of life is in jeopardy. We don't raise cattle,
6 you know, we don't raise chickens or nothing like that. Our
7 farm is the land, you know. And like we were talking earlier
8 about fishing. We grew up on primarily moose meat, just like
9 the Arctic Village people grow up on caribou meat, you know.
10 Moose meat is what we live off of. And our whole lives almost
11 surround around it. And, you know, when that's in jeopardy
12 we're prepared to do whatever it takes.

13
14 A lot of the young people are getting frustrated as
15 well. I mean these people come up and disrespect the land
16 they're on, disrespect the allotments that are on and could
17 care less whether -- you know, their idea is that they have
18 rights as we do to hunt there. I mean, sure, that might be the
19 case, but when they start taking things, you know, considering
20 that it's abandoned or not, you know, it's like me coming into
21 your home; oh, he's not home right now so this must be, you
22 know, for -- I can take this for a souvenir, it's a nice 50
23 inch color TV, you know, maybe he won't need it.

24
25 MR. WOOLINGTON: Not in my home.

26
27 MR. G. SAM: But I mean the point I'm making is there's
28 a lot of things that, you know, are at stake here. And I've
29 told a lot of people over and over, one of these days we're
30 going to see a major -- maybe a gun fight right on the river,
31 you know. People get frustrated, you know, because they drive
32 up and down this river trying to catch a moose and, you know,
33 they're on limited resources. And like I stated earlier,
34 there's people coming as far away as Wyoming to hunt. And
35 financial is not their problem. That's all I have to say on
36 that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Do you have figures on what you feel
39 is sustainable harvest? I thought we were hearing last year
40 from Tim that around 200 moose was what the targeted harvest
41 was and that it's sustainable. And I see it's up to 353 this
42 year. Or was that a -- that's just come off the top of my
43 head, but I thought it was something like that; that there was
44 a.....

45
46 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yeah. I think the figure of 200 came
47 from the Kateel/Dulbi area.

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

50

00138

1 MR. WOOLINGTON: Based on computer models, and I guess
2 that would depend on, you know, whether you believe computers
3 and models and things like that, the estimated sustainable
4 harvest of about 125 bulls and 75 cows through that area. Or,
5 excuse me, 125 bull and 75 cows, and in that area last year it
6 was about 170 bulls and 48 cows. So it's still -- you know,
7 we'd still like to raise the number of cows taken and reduce
8 the number of bulls. But that 353 is not for the area where he
9 was talking about 200.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. Okay. Other questions?
12

13 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chairman. This here is very
14 confusing, not having Tim Osborne around, as you're the new
15 State Biologist. And this area, to me it's been very confusing
16 right from the start because we have two kind of regulations
17 that's being done in this area. One is the Federal regulation
18 and the State regulation. And then what I can't understand is
19 the increase of the hunters. Why did they increase from 608
20 total hunters when we were trying to decrease the hunters or
21 either trying to cut down on the moose taken out of this area.
22

23 MR. WOOLINGTON: I think the big increase this last
24 year was a combination of a number of factors. One is that
25 we're still in the mode of everybody's talking about going to
26 Three Day Slough and shooting a big moose. And quite frankly,
27 that's not only just in the Fairbanks or Anchorage area, but in
28 the local area too; there's a lot of people that are -- they
29 are going up to Three Day Slough and they've never been up
30 there before from Unit 21. They hear a lot about it and so
31 they want to go up there and see what's going on.
32

33 The increase is also, as I said earlier, apparently
34 there are low water conditions in many of the other areas.
35 People went up the Koyukuk River because they couldn't get
36 where they hunted last year. One other thing is that '96 was
37 the first year it was a registration hunt. Prior to that, from
38 1990 to 1995 was just you had to stop at the check station.
39

40 It was mandatory that if you went up through there you
41 had to stop at the check station. If you didn't go past the
42 check station you didn't have to stop. So people who were
43 hunting below the check station wouldn't -- they may have been
44 hunting in the Koyukuk River in the area included in the
45 numbers that '96 came from, but they never came past the check
46 station so they wouldn't -- they may have hunted in there in
47 previous years, but they wouldn't have showed up in these
48 numbers. And that includes say like Nikolai Slough or the
49 lower bit of the Koyukuk River.
50

00139

1 MR. DERENDOFF: Okay. I think this will have to be
2 brought -- we're going to have to hold a meeting because this
3 is going bring some things up. Okay. Where did you get these
4 maximum permits? I mean 250 permits would be issued. And
5 where did you get that.....

6
7 MR. WOOLINGTON: I don't know. I asked and my
8 understanding is it came out of those -- the two meetings, the
9 Koyukuk -- there was a Koyukuk Tribal Village meeting -- or
10 Tribal Council meeting and but I think it was mostly on moose
11 hunting and moose hunting regulations was the purpose of the
12 meeting. And then the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee meeting.

13
14 My understanding is that number came out of those
15 meetings, but I don't know how they came up with that number.

16
17 MR. DERENDOFF: Okay. So what is your personal opinion
18 if 250 permits were issued next year, would that bring the
19 total of hunters down?

20
21 MR. WOOLINGTON: I don't know. I think it's part of a
22 psychological deal here in that we are attempting to reduce the
23 numbers of hunters that are planning on going up there by
24 saying, hey, there's going to be a limited number of permits.
25 The idea is that fewer people are going to come up there
26 because they know there's going to be just a certain number of
27 permits and they may not get one.

28
29 And as I said earlier, where they go then I'm not sure
30 and I hope we don't create a problem somewhere else.

31
32 MR. DERENDOFF: Okay.

33
34 MR. WOOLINGTON: What I hope doesn't happen is that we
35 have a whole flotilla of boats tied up below the check station
36 waiting for somebody to come out.

37
38 MR. DERENDOFF: There's a really big confusion about
39 this -- this -- I could tell you how it 's -- from just my
40 point of view, we have a Federal regulation an then we have a
41 State regulation that we have to abide by, us that's living in
42 the area. Okay. Now we had these guide hunting people --
43 service that's in our area. And it's just creating a conflict
44 in between the Federal regulation and the State regulation.
45 And I could see it not only in my area.

46
47 MR. WOOLINGTON: I don't think there's anybody more
48 confused about the differences between State and Federal
49 regulations than I am. And I certainly understand what you're
50 saying because I -- you know, the two systems have me pulling

00140

1 my hair out.

2

3 MR. DERENDOFF: But there's a positive way of doing it,
4 you know. If we scheduled this meeting for Huslia, to have
5 them see this here. I'm sure we will get a lot of other things
6 in there besides what you're hearing now.

7

8 MR. WOOLINGTON: Well, one thing to keep in mind though
9 is that this has been in a tele-conference where all the Board
10 of Game members have -- they've bought off on this one. And
11 I'm not sure, since they've got a Board meeting coming up in
12 the middle of next month, whether we're going to be able to get
13 them to spend much time on addressing this, knowing that under
14 the authority granted to the Department of Fish and Game, the
15 discretionary authority regarding permit hunts, that we can do
16 these different things. It doesn't take a Board action to do
17 it.

18

19 MR. DERENDOFF: I feel that the moose population is
20 definitely going to go down the way it's going now.

21

22 MR. WOOLINGTON: I agree.

23

24 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair. For the general registration
25 hunt, is that number of days going to be limited?

26

27 MR. WOOLINGTON: No. You mean limited to 10 days or
28 something like that?

29

30 MR. G. SAM: Yeah.

31

32 MR. WOOLINGTON: No, I don't know if anybody discussed
33 that one. It's not going to be.

34

35 MR. G. SAM: So we'd still have the same allotted time.

36

37 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yeah. You know, once a person gets it
38 he can stay there for the whole season if he wants to.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: The statistics tell the story. If you
45 divide the number of moose taken by the hunters of Unit 21 for
46 the local rural residents there, the success ratio is 42
47 percent. If you divide the number of moose by the number of
48 non-local hunts, the success ratio is 65 percent -- 66 percent.
49 So that's the rub. The local people, one out of three kills a
50 moose, two out of three non-locals kill a moose. Their

00141

1 extended stay within the area allows them that -- affords them
2 that extra opportunity to have that higher success ratio.

3
4 I feel that if you put a lower -- broke up the number
5 of avail -- put a cap on the number of permits -- of
6 registration permits.....

7
8 MR. WOOLINGTON: There is. There's a cap of 250
9 permits.

10
11 MR. REAKOFF: But that's at one time.

12
13 MR. WOOLINGTON: Okay. You're right.

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: I mean total number of permits to be
16 issued and divided it, what you're going to have is you're
17 going to have a high number of hunters to rush down there to
18 get all those 250 permits. So the first moose right off the
19 bat you're going to have a tremendous competition right away.

20
21 MR. WOOLINGTON: Um-hum.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: And if you limited that to say -- you had
24 608 hunters. I think that's too many non-local hunters to have
25 up there as it is. If you trim that down to say 500, divided
26 that into a week apart issuance and had a hundred permits out
27 at any one time, it would be a lot more amiable for the local
28 people, and it would limit their stay. Have the permit only
29 valid for that week's period.

30
31 That would make it a lot more equitable for the local
32 people and it would be -- actually reduce your moose harvest,
33 which is what you're trying to do, is cut this non-resident
34 moose -- non-local moose harvest down because.....

35
36 MR. WOOLINGTON: We -- excuse me. We -- the Department
37 can't allocate. What you just said is that we were trying to
38 reduce the number of moose taken by non-locals. The Department
39 can't allocate. That's the Board of Game does allocations.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: But you can allocate by putting a cap on
42 the number of permits at any one time, or can you cap the
43 number of permits to be issued?

44
45 MR. WOOLINGTON: I'm not sure.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: I feel that you should investigate that
48 aspect as the total cap.

49
50 MR. WOOLINGTON: We can. I don't know how the Board

00142

1 will respond to it. I can take that back to Fairbanks and we
2 can contact the Board on it, or attempt to contact the Board.

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: It's apparent that you have way too many
5 hunters up there and you want to trim some of the hunters off.
6 So capping the number of available permits will effectively do
7 that. Determine how many hunters you want up there and cap it
8 at that amount.

9

10 MR. WOOLINGTON: The idea is to through this process
11 this year, is to try to reduce the number. And then what you
12 said, cap the number of permits. As I mentioned earlier, if we
13 go to a permit drawing -- or a drawing permit, there will be a
14 specific number of permits the next year.

15

16 When this was -- as part of the testimony before the
17 Federal Subsistence Board to -- for the request for
18 reconsideration on the closure there on the Koyukuk River, the
19 Department -- and this was what, in August I guess, before the
20 season even opened. The Department testified that we realize
21 this is a step-wise process. And that in fact we may go to --
22 you know, we're going into it in a step-wise process, which may
23 end up in a drawing hunt.

24

25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think we're just about pushing the
26 limits of when we can keep going here because they've got to
27 clear for supper at 6:00. So I'm wondering -- there are more
28 reports still. We're going to have to just postpone them till
29 morning, I guess. Everybody going to be here in the morning I
30 take it. And we're scheduled to start at 8:30. There will not
31 be a regular meeting tonight, but I did understand that locally
32 there may be some people that want to testify.

33

34 So after the supper I'm wondering if we can't set up
35 and open and see if people want to get on the record to
36 testify. We'll make sure that we've got at least some of the
37 Board here. I don't know if all of us can be here to hear
38 that. I know I have a commitment myself; I'm teaching a class,
39 but is that doable?

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we can set it up. We'll just need a
42 couple of members to be here in case somebody wants to testify.
43 So that would be after the.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, after the meal, I guess. So
46 if you can announce it at the meal, then if those people that
47 came down -- like I don't know if the group from Shag are going
48 to be able to stay here tomorrow or whether they plan to
49 testify tonight. Is there any special concerns you have? Did
50 you want to address this tonight, or you just come to take part

00143

1 in the meeting?

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Inaudible).

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. And there is a time tomorrow
6 opened for public testimony too. So you're free to do that.
7 But if there's anything pressing we can set up a session this
8 evening for people that are working here locally or whatever to
9 testify tonight. Yes, Vince.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: I think that you need to reaffirm that
12 you want Jim Woolington to keep this Council informed as this
13 proceeds. You made a strong plea of that through the Federal
14 Subsistence Board, that this Council still wants to be informed
15 as this proceeds, even though it's proceeding in a State arena.

16

17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: So that's clear to him that he can either
20 work through me and I'll get the information out to the Council
21 that you'd be kept informed of this because it's falling into
22 your platform of having long range solutions on these areas
23 that have increasing pressure.

24

25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. It was very clear when we met
26 in Galena and we're hearing from local people that it's
27 becoming more and more difficult from the people like in the
28 Huslia area to take local moose because there's so many boats
29 going up the river, that almost any moose that shows up in the
30 river gets knocked over. And many of them are heading up above
31 there. And local people who can only go out and hunt let's say
32 weekends or have more limited time because of commitments in
33 the village were finding it more and more difficult to get
34 their moose. They couldn't compete with the boats and motors.

35

36

37 That's why they wanted to close that area for other
38 than subsistence -- close the Federal lands within a certain
39 corridor of the river there. But it wouldn't work because of
40 the high water marker, there were problems on that. But
41 there's going to be efforts to get us to come up with a Federal
42 solution if we can't solve some of these problems in the State
43 arena. You understand what I mean? We'd rather see them work
44 it out together so that there's an agreed upon solution by all
45 the players there.

46

47 I would encourage you to keep having meetings in the
48 communities or even bringing regional meetings together to try
49 to work up some solutions on that, whatever you can do, and
50 please keep us informed of anything that develops. Because if

00144

1 we get proposals coming in we'll have to deal with them on the
2 Federal level, but it may not fix the problem if it's not
3 compatible. Thank you.

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (On record)

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. For those that would like to
10 testify, what we're going to do is we have several of the
11 Council members here and I know there's several from Shageluk.
12 They can come up and we'd like to open this up for discussion.
13 So we can share testimony.

14

15 And then I know the Council members will brief the
16 other Council members tomorrow as to what was said. So if
17 people would like to come up and testify, we're ready to go.
18 And it will be on the record.

19

20 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Testify on anything concerning the
21 fall hunt and February hunt or.....

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. The question was can you testify on
24 anything, the fall hunt and the spring hunt and that. Anything
25 that deals with seasons and harvest limits, and anything that
26 deals with subsistence. We won't deal with fixing Yamaha's or
27 anything like that.

28

29 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Do we have to go up and speak into
30 a microphone?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: As you see, yes. It's just so we can get
33 it on the record. And that way -- you'll sound great across
34 the mike. It's wonderful.

35

36 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. The February hunt is
37 subsistence. Is it for local residents only of Unit 21(E) or
38 just anybody?

39

40 MS. WENZEL: Can you identify yourself?

41

42 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Sandra Demientieff from Holy
43 Cross. I'm also a Corporation Board member of (Indiscernible)
44 in Grayling.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The question was, the spring
47 season, and I'm going by Federal regs. If we need to we can
48 discuss State regs also. For 21(E) those that would qualify
49 under the Federal Subsistence Program to take advantage of the
50 February 1 through the 10th season, they would have to be rural

00145

1 residents of this Unit 21(E) and residents of Russian Mission.

2

3 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. I was just wondering
4 because there are lots of outside hunters coming and hunting
5 our cow season in February and.....

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I would have to then turn in my
8 Bible here to the State season to see what it is.

9

10 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Boy, I feel like the Presidential
13 Executive here. 21(D) for the State side, any moose is
14 February 1 to the 10th also. So under State regulations, and
15 if I get this wrong I know the State person will chime in here,
16 is any Alaskan residents could hunt on that February 1 to the
17 10th, and according to this it's any moose.

18

19 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Oh, not just cows; any moose.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: It says any moose.

22

23 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Well, I was kind of
24 concerned because there's a lot of cows getting killed. And I
25 was just wondering, you know, if there is no way we can stop
26 outside hunters from coming in and killing all the cows because
27 we're killing enough the way it is. We should just consider
28 closing the cow season all together.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

31

32 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: That's my opinion.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Right. The way to go with that again
35 would be -- and I'm not trying to put off the issue. I'm
36 trying to set it into the schedules that are in effect, would
37 be when we are opened to receive proposals under the Federal
38 side, which would be this coming September and October, would
39 be to submit one.

40

41 I don't have the State schedule here to know when
42 Interior proposals are up. But that would be -- I believe
43 that's December. Maybe Mike or Jim can let us know and you can
44 submit proposals to the Board of Game for proposals on Interior
45 to address your concerns of the cow harvest during the spring
46 season.

47

48 MR. COFFING: Thanks, Vince. I don't have a schedule
49 in front of me but I know that spring of '98 is when Interior
50 comes up again. Next fall Arctic Western is on the agenda and

00146

1 the deadline for that is August 8th. So it would be my best
2 guess it was probably -- it's generally some time in November,
3 late November-early December is typically when that proposal
4 deadline is for the spring meeting. I don't know for sure, but
5 it's probably within that time frame. I guess we can find out.
6 Maybe between now and when you adjourn your meeting we will
7 find out.

8

9 MR. WOOLINGTON: For fisheries issues it would be April
10 10th of this year. For game I'm not sure.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. For the record, if the tape didn't
13 pick it up, fisheries is April 10th for Board of Fisheries. We
14 can work with Sandra on that in the next day or so and get you
15 linked up on that as to what happens on that.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: So let me understand, you would like to
18 see all non-Unit 21(E) hunters excluded from the spring hunt?

19

20 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: And still allow the.....

23

24 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Every cow you kill, you're killing
25 one to two calves along with it. There are a lot of hunters
26 coming in now.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: But you would like to see the cow season
29 maintained for the local people?

30

31 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, for local use. Just for
32 year around residents that really need the meat, you know.
33 Otherwise just have a fall hunting season. Because pretty soon
34 our moose are going to be gone if we start worrying about it
35 now. And who is in charge of the fall hunting season, State or
36 Federal? Both again. Okay.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: And that's where we would work
39 cooperatively with you. This Council made a stand earlier
40 today that we need to have some type of mechanism set up to
41 work out this issue of the increasing pressure in 21(E).

42

43 And we haven't developed it as to exactly what's
44 happening, but it possibly will be kind of a workshop setting
45 to bring all the parties together to discuss this. Because I
46 don't think you were there then.....

47

48 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: No.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS:if action is taken by this Council

00147

1 on the Federal side, sometimes its effect is not going to be as
2 great as if we work out cooperatively with the State because of
3 the land status makeup in this area and in the navigable water
4 issue.

5
6 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. I was just wondering because
7 there's a lot of hunting violations, you know, going on in the
8 fall time. There's no one around monitoring, or if there is
9 there's too few of them, Fish and Game people. There's
10 airplanes and then there's boats coming up using spotlights and
11 I think that's, you know, against regulations, at night
12 scanning the banks with spotlights in the pitch dark. And I've
13 been out there camping and witnessed it.

14
15 And there's too many moose in one boat too. I mean
16 some of them have like three or four moose in one boat. There
17 should be a limit to how many moose per boat, if they want to
18 come up and hunt. And they're walking on the meat, it's all
19 muddy and I don't know how it's any good once they get it home.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: I'm just trying to get that in my notes.
22 I'm not ignoring that, plus it'll be on the record. But that's
23 what this workshop would address. And we'll have to make sure
24 that you are made aware of it in Holy Cross if it happens to be
25 in another location.

26
27 Why don't we defer to the -- I'm uncomfortable doing
28 this. Why don't I defer to our elder and let Henry kind of --
29 or whatever those two want to figure out; how to run this,
30 because I don't want to keep inserting myself here because I
31 want the dialog to happen.

32
33 MR. DEACON: Are you through, Sandra?

34
35 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah.

36
37 MR. DEACON: Okay. Thank you. Is there any more to --
38 okay, Richard.

39
40 MR. PETERS: For the record I'm Richard Peters, and
41 resident of Holy Cross. I would like to comment on the way the
42 representative is chosen from communities. I think the process
43 should go through the community. Anyone that's willing to run
44 can have the time. I'm not saying that our delegate is, you
45 know, attending the meeting or -- I'm not saying nothing
46 against her or -- Angela Demientieff, our representative from
47 Holy Cross. I see her here all day at the meeting. But I
48 would like if we could re-evaluate the process on how the
49 person sits from the community to represent the community of
50 Holy Cross.

00148

1 Maybe a process would be from all the communities to
2 open up for nominations, who would be interested. And he or
3 she may have the time to represent, you know, the villages.
4 And I think the way it is now, you know, the way the process
5 works that I heard today earlier, said that the Board nominates
6 that person for a three year term.

7
8 I'm looking at the person that is willing to, you know,
9 take the time away from their families, away from their
10 communities to participate in the meetings. Because this is
11 very serious business. And the issues are getting a lot
12 stronger. You know, it's got a long term effect on all of us
13 as individuals, as community leaders, as individuals living
14 here. It does effect on the future of our children and their
15 children, how we process, how we go to the meetings. This is
16 serious business.

17
18 You know, we're discussing issues that affects our
19 lives. The resources out there, the fish, the wildlife,
20 whatever it is, you know, we're looking for protection.
21 Protection to our communities, our families, our tradition.
22 You know, I was brought up on mainly moose meat and salmon up
23 the Yukon River and I'm proud of that. But we need to re-
24 evaluate and look at how we select our representatives, do they
25 have the time to participate in meetings. Because I know that
26 it takes time sitting here all day.

27
28 You know, I can walk in and out. I'm not a delegate,
29 I'm not a representative from our village and I can walk in and
30 walk out. But if I was a delegate I'll stay here and listen to
31 the different people that are working for the communities, of
32 different State agencies and Federal agencies. I think we need
33 to review the process on how we select a person to our
34 community to represent us on the Board. On the Regional Board
35 especially.

36
37 And the other comment I had was I do hunt up the Innoko
38 Wildlife Refuge. I wanted to go on record that I heard people
39 talking from outside pressure. There was one person, he had a
40 boat and he had probably about 30-40 foot step ladder built in
41 his boat and he could observe the moose, you know, from higher
42 depth, you know, can see, like he had more vision coming down
43 when he was hunting. And I think that's definitely, definitely
44 wrong, you know, use that type of method to hunt moose.

45
46 And I've been hearing complaints. People going up
47 there on the Innoko Wildlife Refuge, you know, taking moose,
48 boat loads. But it's their right. Also we need to look at the
49 long term effect; how could we better the system. I'm looking
50 at maybe we need more control of the State agencies, how many

00149

1 people are brought in by sports hunters, by the guides. And
2 also the local people, how many people actually went up there
3 and actually taken moose from that area, the Innoko Wildlife
4 Refuge. Because I think that's going to have an effect sooner
5 or later on how the moose migrate from one area to one area.

6
7 And this is my two concerns tonight, I want to go on
8 record stating my position on, you know, the long term effect
9 on the resources that's available out there. And also, you
10 know, look into the process on how we select our representative
11 for the villages. I think this ought to be re-evaluated and
12 pressed on. Because us local people we know who could possibly
13 represent my needs and not afraid to -- you know, when issues
14 come up, not afraid to discuss issues and be fair.

15
16 Because, you know, we all live here and we want the
17 best for our communities, our village, all for the region. We
18 want to be equal. We want equal participation and we want the
19 right -- we want our own people voting on the representation to
20 represent on the Regional Council. That's all I have.

21
22 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Richard. Any more?

23
24 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, my name is Ron Sam of
25 Alatna. I always felt uncomfortable being appointed by the
26 Secretary of Interior. What does he know about me? What does
27 he know about my country? And to get on this Regional Council
28 all I had to do was fill out an application.

29
30 I'm glad that Richard brought this out because I still
31 feel uncomfortable being appointed by somebody from Washington,
32 D.C. I feel that I can ably represent my people, but I still
33 don't like being appointed from four or 5,000 miles away.

34
35 MR. SOMMER: My name is Rudy Sommer from Huslia. I'm
36 on the Tribal Council up there. I, myself, also believe that
37 we need more -- if these people are going to be coming in like
38 the urban hunters from Anchorage and those areas, Fairbanks,
39 from far away as Outside, and all the amount of hunters coming
40 into these areas, Innoko, Koyukuk River, all over -- probably
41 all over the State of Alaska.

42
43 I do believe that there is a lot of wanton waste of
44 meat not being monitored and I think like in the summertime,
45 during the commercial season, there's a lot of Fish and Game
46 guys around. They're cruising in boats, two or three airplanes
47 and -- but during the moose hunting season you hardly ever see
48 a Fish and Game guy.

49
50 I feel that we need more enforcement of these --

00150

1 monitoring these outside hunters coming in. I think a lot of
2 them, like up in my area, they get their moose within a couple
3 of days and then they just stay up there for a couple of weeks.
4 And on vacation. And if they're going to spend all that money
5 to do that and sit around up there, then I think they have the
6 time to bring their meat out, ship it back home and then go on
7 their vacation and make sure they don't get another moose.

8
9 I think we need more enforcement on the Koyukuk River
10 and the other rivers. I think there's -- I believe the State
11 and Federal people have the manpower to have Fish and Game
12 watching all of these people all up and down these rivers that
13 they're hunting and abusing.

14
15 I have -- I didn't bring them but they're in my bag. I
16 had a couple of pictures that I'd picked up from this guy
17 that's from Galena, he lives in Anchorage, his father was
18 raised up on the Koyukuk River and he has a couple of pictures
19 that I'll let you guys see. And I don't think that would hold
20 any water with anybody because they are just pictures and
21 you've got people who probably feel that they can come from
22 anywhere. But he told me they came from the Dulbi Slough.

23
24 And there has been witness to meat being thrown into
25 the Dulbi Slough. That's the slough below Huslia where I
26 thought that there weren't supposed to be any hunters going in
27 to. And another thing is the people starting to charter into
28 Huslia to go on up the river. They're coming on airplane --
29 Navajo airplane and pull out their rubber boats and cruise
30 right on up the river like it's nobody's business, not a hi or
31 a hello out of them. I think they've got to start showing a
32 bit more respect to the people that have lived here for
33 hundreds and hundreds of years. And nobody knows how long
34 we've been here. That's all I have to say. I would like to see
35 more enforcement of the rules. Thank you.

36
37 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Rudy. Any more?

38
39 MR. JOHN: I'm Allen John, Sr., from Shageluk. And we
40 just got here this evening and I'm not familiar with what's
41 going on, except for I agree with Sandra the way she was
42 talking because I see this going on. For many years hunters
43 from outside come in and they get the moose. They have more
44 than one moose. Sometimes they even have a black bear in their
45 boat, plus moose meat.

46
47 And, you know, I don't think that's right. From here
48 to Shageluk there's Native lands, Native Corporation land all
49 the way up. And it seems like outsiders don't care, they just
50 come in and go on that slough. Then if we put up signs saying

00151

1 that you don't want no outsiders, they still go in.

2

3 And I witnessed one time I was hunting in my country up
4 there, plane land up there, drop some hunters off and took off.
5 And after the hunter gets the moose, the plane comes back and
6 pick up the moose and takes off. And I don't think that's
7 right.

8

9 And I talk with somebody at dinner a while ago and what
10 I was kind of upset about was that us Natives from the Yukon,
11 we've been shutting up the river for years, it happened even
12 before I was born. And now they're saying that we couldn't do
13 it. Now what my family is going to eat, or my dogs, if I don't
14 get the fish or if I don't get the moose in the fall.

15

16 You go to grocery store like in Shageluk right now, I
17 can go to the grocery store and get \$30.00 groceries, and then
18 it'll be little sack for \$30.00. And in Anchorage I can get
19 the \$30.00 -- I'll get more for that. And one more thing I
20 want to bring up is that people from Anchorage and places are
21 saying that they can come up here and hunt because they're
22 traditional.

23

24 You know, my grandpa and great grandpa and all the
25 people before me been hunting way before any one of us ever
26 hunted. And then having somebody come and say that, you know,
27 you couldn't kill -- you know, moose unless it's open. I
28 believe that. But what if your family's starving. You know,
29 I'm trying to -- like somebody brought up this evening, I'm
30 trying to hold back my temper because I -- it's hard for me to
31 -- I know we all have rights, you know.

32

33 I guess what I'm trying to say is I'm getting tired of
34 being stepped on and getting the short end of the stick. And
35 another problem I have, was somebody bringing this up where
36 they're counting the moose. Even me, I have hard time. I
37 don't see how they count the moose. Probably they see whole
38 bunch in one area and they kind of add it up for each mile.

39

40 You know when I was growing up I used to see Grayling
41 to Shageluk, or Anvik to Shageluk, I used to see moose track
42 almost all the way. Now, I start to see where there's very
43 seldom you see moose tracks. And then having somebody come in
44 and say that moose is increasing and I disagree with that. I
45 just want to put that in. Thank you.

46

47 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Allen, that was really good.
48 Any more?

49

50 MR. R. SAM: Maybe you can answer this. I know up in

00152

1 Rudy and our area we deal with the Koyukuk River Advisory
2 Committee as far as statewide regulations are concerned. Who
3 do you deal with down there?

4
5 MR. DEACON: Are you testifying.....

6
7 MR. R. SAM: Just asking a question?

8
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Down here it's the Grayling,
10 Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross Fish and Game Advisory
11 Committee.

12
13 MR. BENJAMIN: Yeah. My name is Frank Benjamin from
14 Shageluk IRA. Every fall we have the same kind of problems on
15 moose hunting, outsiders and a lot of boats going up the
16 Innoko. And year after year we try to think of some different
17 ways to deal with outside hunters and it's still happening.

18
19 And as far as you know our lands up there, it's all
20 corporation, Grayling, Shageluk and they don't have no respect
21 for our lands, they just leave all kinds of cans and all kinds
22 of junk they leave behind. And then around Shageluk we try to
23 clean up what they mess up, you know. But I don't think that's
24 right.

25
26 And as far as fishing, we subsistence fish only up the
27 Innoko and we don't commercial fish. That's one thing down
28 river or anywhere, they don't bother us about fishing because
29 we subsistence fish only. And there was remarks about closing
30 up the river every fall. We've been doing that for years up in
31 Shageluk. Far back as I can remember they've been doing it
32 every fall.

33
34 And sometimes we don't close the whole river because
35 the water level varies every year. So a lot of fish escape
36 just the same, you know. We don't catch every fish. That's
37 all I had to say. Thank you.

38
39 MR. DEACON: All right. Thank you, Franklin. Do you
40 have any questions for Frank? Okay. Thank you, Franklin. Any
41 more?

42
43 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: I was wondering, is this Unit
44 21(E) area opened to sports hunters? I mean are they allowed?

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: I'm doing double duty here. Yes, it is
47 opened. That's a State issue. Just to make sure and explain
48 why I'm saying double duty. Yes, it's open for sports hunting
49 in 21(E).

50

00153

1 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: During our regular fall hunts and
2 even this February hunt?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. As I've read out of the
5 regulations, correct.

6
7 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: But in the Fish and Game book I
8 read that it's a violation to use an airplane to transport
9 hunters or hunting equipment or moose, any parts of the moose,
10 is that correct?

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm not going to answer that
13 because I don't have the background on that. But you do have
14 the Paradise Controlled Use Area here and I would rather have
15 the State answer that because I want to make sure you get the
16 straight answer without myself muddying up the water. And I
17 don't see Innoko Refuge Staff here that may also be able to
18 field that question.

19
20 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Because there is a lot of
21 violations of that.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. She is here. Sorry. I don't know
24 who wants to take that because I would just be reading from
25 here and I may not get it correct.

26
27 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: When we see violations of that who
28 can we call to report it since there's no one around monitoring
29 like everybody else has been saying?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: I'm going to let Lori answer that and et
32 cetera. But there are numbers to call and what needs to be
33 done on that.

34
35 MS. REID: Yeah, Laura Reid, Innoko Refuge. If you see
36 violations on the Innoko Refuge you need to call us, or you can
37 even call us if it's off refuge. Preferably the State guys,
38 Fish and Game. I think Charlie Beatty comes all the way over
39 here from McGrath.

40
41 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Well, you know, I have been
42 calling McGrath and nothing ever got done. So what's your
43 number? Maybe you can.....

44
45 MS. REID: Sure. Yeah, we often hear about things
46 after it's all said and done. And sometimes we come and we
47 check on things and it's over, you know, and we don't find
48 anything. And we can't prosecute a case just on hearsay. We
49 have to have -- you know, see something.....

50

00154

1 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Catch them in the act.

2

3 MS. REID: Yeah, exactly, catch it. Have evidence.

4

5 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Like on camcorder and all that.

6 Like get them on camcorder?

7

8 MS. REID: I say nothing.

9

10 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Well, what's your number anyway?

11

12 MS. REID: Sure. 524-3251. And we have two Refuge
13 Officers on staff, our manager Ed Merritt and Paul Ladagard
14 (ph) are both our Refuge Officers. I'll write it down for you.

15

16 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. She answered my
17 question. I also just wanted to say like a few of the
18 gentlemen already said, my husband is a stockholder of Da loi
19 ceit (ph) land and we go out during hunting season. We have
20 seen hunters that are not stockholders on Da loi ceit (ph) land
21 and here are signs all over saying that you're not allowed if
22 you're not a stockholder. And they have like one or two moose
23 hanging around in their camp and they're still riding around
24 hunting and they're on Da loi ceit (ph) land. And nobody's
25 doing anything about it.

26

27 I mean the spot lighting is ridiculous. I mean it's out
28 of hand. They all do it and they all have these big spotlights
29 in their boats when they come up here. And somebody should be
30 telling them to leave the lights home. When it gets dark, like
31 the rest of us, they should make camp and go to bed, you know.
32 Oh, this is Sandra Demientieff again.

33

34 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Sandra. You have any more?

35

36 MR. P. DEMIENTIEFF: My name is Phil Demientieff out of
37 Holy Cross. I also work for Tanana Chiefs at the Sub-regional
38 Office. Like everybody else with this Unit 21(E), I've been
39 hearing concerns of the population of the moose. Right now we
40 have a strong population, but looking at two, or three, or four
41 or five years down the road, do we have an outlook of what the
42 population is going to be then?

43

44 I think, you know, better start doing something now
45 before the moose crashes around this area. Because right now
46 every moose season, fall season and spring season, you know,
47 everybody come up with boats in the fall. And the families
48 here, the people that live in the villages, you know, they have
49 families that's outside the village like in Anchorage, Bethel,
50 wherever. And I see their families coming into the village

00155

1 hunting, bringing in their friends and, you know, lots of moose
2 is taken out.

3

4 Once we start making regulations we ought to think of
5 how we're going to start looking at this because each of us in
6 the villages we kill the moose to eat and feed our families
7 but, you know, brothers or sisters or in-laws from out of the
8 village, they come and get a moose too to feed their families.
9 I also see increasing sport hunters. This last fall, you know,
10 I was out riding with my brothers and we bumped into one of the
11 local boats here and there was a guide with them. And they
12 said they'd been riding four or five days and they'd been
13 passing many bulls.

14

15 You know, we stopped to them and they had a big over
16 60, 70 inch rack and they'd been hunting for four or five days.
17 And us, you know, we've been drive around just to find a bull.
18 But in the past also during the hunting season when all the
19 boats come up from down river and the coast, you know, we spend
20 a lot of money on gas and food just to go out and hunt.

21

22 At times we'd be out hunting, going in these sloughs,
23 you know, we'd have to turn around once we go inside a slough
24 if we see a boat from down river. You know, that really get us
25 angry. And we go to another slough and find another boat, a
26 camp set up, you know. Then we go back home, we've got to wait
27 a couple of days before they clear out.

28

29 But every day during the moose hunting days the people
30 in the village, you know, they're talking hey there's so many
31 hunters here, you know, got to do something. In the past, you
32 know, I've heard of our local people in the village, some of
33 them get so made, you know, they get intoxicated. They go out
34 on the river, they see down river people hunting, you know they
35 start shooting at them. You know, part of that scares them
36 back down river.

37

38 But, you know, we don't want to see that in the future
39 because that can be pretty rough, what Gabe said earlier. We
40 don't want to see no gun war going on just for a moose. And
41 then the spring hunt, you know that's February 1st through the
42 10th, that's subsistence, you know, hunting. And these people
43 from Bethel, you know, their big time work is they work for a
44 big company, you know, they get pretty good size salary and the
45 doctors coming up from Bethel hunting. And I just couldn't see
46 that because I don't see them subsistence hunting because they
47 can buy their meat down in Bethel.

48

49 But subsistence I think, you know, families -- big
50 families, people that need the meat and not really high salary,

00156

1 you know, single people. I'm getting carried away at it. Get
2 back on track here.

3

4 But, anyway, that's my concern of these huntings.
5 Every hunting season, every fall season, ever spring I hear all
6 these complaints from, you know, all the villages. You know, I
7 think gas, your board should have been -- they should be here
8 with you guys, you know, having meetings, all the agencies
9 together to make some regulations and sit down and start
10 regulating these hunters that we can preserve our meat for the
11 future. Because it takes lots of money to go out hunting and
12 it takes lots of money just to buy boats and motors, gas, food,
13 snow machine sleds. You know, some people can't even go out
14 because they don't have a boat or a motor or a snow machine.
15 That's why they've got to ask their relatives to, you know, get
16 some -- get their own food.

17

18 I can keep going on all night, but I think I'll stop
19 there. That's my concerns. Thank you.

20

21 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Phillip. You have any
22 questions for Phillip here? Thank you, Phillip. Any more?

23

24 MS. C. DEMIENTIEFF: Hi. My name is Cheryl
25 Demientieff. And I was wondering why the State and the Federal
26 having their moose hunting together at the same time? Why
27 can't it be anything -- you know, different times?

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the simple answer is, is that when
30 all this happened is that the State was not in compliance with
31 the National Interest Lands Conservation Act. The Federal
32 government established this program and essentially adopted all
33 the State regulations into Federal regulations that would apply
34 to Federal lands.

35

36 So most of those seasons were brought in from the State
37 regulations. So that's why they're in State and Federal,
38 because the management falls on the land jurisdiction of that.
39 And the subsistence hunting privileges break down to on the
40 State side that all Alaskan residents qualify for subsistence
41 seasons. On the Federal side it's qualified rural residents.
42 So that's why they're both there.

43

44 Any why they parallel each other is because I think
45 over time, and others can share on that, that these seasons
46 have come about to try to match the traditional hunting seasons
47 for people in the area. And without having all the records
48 here to explain the movement of that spring season, I'll leave
49 it at that. And the movement of the opening and closing dates.
50 But in general they've been tracking the same, both State and

00157

1 Federal. And I don't know if the State has other comments on
2 that.

3

4 MS. C. DEMIENTIEFF: I'd like to go on record opposing
5 this. Because they are killing, like Sandra Demientieff said,
6 you know, killing the pregnant cows. And they're coming from
7 all over. So we need to protect these pregnant cows, you know.
8 It's all right for the local people to go out and hunt it
9 because it's just, you know, 10 days. And there's just a few
10 of us here. But if they're coming from all over shooting
11 anything, you know, that's ridiculous. You know, anything goes
12 then.

13

14 And I would like to publicly thank Angela Demientieff.
15 Whenever she comes back for meetings she's always really
16 informative. She talks about the meetings a lot and I'm
17 learning a lot from here. And I think that we should try to
18 figure out a way to hire somebody locally to keep us informed
19 on issues that are affecting our subsistence issues. There is
20 so many things going on that we don't even know about.

21

22 Like, for instance, the trapping bill that they're
23 discussing. I don't really know that much about it but -- and
24 I'm not a trapper, but you know that's on the wildlife refuge.
25 How many people sent letters to the Legislature about that, you
26 know, from this town. Can I see a show of hands? I don't
27 think very many. I think people should help us get down,
28 become active, write letters, talk. We need a stronger vocal
29 representation in this subregion. And we've got to find this
30 person, hire them and, you know, put them to work. Let's get
31 something done. Thank you.

32

33 MR. REAKOFF: Is there a local radio station that
34 people listen to here or news releases of subsistence related
35 issues could be broadcast on?

36

37 MS. C. DEMIENTIEFF: Nope, yeah. I guess, Nope.

38

39 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Also we have the local VHF radio.
40 Everybody's always on channel 68. We do a lot of our village
41 announcements like that. Not every household owns a radio, you
42 know. But about that trapping issue, the letter
43 (indiscernible). We didn't even get that letter until
44 yesterday in the mail and they said the deadline was February
45 15th. So we couldn't write anything even if we wanted to.
46 Because the weather is bad, sometimes the mail doesn't get here
47 on time.

48

49 MR. G. SAM: Where did that letter come from?

50

00158

1 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: It come to the house.

2

3 MR. G. SAM: I mean did it come from Tanana Chiefs?

4

5 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: It came from Alaska Fish and Game
6 Department somewhere they're on there. State of Alaska -- had
7 the State of Alaska return address.

8

9 MR. DEACON: Any more?

10

11 MR. P. DEMIENTIEFF: Henry, this is Phillip
12 Demientieff, I've got another comments. One of my concerns I
13 was going to bring up what Rudy Sommer was mentioning about
14 enforcement. For the fall and the winter hunt again, you know,
15 the Feds and the State they set these hunting seasons and when
16 it's hunting time, like Sandra said earlier, there's no
17 enforcement. No Fish and Wildlife people in the villages, you
18 know, going out checking with hunters really enforcing the
19 moose hunt there. So I'd like to see more enforcement.

20

21 And then once we see a complaint we call it to Fish and
22 Game in Aniak. I call in Aniak and the answering machine comes
23 on. And I always get a message but never get no messages -- no
24 calls returned back to me. But when it's not hunting season
25 and somebody kills, you know, a moose or a bear out of that --
26 the season's not open, you know, some local calls the Fish and
27 Game in Aniak or McGrath, right the next day the enforcement
28 people are right there, you know, arresting them people. You
29 know, that's what really upsets me.

30

31 Because only when there's no hunting season and those
32 complaints of moose kills or something, they come over and
33 arrest the local people. But during the hunting season when
34 there's violations reported and they're called up, they're no
35 where in sight. So I'd like to see the enforcement improved in
36 the future. Thank you.

37

38 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Phillip. Any more?

39

40 MR. WOODFORD: Ralph Woodford from Shageluk. And I
41 just want to say that I've seen some violations or heard of
42 some violations, that hunters come down and -- some outside
43 hunters come down to this Yukon Drainage there -- I mean Innoko
44 Drainage and some of them are just wounding moose and not going
45 after them. I was brought up to if you shoot a moose and wound
46 it, you followed and get it.

47

48 Most hunters -- some of the outside hunters come in and
49 wound it and just let it go. And if this keeps on, you know,
50 we're not going to have very much moose left. And it makes it

00159

1 harder for the local people that get the meat for eating.
2 That's all.

3
4 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Ralph. Do you have any
5 questions for Ralph.

6
7 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: For the record I'm Angela
8 Demientieff. Second Chief of Holy Cross. My comment for
9 tonight is this: when the Federal government does take over
10 the management of fish and game for our area, our Tribal
11 Councils by then will be pretty strong, will have been educated
12 more and they'll be able to deal with you more effectively.

13
14 We'll get better regulations for our own people to stop
15 these people from down river, out of town, or wherever they
16 come from, from invading our country and our lands. These
17 lands were never hunted before, except by our own. And now
18 we've got all these hunters coming in while our people sit here
19 in their homes with no moose meat.

20
21 Some of our people sit in their homes with no fish.
22 They have no one to fish for them. All these things I'd like
23 to see better management in the next 10 years. So we don't
24 have to come to meetings and say, all these people are coming
25 into our country and taking what's rightfully ours. I think
26 it's time all the villagers stood together and stood up for
27 their rights and get back control of their fish and game into
28 their own hands.

29
30 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Angela. Any more?

31
32 MR. SOMMER: I have one more thing that I would like to
33 bring up. It was stated to me, I didn't see it but I take it
34 as fact, that -- and it happened up in Dulbi Slough, but during
35 the high water I've seen this camp but I didn't see the moose
36 in the slough. But Gabe's uncle saw it, it was right below his
37 land allotment where this came was.

38
39 He went down there after the moose hunting season was
40 over hunting bear, as the people always do in that area, and I
41 believe all over, there was moose in the river in the slough,
42 sitting on the beach or in -- where they threw the meat. And I
43 wrote a letter to the editor about it in the Fairbanks Daily
44 News. And when I was going into town I ran into my cousin and
45 he stated the same thing that same fall, this was two years
46 ago, that they saw the same thing in Tanana -- below Tanana.

47 And it's over 200 -- probably a good 200 miles up from
48 the mouth of the Koyukuk River up to where these people were.
49 That's just about the end of the line. Well, it is the end of
50 the line where these hunters are going. It's 200 miles down to

00160

1 the mouth of the Koyukuk River and probably another 200 miles
2 up to below Tanana where they saw this same thing.

3
4 And I take -- although I've never seen it, I take them
5 as fact. And that's a lot of miles and a lot of hunters
6 between there and here. I say there, because it's way up
7 there, and here, because that's where they're going. They're
8 going back up.

9
10 And I believe that a lot of local people could be hired
11 to monitor these moose hunts at so many miles apart. I think
12 it could benefit the country, plus put -- give some people some
13 employment for a month, month and a half, however long that
14 that takes. I just wanted that to be on record. I'm Rudy
15 Sommer from Huslia Tribal Council again.

16
17 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Rudy. Is there any more?

18
19 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Sandra Demientieff again. Another
20 issue I almost forgot to bring up is for black bear. I have a
21 friend in Grayling that told me that he was approached by an
22 outsider that told him that he'd pay up to \$450.00 for a black
23 bear gall bladder. So we need to make some regulations about
24 bear hunting now because they're going to start going after the
25 gall bladders and pretty soon we won't have any black bears
26 left either. Thanks.

27
28 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Sandra. Any more?

29
30 MS. TURNER: Hi, I'm Debbie Turner from Holy Cross.
31 And I guess what I've been hearing from all these people and
32 how I feel is that one of the main problems is the lack of
33 respect that these people -- the outside hunters have for our
34 land and for us.

35
36 They come in and they, you know, leave their garbage
37 behind, they waste meat and it's really, really tragic. And it
38 seems like, you know, if we can't do anything to stop them from
39 coming in, then maybe they should be -- I don't know how you
40 can educate someone as to -- how do you teach someone respect
41 for land? How do you teach someone respect for other people's
42 country, you know? It's just I don't know. This is my home
43 and I love it here. And, you know, everybody feels really
44 violated when this keeps going on and on and on.

45
46 And, you know, they're talking about regulations and
47 people not obeying them and not enough enforcement. And to me
48 it just keeps coming back to the lack of respect these people
49 have. I feel that we really need to -- I don't know, public
50 service announcements or I don't know what is it. How we get

00161

1 this across to people who don't have it. But that's all I
2 have.

3
4 Besides, you know, one more thing. For my family, we
5 can't survive, you know, without moose and fish. We really
6 can't. There isn't enough jobs in the villages and this goes
7 for many, many families as you know. And that's why we really
8 need to start doing something about this. Thank you.

9
10 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Debbie. Is there any more?

11
12 MR. R. SAM: Yeah. I'd like to thank Debbie for her
13 testimony and all of you really because I know a lot of you
14 work at your regular jobs. But as far as respect for people
15 and the land and for our basic human rights was one of the many
16 topics or the only topic that we covered at that Subsistence
17 Round Table Summit down in Anchorage.

18
19 And again, the only thing that we could think of to
20 solve that problem was to get an all out media blitz through
21 our -- what few newspaper publications we have. We did take
22 out a full page ad in the Anchorage Daily Times and we were
23 going to issue a press release. It should have been out
24 already. But I'd like to thank her for that last comment and
25 which was reflected by all of your testimony, that we as
26 subsistence users are being abused seems like from Washington,
27 D.C., on down just by ignoring our basic human rights. And I'd
28 like to thank you for that testimony.

29
30 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Ron. Is there any more?

31
32 MR. JERUE: Good evening. My name is Carl Jerue, Jr.
33 I'm from Anvik. Lived in Anvik probably 30 years or maybe
34 more. I'm not sure. I forgot what -- how old I am, but I
35 would like to thank everybody from Shageluk for coming down to
36 attend this meeting and I'm glad to see them here, also the
37 people of Holy Cross, and also our Board members, Henry Deacon
38 and Angela Demientieff. I'd like to thank them for all of the
39 time that they have put on this -- put all the effort into
40 this. This fight that we have to take.

41
42 We are up against the wall. And I'd like to commend
43 them on the job that they are doing. I really appreciate that.
44 And I'd like to comment on a few things here, as I've been
45 listening to the local residents giving them comments and
46 concerns. There's always going to be a fight on our hands. So
47 I'm not really sure if there's going to be really an answer to
48 all of this because the way it is now and in the past, we sat
49 by, we put our confidence in these Boards, the State Boards to
50 manage fish and game in our area, and now we have to work with

00162

1 double management.

2

3 I'd like to thank the Federal Board for putting the
4 effort -- coming here to listen to us. And also I'd like to
5 thank the people from Upper Koyukuk region for sharing their
6 views. It gives me reason to really think about our future
7 down here, listening to them about what's happening in their
8 region.

9

10 And the time that it has happened, you look at the
11 length of time and it's going -- it's happening very fast. And
12 like Phillip Demientieff said, we've got a pretty strong
13 population of game in our area, but I think probably by next
14 fall hunt we're going to see a lot of pressure in our area.
15 From then on it's going to go all downhill from there.

16

17 What sort of action could we take? Can anybody from any
18 Board answer that question? What is the solution? What action
19 do we take? What's available to us? What's the resources we -
20 - we don't -- I guess it's not -- we haven't seen it as a real
21 threat to us so we sat by, we sat back and thought that
22 everything was going to be okay as it has been throughout
23 centuries and centuries and a lot of years. But now here we
24 are, we're up with our backs to the wall.

25

26 And trying to deal with something so -- it's so much
27 technical terms and all this technical research. How do we put
28 it into our minds and try to sort all that out? What kind of
29 answer do you got for us?

30

31 MR. R. SAM: I don't know if this is the answer, but
32 one of the things that we are looking at on the Upper Koyukuk
33 is to educate our own people and try to educate the people that
34 we deal with. And going back to that Subsistence Round Table
35 Summit, that's what we're trying to do right now; is educate
36 people from Washington, D.C., on down and educate the people
37 from the State Legislature on down as to how strongly we feel
38 about this subsistence issue.

39

40 And one of the goals that we set was to hit every
41 meeting that we could, such as this one, and bring out the
42 information -- bring back the information from that meeting,
43 plus get ready and put another strong front and informational
44 front, informational blitz out of Tanana Chiefs Conference
45 which comes up, when, third week in March.

46

47 And the final solutions, which we hoped for, was to
48 call another statewide meeting on subsistence issue within six
49 weeks, if possible. Where we're going to find all that money
50 to put this back on is another thing because that's where we're

00163

1 hurting out in the Bush, we don't have the money to come out
2 and fight all these issues. But that's what we're looking at
3 for the time being.

4
5 MR. JERUE: Okay. Thanks. From the testimony I've
6 been hearing tonight, and it was mentioned by Phillip
7 Demientieff, the enforcement issue. I've seen it happen.
8 Every time there's a hunting season we usually don't -- maybe
9 -- I think last fall I seen the enforcement officers twice in
10 25 -- 20 days. And those seasons, how much regulations are
11 being violated, you know, and where is the enforcement? And
12 when there is some locals calling the enforcement offices and
13 leaving a message and there is no follow-up.

14
15 But, like he said, when there's a local guy trying to
16 put meat in his freezer for his family, and they get a call on
17 him, they're right over here. I don't have too much confidence
18 in the enforcement regulations that you put on paper for us to
19 follow. And we see it being violated by it doesn't matter who
20 they are or where they're from. And it's being violated in our
21 eyes.

22
23 But I guess we're not to be listened to, or I guess
24 we've got to figure out some other method of enforcing all this
25 regulations they keep putting down on paper for us to follow. I
26 think everybody should follow it. And there should be --
27 there's got to be better ways for enforcement of the
28 regulations because it's not working in our eyes. Maybe in the
29 Agencies eyes they're doing a good job, but I think they'll
30 have to listen to all the complaints from local people. The
31 enforcement officers are not out there or the agencies --
32 officials and agencies aren't out here to see it first hand.
33 So we're not -- our credibility I guess is pretty low in their
34 eyes.

35
36 So I'd like to see that looked into and see what kind
37 of recommendations that you give to the enforcement agencies,
38 both Federal and State. I've got a bunch of concerns that I
39 haven't addressed but, you know, there's going to be more
40 opportunities and the time is getting pretty late, so I think
41 I'll stop right there. Again, thanks. Thank everybody for
42 their testimony here, comments, concerns.

43
44 MR. DERENDOFF: You had me thinking about -- you see,
45 I'm in the same boat as you are over these moose hunting, but I
46 just happened to be sitting here in the Board. But I believe I
47 can thank all you people that was able to get up there and make
48 a testimonial on what you really think. And I believe that's a
49 big step into trying to get something to go, by testimony,
50 because it ain't easy for a person to come up and to speak in

00164

1 front of people like that.

2

3 And if a community like you all did here, all these
4 testimony came together, I think that makes a big impact on
5 what's being said. And I would also like to thank you for
6 that. And for the record my name is Bill Derendoff.

7

8 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Carl. Any more testimony?

9

10 MR. SOMMER: I have one more. I would like to thank the
11 people of Holy Cross for holding this meeting here. And as you
12 can see, we all need more involvement on these issues in our
13 communities. And I think that more involvement is coming to
14 be. And again I'd like to thank you for hosting this. And I
15 was going to cancel out on this trip, but I'm sure glad I came
16 now.

17

18 And to the people with all the papers, all the
19 paperwork, I would like you to when you leave here, walk out
20 that door, look at these people's kids and wonder what it's
21 going to be like for them. Please do that. I often look at my
22 kids and wonder what it's going to be like for them.

23

24 I would like you guys to put your paperwork down. As
25 you're walking by them, or looking out the window, and wonder
26 what it's going to be like for them. Thank you.

27

28 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Rudy. Is there any more?

29

30 MR. G. SAM: Well, I told myself I wasn't going to do
31 this. I guess I might as well. My name is Gabe Sam and
32 currently I'm the Director of Wildlife Park for Tanana Chiefs.
33 And but I'm going to be speaking on my own behalf as a
34 resident.

35

36 I don't know quite how to put that there, Rudy,
37 resident or former resident of Huslia. You know, there's a lot
38 of question as to my residency in Huslia, although I live in
39 Fairbanks now for the past four years, from what I understand
40 now I have to be invited back by the Huslia Tribal Council to
41 go hunting, although I do go back there and I do, you know,
42 practice our subsistence way of hunting. That's what I've been
43 brought up on.

44

45 And that's the message I've been trying to send all day
46 long, is that's our way of life. That's how we grew up. And
47 we're not going to give that up. And like they said at the
48 Rural Cap meeting, we're tired of going to meetings, meetings,
49 meetings, listening to different agencies tell us this and tell
50 us that, and what's wrong with the subsistence program we have

00165

1 now.

2

3 And, you know, like I said earlier today, I'm learning
4 how to be more passive about this all, you know, and trying not
5 to get too angry about it and try and think of a positive way
6 of communicating this across to the people that are holding all
7 the cards. We're basically on a stacked deck right now, you
8 know, the Federal and State agencies.

9

10 I went to school four years trying to learn this and,
11 you know, I'm still trying to learn it all. It's like a whole
12 new process to me. Like what Cheryl was saying, I did a
13 massive mail-out on the trapping issue, you know, and I don't
14 know what the responses are. I heard a lot of villages
15 responded back. And the same thing with the wolf issue. But
16 it's pretty hard to compete with the animal activists and
17 environmentalists when they have millions of dollars and, you
18 know, they basically use an ad in their campaign showing a wolf
19 running across plains and supposedly it's supposed to be being
20 harassed by an airplane.

21

22 And we went to KTU at Channel 2 in Fairbanks and they
23 have the technology now where they can zero in on back on a
24 particular part on it. And you can clearly see the dart
25 hanging out of the rump of that wolf running across the plains
26 there. And we made a few calls. We called up ADF&G or US Fish
27 and Wildlife and they said it could be an old photo of a wolf
28 back then being, you know, darted for some kind of collaring
29 program. And it couldn't be a super cub because it was going
30 to slow. The wolf was barely going so it must have been a
31 chopper maybe.

32

33 But I'm really happy to see all of you guys here, you
34 know. I've gone to meetings where there was only two or three
35 people showed up. Ron know what I'm talking about, you know.
36 And it's concerning our own way of life. And if you really
37 feel strongly about it -- I'm happy a lot of you guys testified
38 to that because that's the only way we're going to get it done,
39 is our own people. And we're going to have to fight for our
40 own way of life now. That's the bottom line.

41

42 Like Will Mayo said, we can't compromise any more. Not
43 any more. This is what they call quiet diplomacy. We can't be
44 quiet no more. We have to speak out, you know. And I heard it
45 over and over again.

46

47 You know, these people don't respect our land. They
48 don't respect our way of life. All they have is one thing in
49 mind, is horns, you know. You can't eat horns. But apparently
50 to them it's worth a lot more than what the meat itself is to

00166

1 us. And, you know, they had this program up in Huslia where if
2 they shot a moose they can call up and we'll have somebody pick
3 it up and we'll distribute it to the elders. But we found out,
4 you know, they never really took care of the meat. They just
5 cut it up any old way. And it doesn't matter to them how they
6 deliver it. You know they could slice the gut open and, you
7 know, it splatters all over inside.

8
9 But now in order for us to win this battle we're going
10 to have to all stick together, you know. And that's one for
11 Huslia. Huslia is going to have to play a strong role in this,
12 you know. The Koyukuk River people are going to have to stick
13 all together. And you know I don't really know Mr. Woolington
14 all that well yet, you know, but I would like to sit down with
15 him sometime and chat about this, you know. Maybe Mr. Tom
16 Early could help us out. I'm sure he'll lend us one of his
17 planes to do a little monitoring of these, you know, illegal
18 activities going on.

19
20 If they can come up with a million dollars to fight the
21 Native people, I'm sure they can come up with a million dollars
22 to fund this type of program. I mean how do you dip into a
23 million dollars and not be able to come up with just a few
24 thousand dollars to monitor these programs, you know? I look
25 out there at the agencies and I see a few smiles here and
26 there, you know. It might sound ridiculous but where do you
27 come up with a million dollars to appropriate that kind of a
28 battle, you know?

29
30 It seems kind of ridiculous that we had to fight our
31 own people in the State of Alaska for everything, right down to
32 feeding our kids, you know. I don't know, sometimes I think
33 it's just crazy, you know. But again I would like to say that
34 I respect each and every one of you that's here, you know.
35 From what I see, right down to you guy's hospitality of feeding
36 us, you know, nobody said you guys had to feed us, you know. We
37 could buy a meal, but that's not the Native way. We treat
38 anybody with respect when they come here. And that's the way
39 Huslia is, that's the way Allakaket and Hughes and Alatna is,
40 you know.

41
42 Sure, we could argue, you know, but when we're done
43 arguing we greet each other with respect. And that's the way
44 it should be. And I would just like to say again, thank you
45 all for being here and, you know, voicing your opinions.

46
47 MR. DEACON: Thank you. Is there any more?

48
49 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Sandra Demientieff again. I'd
50 just like to say personally I'm dead set against sport hunting.

00167

1 And year before last there was a guy going out with the biggest
2 rack with the moose head attached to it that I ever saw and he
3 had five of those little fix boxes, the wax coated ones, the
4 smaller ones of meat. And I said, is that all the meat? And
5 he said, on, we left most of it in the woods.

6
7 So I saw in the Anchorage newspaper, I think it was
8 earlier this winter, they have a rack size regulation. So I
9 was thinking if we would adopt such a regulation, maybe have
10 like 55 inch and under during our hunting seasons. That's like
11 a five, six year old bull and down. That would be great
12 because that's what we like to eat anyway. Hardly anybody
13 kills those big ones. They're too tough and they're the main
14 breeders. So that would eliminate a lot of the sport hunters.
15 They wouldn't want to come in for a 55 inch rack. So, you
16 know, that's one suggestion. Thank you.

17
18 MR. DEACON: Thank you again, Sandra. Is there any
19 more?

20
21 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, as far as that regulation goes, I
22 think it's already in the book. I don't have it in front of me
23 but I think that general hunt it's just any moose, right?

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: For the spring season it's any moose,
26 correct.

27
28 MR. R. SAM: Not the fall one?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: The fall one I'd have to look up. But
31 the fall one would probably be under the bull season.

32
33 MR. R. SAM: As far as the subsistence takers, I think
34 it's any moose too. And that was one of our arguments before
35 the Board of Game at Fairbanks, that we don't go out there and
36 try to kill the prime breeders. We go out there for food on
37 the table, the edible stuff.

38
39 MR. DEACON: Any more to come forward?

40
41 MS. C. DEMIENTIEFF: Hi. Cheryl Demientieff. I was
42 just wondering is there another opportunity for public comments
43 tomorrow?

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there is. And the style of this
46 Council has been at any time to get the attention of the Chair
47 or one of the members. It's not a rigid set way. Ray was just
48 saying today it's just that if there was a lot of testimony, he
49 would like to set aside time like this to do it. But he and
50 the other Council members, every meeting that I've been with

00168

1 them, have said we want to hear from the community, we want to
2 hear from locals. So they're happy that there are locals now
3 sharing these because they need that to help them make
4 decisions.

5

6 MS. C. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, I was just wondering because
7 you gave us a lot of material today and I didn't have a chance
8 to read most of it and I want to do that and then possibly come
9 back. Thank you.

10

11 MR. DEACON: Thank you. Is there any more?

12

13 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Are you guys going to be meeting
14 again tomorrow?

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: No. We have a meeting tomorrow morning
17 and the public comment on the agenda is at 9:00 a.m. If
18 somebody want to make comment at 9:00 a.m.

19

20 MR. G. SAM: 5:00 a.m.?

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: 9:00 a.m. Nine, zero.

23

24 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: And you can testify anytime.

27

28 MR. DEACON: If there's.....

29

30 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Does it have to be at 9:00?
31 There's a lot of people that work.

32

33 MR. R. SAM: No, I don't think so. One of the primary
34 reasons that we have -- for most of the meetings that I go to
35 anyway, is that the primary reason we have it out in the
36 different villages at all times is to gather more input from
37 different areas. And like Vince said, our Chairman indicated
38 that as we're not overrun by -- I mean as long as we stick to
39 the agenda we can take public comment at any time, as long as
40 we stick to the agenda.

41

42 Plus, if you want to add on any more you will be given
43 time because we all requested that at the start of the meeting.
44 I think Richard was here when we stated that.

45

46 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Ron. Is there any more. If
47 there's none, then I too would like to make a comment, you
48 know. I've been on this Board for the last three years. And
49 it really encourages me to hear someone come and testify. That
50 way they know what we're trying to say here when we go to

00169

1 meeting like this.

2

3 Now, that you've heard it, now that's -- it's very
4 encouraging to me hear somebody else say it like that. I've
5 been sitting here wondering a couple of years, you know, what
6 I'm here for because it's very discouraging to be on this Board
7 sometimes. It's slow and hard to put your point across because
8 we don't normally speak like they do, you know.

9

10 So I'm really happy this evening and glad that Holy
11 Cross -- we have a meeting here. We had a meeting a lot of
12 other villages but it never been like this. That shows that
13 there is a concern in this area, that we've been telling these
14 people there is something wrong with this place here, but
15 nobody listened to us.

16

17 Now when they hear you like that they know there is a
18 concern. So I really appreciate and thank everyone that's
19 testified here.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: I appreciate your comments. We have
22 meetings from -- I've been at meetings in Bettles and Galena
23 and Holy Cross, this last fall and now we hear the same thing
24 wherever we go that, you know, enforcement is real light in the
25 fall time and real strong on the subsistence users the rest of
26 the year because Fish and Game is all over the place in the
27 fall and nobody can get a hold of them.

28

29 The State's Legislature has cut the Fish and Game
30 enforcement way down. It's been my suggestion that anybody can
31 document fish and game violations that that some people in the
32 village should be trained to -- all you have to do is take
33 pictures, you have to document what time and all these kind of
34 things, airplane numbers and document all of those things so
35 that when the Fish and Game finally does show up two weeks
36 later, you can have a picture of moose meat laying in the
37 water, you can have the tracks, you can have the airplane
38 number, you can have all these things so they can make this
39 case.

40

41 And I think that's the only way that this problem is
42 going to be helped, is if some interested people, maybe even
43 just one person would respond on the VHF radio to known
44 enforcement violations so that they can pass that onto the
45 State Troopers who have the legal authority to arrest those
46 people. Hopefully they would be able to document and then the
47 enforcement would catch them before they left the area, but at
48 least they would know where the airplane was registered and
49 went to and stuff.

50

00170

1 As far as the people coming up from down river, if
2 people here feel that the moose population is declining, they
3 feel that the statistical data on the numbers of moose is not
4 correct, you should petition the State, because the State and
5 Federal land's mixed up. See, they usually do moose surveys
6 together anyways. So you should petition the State and US Fish
7 and Wildlife to do a moose survey to document the numbers of
8 moose currently if they're going down.

9
10 If they are going down, then the Federal Subsistence
11 Board can begin to under a part in ANILCA law, we can manage
12 for local people who have the direct long term dependence on
13 that resource. So that you asked what can you do. What you
14 should do is ask for a moose survey so that you can document
15 the moose numbers going down. Then you can begin to exclude
16 down river people under this 804 of ANILCA. And you asked a
17 question. That's what the answer is. That's the way these
18 bureaucrats work; you have to play by their -- that's their
19 game and that's the way you play this game.

20
21 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Also, I never did mention there's
22 a lot of wolf packs around killing moose. In fact, there's so
23 many that a lot of times we run across moose kills where
24 they're just eating choice parts off the moose and leaving it
25 because their packs are too big. There's one in the mine down
26 here at the end of the airport, the moose kill, and they're all
27 over up and down the Yukon. And they take down a lot of moose.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Well, we've identified this problem over
30 and over in different villages. Everybody's saying that, you
31 know, wolf packs are higher and people want things to be done.
32 But these environmentalists in Anchorage have pretty well tied
33 up Fish and Game. Fish and Game would like to do something
34 about the wolves, but they can't.

35
36 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: I thought they were going to put a
37 bounty on them.

38
39 MR. REAKOFF: That was the Legislature. They didn't do
40 it. The Governor won't do anything like that. What we
41 identified last year or year before down in Holy Cross -- or in
42 Aniak, was that the State and any other school district and all
43 other agencies should come and do wolf trapping training in
44 villages. There's people that really know how to hunt or trap
45 wolves like from Huslia and different places that really know.
46 There's certain little tricks to trapping those wolves. That
47 if local people were trained in every village on how, there
48 might be just a few kids that would learn it. But they can
49 make a big difference. Those guys catch 20 or 30 wolves a
50 winter. And everybody could do it. A few guys could do it if

00171

1 they were trained correctly. And we've tried to.

2

3 And it sounds like some of that is starting to happen.
4 Like in the McGrath area and some areas. But they basically
5 tied the State's hands and feet on the wolf issue. And the
6 Federal Fish and Wild Life and the Park Service, they almost --
7 it has to be an act of God almost for them to do something
8 about the wolves. So it's going to have to fall on the
9 shoulders of the local people to do something about that. And
10 bringing in real hot shot wolf trappers like Ben Hopson and
11 guys from around Huslia that really know how to trap wolves and
12 showing some guys some real little tricks. There's just a few
13 tricks to this wolf trapping. Can really up the success and
14 really start putting the binders on some of these wolves, you
15 know.

16

17 Some of these villages -- you wouldn't find wolves like
18 that around Anaktuvuk. They trap wolves like crazy around
19 there and they keep them way down, you know. But they know
20 these tricks. And if these knowledge were passed on -- like
21 you can feed a man a fish and tomorrow he'll be hungry. If you
22 train him to fish he'll live the rest of his life, you know.
23 So that's the only solution to this wolf thing, is local
24 training.

25

26 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: And another thing, if the State
27 and the Federal would bring in their guys during these moose
28 hunting seasons and catch all these violations they'd make a
29 lot of fine money. Make a lot of money in fines. I tell you
30 they're missing out.

31

32 MR. DEACON: I see our Chairman is back now so I'll --
33 he can take it over.

34

35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: No, go ahead, Henry, you're doing
36 fine. I'm coming in late here. It's easier if you continue.
37 I'm sorry I missed earlier, but I had other commitments. I was
38 teaching a class.

39

40 MR. SOMMER: I'd like to make a comment on wolf -- the
41 wolf issue. I've caught one wolf in my life. I'm originally
42 from Tanana and I didn't -- and I lost my father when I was 16.
43 But the fall before last I had the opportunity to attempt to
44 snare wolves. I had a moose kill and I did catch one and it
45 really made me feel good that I was able to catch it. But that
46 was the only wolf I caught because I didn't really know how
47 careful you have to be setting these snares and stuff.

48

49 But there was one guy up in Huslia after the New
50 Year's, after it warmed up, he -- his name is Franklin Simon.

00172

1 And he makes a lot of attempts to get wolves. And he went down
2 to check his snares and he had a wolf in a trap and it must
3 have been the leader because he started looking around and he
4 kind of forgot where his snares were but he found them because
5 there was five or six other wolves tied up there. And that was
6 something else, you know.

7
8 And he had put out 18 snares around that kill. But I
9 understand around here, I was listening to David Walker the
10 other night, it'd be kind of hard to get the wolves by snow
11 machine because of it being so rough. But I don't know how
12 you'd go about it. But I just wanted to comment that
13 attempting to get them with snares and stuff is a lot of fun
14 and it brings you -- well, it brings me to sort of peace and
15 harmony like to attempt to do these things. And I just wanted
16 to bring that up. It's a lot of fun.

17
18 MR. DEACON: Thank you. Is there any more?

19
20 MR. PETERS: I have one final question before I go.
21 And how does the budget forecast look for the Advisory Council?
22 What is the process? Who are you funded by? And who's all
23 paying for the people that's coming in from other agencies?
24 Who funds them and the process, you know? Process and what
25 your budget looks like? And is it going to be decreasing this
26 year and, you know, I mean dollar-wise?

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The funding for the Regional
29 Councils comes through Fish and Wildlife Service as the lead
30 agency in this interagency program. So that's how their travel
31 and my salary and travel and the different ones with Office of
32 Subsistence Management Staff.

33
34 The other ones from refuges, like Tony Booth and Tom
35 Early and that, I would believe theirs comes out of their own
36 budget to travel here on that. So that's how the budget is.
37 Beyond that I would have to turn to someone else as far as how
38 that fits into the whole regional budget, but maybe one on one
39 we can talk about that.

40
41 And the State again, they're funded through State
42 funds. So that would be through their State travel.

43
44 MR. DEACON: Any more? If there's none I'd like to
45 thank everybody for their testimony. And it's very encouraging
46 to me.

47
48 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell. I work for Denali
49 National Park. I'm going to step out of that role for a while.
50 My mom was born in the Paimiut, my dad was born in Flat and I

00173

1 grew up in Takotna.

2

3 My family were reindeer herders and ran reindeer in the
4 Kilbuck and also in the Takotna Hills. And I remember my
5 grandfather talking about reindeer and bulls and how it was
6 back in those days.

7

8 I've worked for the Park Service for many years; 10
9 years at Lake Clark and seven years at Denali. One of the
10 things that is involved with the Federal lands is predator
11 control. It's not something some agencies can do, managing a
12 particular species for another. It just may not be possible
13 within their mandates.

14

15 So what that means is as much as Jack spoke when Jack
16 was talking about trappers going out and managing or harvesting
17 wolves through the existing seasons and bag limits, it's about
18 the only tool that is left. And in order to do that the local
19 people will have to take that upon themselves and go out and do
20 that activity because it's not likely to occur from the Agency
21 standpoint. So he really spoke a lot of truth from that
22 standpoint.

23

24 What you are doing tonight, coming out and speaking is
25 really important. And I haven't seen so much of that in past
26 years, but I see more and more of it in these meetings around
27 the different villages, and that's good.

28

29 One of the other things I think needs to be done is
30 local people, the young kids to get involved in terms of
31 working with the agency or going to school and picking up the
32 training so that they can work in the agencies themselves. If
33 you look around and see what the population and the ratios of
34 Alaska Natives are working in the agencies, it's very, very low
35 and we really need to do a better job of getting kids into
36 programs that would have career in these different agencies.
37 And not just at entry level seasonal jobs, but jobs where they
38 can have management responsibilities and move up into some of
39 the upper positions.

40

41 So if there's any chance to enhance kids from Rural
42 Alaska to pursue careers and working with resources, that's a
43 great need that all the agencies have. And certainly would
44 like to encourage that.

45

46 I've been encouraged in recent years in working with
47 different Superintendents and having to see them going through
48 the learning process of coming in as managers and trying to
49 understand what subsistence really means, what the different
50 cultures are around the State, and I've been encouraged by some

00174

1 of those managers and embracing and looking at subsistence not
2 as something to try to control or limit, but looking at what
3 ANILCA says the agencies are supposed to be doing to
4 accommodate subsistence uses.

5
6 One of the problems the Agency has is a lot of the
7 Staff turns over and we go through a process of educating
8 people as they come in. And that'll probably continue to be an
9 ongoing process. And I guess I would encourage you not to get
10 too frustrated in having to go through these same steps over
11 and over again.

12
13 One of the things that I see is a movement towards co-
14 management and a recognition that to manage these resources you
15 can't depend on the Agency to do it. It's going to have to be
16 done through the villages and the people. And, you know, I'd
17 continue to report those situations where you have violations
18 and problems and try to, you know, make the key contacts with
19 people within the agencies to try to get responses to the
20 problems that you're talking about here tonight.

21
22 So just my own personal thoughts from someone inside
23 the Agency looking back out again. Thank you.

24
25 MR. DEACON: Thank you, Hollis. Any more? That's it,
26 I guess. We'll call it a night then and come back at 8:30 in
27 the morning.

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 * * * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and Reporter and Owner of Computer Matrix, do
9 hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 174
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Western
13 Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,
14 Volume I, meeting taken electronically by Dorothy Wenzel on the
15 19th day of February, 1997, beginning at the hour of 8:30
16 o'clock p.m. at the City Hall in Holy Cross, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by Mary
20 E. Miller to the best of her knowledge and ability;

21
22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
23 interested in any way in this action.

24
25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 2nd day of March,
26 1997.

27
28
29
30
31
32
33

JOSEPH P. KOLASINSKI
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/00