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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 20, 1997, 8:30 a.m.

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VOLUME II

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: Well, 8:45, I guess. Close enough.
6 We were down to Alaska State Department of Fish and Game. We'd
7 had a report there and there are others. I'd like them to
8 continue that. Other statewide or area biologists. Where are
9 we at in that process. Did you have more? We kind of cut you
10 off. Was that the only.....

11
12 MR. WOOLINGTON: No, I'm done.

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Are there any other report
15 from any State biologist? Okay.

16
17 MR. BURR: I'm John Burr from Sport Fish Division,
18 Department of Fish and Game. Just wanted to bring a couple of
19 items to your attention. There is a new as of last year
20 requirement for sport fishing guides to be licensed. So
21 anybody that's going to be taking fishermen out is required by
22 the State to get a sport fishing guiding license. And it's
23 simply a paperwork exercise, there's no charge for the license.

24
25 The only charge would be if you were going to use a
26 boat regularly for that sort of activity. It's a commercial
27 fisherman's entries permit sticker. It's a charge of about
28 \$25.00 for this thing to put on your boat. And I realize
29 that's not much of an issue for people around here, but if
30 someone's considering getting into guiding sport fishermen,
31 that's a current requirement.

32
33 The other item that I wanted to bring up was that we're
34 planning to do a project on the Nowitna River this next summer.
35 And so we will be working on the river for about six weeks
36 during the course of the summer. A couple of weeks each of the
37 months. The purpose of this study is to access the pike
38 population in the Lower Nowitna River. We're starting to get
39 some more sport fishing activity occurring over there. (2) We
40 want to try to measure the size and the age of the fish that
41 are there currently so that we can make sure that we can track
42 any changes in that population.

43
44 Another part of that project will be to try to measure
45 the effect of catch and release fishing on northern pike. I
46 guess that's all I had to say. I'd be happy to try to answer
47 any questions you have about sport fishing issues. I'll leave
48 it at that.

49

CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Henry.

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1 MR. DEACON: I know there's a lot of people want to go
2 up Innoko on refuge to fish all summer, you know. Do you want
3 raft on the middle of the river so they don't touch the land?
4 And a lot of those people concern is where are they going to
5 put their waste and all the stuff that they -- you know, they
6 going to be throwing it overboard or, you know, that's the
7 questions we have around here. And we don't know how the
8 refuge -- we notify the refuge what their -- they're pretty
9 helpful, that refuge, you know they want to find out too. So
10 that's the concern.

11
12 I know there's a lot of boats that want to go up there
13 for the summer and pull in on the refuge land, but the waste,
14 what they going to do with it, you know, that's our question.
15 And then it's against the Native Rule -- I don't have anything
16 but I just want to give you this. Is to catch fish and play
17 with animals, you know. It's not our way looking at something
18 that we live on, you know. So I just wanted to let you know
19 that.

20
21 MR. BURR: Yeah, thank you. I'm aware of that concern.
22 And, unfortunately, or it's really not something that I'm able
23 to be able to really address. I know that there is a large
24 floating hotel that's been up on the Innoko River at least this
25 last year. I think it was there the year before. And I don't
26 know what his plans are in the future. I believe he's
27 intending to be there again this year. And whether or not he's
28 going to make it up on the refuge or not, I don't know. I
29 think he's got some water quality issues that he has to deal
30 with before the refuge will permit his activity up there.

31 And I believe that he's also applied to extend some of
32 his activities up into the upper part of the refuge up by
33 Kanuti, closer to Galena. But whether or not he'll be able to
34 do that I think is dependent on some decisions that the refuge
35 people will have to make.

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: What kind of reporting requirements
38 do these guys have? Are they doing any reports to say the
39 number of clients, things like that?

40
41 MR. BURR: Yeah. That was the motivation behind this
42 guide licensing requirement. Up until this point we had no
43 legal mechanism to get those sorts of -- that sort of
44 information from them. And now with the new licensing
45 requirements they're required to give us this information. And
46 so for the first time starting next summer we're going to start
47 getting that kind of information. But at this point it's all
48 been completely voluntary.

49

CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Would that include statistics on the

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1 fish, like let's say these large pike, are they going to be
2 listing how many of those are actually taken out and size?
3 Because I would think some of that data could contribute to
4 your biological database.

5
6 MR. BURR: Yeah, certainly. It is kind of on an
7 individual basis. I was going to request that specific sort of
8 information from the fishermen that were working the Innoko and
9 then if he expands into the Kanuti. And then also the folks
10 that are working up on the Nowitna River, I was going to
11 request those data from those people.

12
13 There's not a blanket requirement but I think they're
14 highly motivated to comply with the data needs of the State
15 because it's certainly in their vested interest to not abuse
16 the resource any more than they have to in order -- you know,
17 it's an economic sort of thing. So, yeah, I do hope to get
18 those data from the folks. And they'll have to make those
19 available to you guys next -- to the Board next year.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering about if there is in the
24 future with these sport fishing guide license, is there going
25 to be a testing like the hunting guides have to take a test?
26 And I'm referring to under the guiding regulations there's
27 ethical conduct. We've heard considerable testimony of
28 unethical conduct by fishing guides throwing garbage around and
29 so forth like that in different areas.

30
31 And on the training on the testing as to the proper --
32 what people don't like is improper handling of these fish in
33 this catch and release. You know, it's my opinion that
34 depending on the person it can vary between one percent
35 mortality to 50 percent or excess. And I feel that there
36 should be a stringency in this catch and release. If the State
37 can't do anything about it, they should at least -- these
38 guides should have to be tested as to the ethics of releasing
39 these fish without injury because a lot of these fish are in
40 excess of 20 years old.

41
42 And I feel that a test requirement and a reprimand for
43 unethical conduct as far as abusing Native lands should be the
44 basis for revocation of license and catch and release ethics as
45 far as over-fishing. It's not good to catch every last pike
46 out of a pike hole and they've all got a big hook mark in their
47 mouth. And it puts them into the winter in poor -- they have
48 to recover from that, or playing them excessively. And there's
49 just, you know, all the aspects of that.

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1 I feel that a testing requirement and training
2 standards for this type of fishing is fully warranted.

3
4 MR. BURR: I appreciate that comment. In addition to
5 the license requirement that is currently in place, there is
6 some legislation that has been introduced to essentially make
7 sport fish guides meet similar requirements as big game guides
8 as far as, you know, where they come from. They have to
9 demonstrate that they've been involved in these sorts of
10 activities and that they have a code of ethics and all of that.

11
12 Where that bill is going to go it's unknown. It looks
13 right now like it's probably going to pass, but that'd be
14 something for the following summer, not for the summer of '97,
15 but for '98. But, yeah, that's certainly something that's
16 being discussed. And I'll include those comments in the next
17 round of meetings. Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Are there any residency requirements
20 on this activity? Do the guides have to be a resident before
21 they can get a.....

22
23 MR. BURR: Yes. In the bill that I was just talking
24 about, the one that's been introduced, yeah, there are
25 residency requirements.

26
27 Currently the licensing that's required for this next
28 summer is just an attempt to get a tally of who's out there
29 doing it. So, yes, if the bill passes there would be a
30 residency requirement.

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Are there any other questions. Yes,
33 Bill.

34
35 MR. DERENDOFF: I'd like to comment on this catch and
36 release. It's something that I'd heard from the older people
37 at my home about catching an animal and releasing it. They
38 said that they didn't like that idea because sometimes you'd
39 catch some kind of either a fish or an animal and catch it and
40 then release it. And a long time ago they said that when you
41 caught it you'd have to keep it. But if you released it, then
42 it'd just go -- they'll travel somewhere and they'll probably
43 never come back. I just wanted to comment on that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Okay. No other State
46 reports then?

47
48 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Good morning. Let everyone get
49 settled in. My name is Vince Golembeski and I'm with the

50 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries

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1 Management and Development Division. I am the chinook and
2 summer chum salmon Assistant Area Management Biologist, the
3 Yukon River. We follow the runs from the mouth all the way up
4 to the Canadian border.

5
6 We're involved with the subsistence, personal use and
7 the commercial fisheries for chinook and summer chum salmon.
8 For informational purposes, mainly for the general public and
9 members of the Board here, I have copies of the 1996 fishing
10 season summary. So of you may have already seen it. It's been
11 out in the mail for a while now. And I also have run outlook
12 for this coming '97 season for chinook and summer chum salmon,
13 and also fall chum salmon. So there'll be enough copies out
14 for you, the public, and I guess a record copy for Vince.

15
16 For the general public I just wanted to mention that
17 they should read this briefing material that was put out by the
18 Federal Board here in June and July. It has a lot more
19 implications than a lot of people realize, as far as I'm
20 concerned. So I'm sure you've all seen it and read it, but for
21 the general audience I really encourage them picking up a copy
22 of this and going over it and looking at the ramifications.

23
24 Looking at the Board I notice that some of the people
25 are old people involved with subsistence fisheries and other
26 people for part of their livelihood deal with the commercial
27 fisheries either as permit holders or as crew members. So it'd
28 be worth their while to go over that.

29
30 That was basically all of what we had to say. And in
31 defense of Fish and Wildlife Protection Officers that were not
32 available to be here for whatever reasons today, they do have a
33 large area to cover in season. There's three Troopers -- or
34 three Fish and Wildlife Protection Officers for this whole
35 area. Charlie Beatty out of McGrath, Scotty Gibbens out of
36 Aniak, Greg Hamm out of Galena, and occasionally Jim Pogle (ph)
37 from Bethel. They all cover this area at various times.

38
39 I know I've seen Scotty, Charlie and Greg Hamm flying
40 this area at various times. So there is coverage. It might be
41 a hit or miss type thing, but there are only three officers for
42 this large area. So if they're out flying they might not get
43 back here. Sometimes they're out doing investigations, so it
44 might be, you know, a week or maybe two weeks before they get
45 back to you to return a call. But keep trying.

46
47 If you can't get them there's also that 1-800 number
48 for Alaska Fish and Wildlife Safeguard number. It's 1-800-478-
49 3377. I'll write it on that bulletin board for anyone that

50 wants it. Most of the time you'll get a recording on that, but

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1 you can leave a message 24-hours a day, seven days a week. And
2 you can remain anonymous, you don't have to leave your name
3 but, you know, you do have to provide information on the
4 violations that you report. Anything you have or can document
5 will help investigations.

6
7 Because as people said, there are violations that take
8 place. A lot of times we don't hear about them until after the
9 season. And then we come to a meeting like this and we hear
10 more about them. Whereas in season we hear very little. So
11 keep trying if you have those violations, definitely note them
12 and keep trying, you'll get a hold of us.

13
14 That was basically it. And then any questions on any
15 of those fisheries I'll be more than happy to answer.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: No questions I guess at this point.
18 Thank you.

19
20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, Vince, what's that number
21 again?

22
23 MR. GOLEMBESKI: 1-800-478-3377.

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. The next item is Other
26 Agencies Reports and Native Corporations, Tribal Councils,
27 Village Regional Corporations, and so on. Anybody that wants
28 to address those? Did you have something, Gabe, that you
29 wanted to -- did you want to address this?

30
31 MR. G. SAM: Oh, I thought it was earlier -- I mean
32 later on.

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, Vince.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Early on in the meeting we had the
37 Anvik Resolution, which I think Gabe wanted to talk about, and
38 then there is the letter from the Alatna Tribal Council. I
39 don't know if Ron wants to bring it up now or not. We do have
40 copies of that.

41
42 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman, just for your information
43 then, I think that we are mailing it out to appropriate
44 agencies.

45
46 MR. COFFING: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike
47 Coffing, Fish and Game Subsistence Division in Bethel. I just
48 wanted to touch on a couple of things. (1) The work that we're
49 doing in the region that you're working in or cover here and

50 that is primarily the work that we're doing in the Western

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1 region is limited to the Kuskokwim and it's primarily gathering
2 subsistence salmon harvest information after subsistence
3 fishing is over with in the fall time.

4
5 So we've gathered that information. And we hope to
6 have a summary letter going out to the fishers in the Kuskokwim
7 region about -- detailing what the harvests were this past
8 year. Due to budget constraints that's about the only work
9 we're doing now on the Kuskokwim related to fisheries.

10
11 Perhaps in light of the fact that neither Gail
12 Vanderpool nor Herman from the Kuskokwim are here, I could
13 touch on a couple of things just for informational purposes
14 that were discussed at an Advisory Committee meeting in
15 Sleetmute. If that might be of use to the Council.

16
17 One thing significant that happened was the Central
18 Kuskokwim and the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee met
19 jointly actually twice, once in Sleetmute in early January and
20 -- actually, that might have been a December meeting, and then
21 again in Kwethluk later on, and worked out -- developed a
22 consensus on a proposal to change the controlled use area
23 within the whole Holitna River area.

24
25 That as you know has been an issue ongoing for several
26 years on the Kuskokwim. There's a 40 horsepower restriction
27 there now. What the two Advisory Committees agreed to do was
28 to submit a proposal along with an agenda change request to the
29 Board of Game. The agenda change request was accepted, the
30 proposal will be dealt with at the Board of Game meeting this
31 spring.

32
33 And the proposal as it was prepared by the two
34 committees was this; they're leaving the 40 horse restriction
35 intact, they are adding a aircraft restriction corridor two
36 miles either side of the drainage, the Hoholitna, Holitna South
37 Fork all the way up to White Fish Lake. Most of the drainage
38 that includes the head water lakes where people would be
39 putting in for drop off floats and that sort of thing. That
40 was one thing they added.

41
42 The second thing was they borrowed some -- they
43 borrowed from some other areas where there are rivers and
44 there's been some conflicts and Fish and Game check stations,
45 as exists now on the Koyukuk, and what they're proposing and
46 what they have proposed for the Holitna, Hoholitna Corridor is
47 that the meat be left on the bone, a requirement, and that
48 hunters hunting in the area would be required to stop at a Fish
49 and Game check station if the Department had a check station.

50 They would be required to stop at the check station either in

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1 the controlled use area or at a check station that might be
2 situated along the Kuskokwim some place.

3
4 As an example, last year there was not a check station
5 up in the controlled use area, but there was a Fish and
6 Wildlife and Fish and Game effort and had a check station at
7 the Unit 18/Unit 19 border now Kalskag for a brief time. So
8 under this scenario people hunting up in the controlled use
9 area would have to stop at that check station as they passed
10 it.

11
12 So I just wanted to bring that to your attention
13 because it's something that's been discussed. And I think
14 Herman or Gail would mention it if they were here. And the
15 fact that they're not here, you should know about that.

16
17 The second thing that was significant was the
18 discussion of wolves. And there was a lot of talk about
19 wolves, wolf predation, moose population, concern for the
20 viability of those moose populations in the Holitna, Hoholitna
21 area, as well as the Kuskokwim in general.

22
23 And the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee through
24 their Chairman Herman Morgan drafted a news release and that
25 news release was distributed to I think every community in the
26 Middle Kuskokwim area. And the new release was essentially
27 alerting folks to the concern that the Advisory Committee had
28 with increasing wolf populations, a potential decline in moose
29 populations.

30
31 And the point of the letter was -- or the news release
32 was to encourage village hunters and trappers to go out and
33 actively try to harvest wolves. I think we have -- I don't
34 have copies of that with me. If the Council would like copies
35 we can get that for you and provide that to you. That's all I
36 have. Thanks.

37
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack.

39
40 MR. REAKOFF: On that controlled use area, that's the
41 controlled use for moose and caribou hunting, or all hunting?

42
43 MR. COFFING: It's big game hunting. And the
44 controlled use restriction is in place only from August 1 to
45 November 1.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: All right.

48
49 MR. COFFING: Fall time. Fall time big game

50 hunting.

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1 MR. REAKOFF: Why did they include bears, did they say?

2

3 MR. COFFING: Well, since the regulation was adopted
4 in the spring of '92, it's always been big game. And I think
5 the reason was because if people were in hunting with large
6 boats and motors they could claim that they weren't hunting
7 moose, they were hunting bear or hunting anything else and be
8 legal. So it was to close the loophole, I guess.

9

10 MR. R. SAM: I've got a question. That's August 1st
11 through when?

12

13 MR. COFFING: August 1 through November 1.

14

15 MR. R. SAM: And that covers all the controlled use
16 area?

17

18 MR. COFFING: Pardon me?

19

20 MR. R. SAM: Does it encompass all the controlled use
21 areas?

22

23 MR. COFFING: I apologize. I didn't hear the last
24 question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: He was asking if it affected all
27 controlled use areas, but they're talking specifically about
28 the one just in that area?

29

30 MR. COFFING: Specific to the Holitna, Hoholitna.

31

32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any other questions?

33

34 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Henry.

37

38 MR. DEACON: My question is, we had a meeting a couple
39 of weeks ago in Anvik and there was a concern that was brought
40 up by four villages to have -- we encourage village to have
41 voluntary subsistence user report. And there's quite a few
42 people that have volunteered from each village to do that
43 stuff. But there's a lot of paperwork that have to go through.
44 I don't know how they're -- I've been out there since that
45 meeting, but there's a lot of paperwork to be done on it yet.

46

47 MR. COFFING: Henry, I'm not sure -- Mr. Chairman,
48 I'm not sure if I heard a question there, but I guess I would
49 encourage that. And if there's any expertise or assistance

50 that the Division of Subsistence can provide in the way of

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1 training or advice or survey forms or the right questions to
2 ask, anything like that, I think we'd be very willing to assist
3 with that where we could.

4

5 MR. DEACON: Yeah. We need that help. We need help
6 for that. Because I think every village has a volunteered
7 subsistence reporter. It's not going to be named on anything,
8 but to help us, saying that we are subsistence users and that
9 should be on record instead of some agencies -- or agencies
10 reporting it when they're not too accurate most of the time.
11 So that was our concern of these four village. And we need
12 help with that to make it really go.

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Henry, who would be the contract
15 person if Mike wanted to get a hold? Would it be the Native
16 Village Council or.....

17

18 MR. DEACON: Yeah. Our Tribal office.

19

20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Tribal office.

21

22 MR. COFFING: Okay.

23

24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I might suggest, Mike, that you
25 write to each one of those and offer your assistance then in
26 their reporting.

27

28 MR. COFFING: I will, yes. Perhaps I could talk to
29 Henry and others at a break and get some of that information.

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any other questions. Okay.
32 Thank you, Mike. Moving on then, are there any other reports
33 that need to be made to the group at this point? Okay. Then
34 we're moving on down. We're down under new business. I don't
35 think -- we didn't add any other old business. Vince?

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: We had penciled in on the agenda just a
38 short update on the Subsistence Summit. I don't know if that
39 needs to be done. And then.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, that's right.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS:we have the Anvik Resolution. I
44 don't know if that was just to be passed out as informational
45 or what. Just handed out?

46

47 MR. G. SAM: Well, we don't have enough copies. We
48 just have.....

49

MR. MATHEWS: No, we have copies for.....

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1 MR. G. SAM: Oh, you do? Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Could I ask that be passed
4 out then. And can someone give us a report on what took place
5 at the Subsistence Council in Anchorage? Yeah, go ahead, Ron.

6

7 MR. R. SAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I covered a good
8 part of this last night at the public comments that we were
9 taking from Shageluk, Anvik and Holy Cross residents. And what
10 happened down at the Subsistence Round Table is that we came up
11 with an effort, two and a half days in listening -- trying to
12 listen to 300 to 400 people, we came up with a proclamation, a
13 draft proclamation.

14

15 And when we adjourned our meeting down at Anchorage,
16 that's all we had -- that's all was left with, was a draft
17 proclamation because of the time frame. And trying to compress
18 comments from 300 to 400 people everyday into a one page letter
19 that we could all agree on was something else.

20

21 Everyone was concerned and we did come out with a
22 proclamation that should hit every Native Village, plus all the
23 agencies that deal with them on this proclamation. We came up
24 with three steps on there. I have a letter here that I asked
25 Vince to pass around. So do you want me to read the whole
26 letter or just cover the three main areas that we discussed?

27

28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Whatever you feel is important. If
29 a summary is sufficient you could do that or.....

30

31 MR. R. SAM: Okay. I think I covered most of it last
32 night and I see most of us were here last night, including the
33 delegation I see seated in the back. And about the only thing
34 I left out was the co-management, co-equal right to manage our
35 fish and wildlife resources.

36

37 And I think that would alleviate a good portion of our
38 problems as far as reporting misuse, abuse or any regulation
39 breaking that we seem to keep coming out with and seeing
40 nothing done about it.

41

42 I think that if we deal with all our Tribal Councils
43 this will not only inform more people, would keep both the
44 Federal Fish and Game and the State Fish and Game more aware,
45 plus everyone in the Tribal Villages would be aware of this
46 through co-management. That's about all I have to add to my
47 last night's presentation.

48

49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, Ron. Any questions of

50 Ron? No, there is none. No, I was just asking. Oh, Henry.

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1 MR. DEACON: I have a resolution here. I'll have
2 someone read it. I'll let Ron read the resolution. How we
3 should go about this now? Should we move this resolution
4 into.....

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, to add it on?

7
8 MR. DEACON: I move on this resolution. It has no
9 number. But how do I go about that?

10
11 MR. G. SAM: Well, we had it labeled and everything but
12 it had to be faxed over. So this is a resolution that's been
13 prepared by Tanana Chiefs and it's going to be submitted by the
14 G.A.S.H. Committee. Oh, for the record my name is Gabe Sam and
15 I work for Tanana Chiefs, Wildlife and Parks.

16
17 The meeting up in Anvik, a lot of people you heard it
18 last night, talked about the problems of, you know, outside
19 forces coming up here and down here to hunt on their
20 traditional hunting grounds. And it's creating a problem. We
21 had a meeting up in Anvik and talked about the problems that's
22 happening around Huslia and issues that we are facing and
23 currently dealing with. And so they wanted a resolution drawn
24 up so that they could submit it to the Western Interior
25 Advisory Council.

26
27 And this is where it says; Whereas, the Western
28 Interior Federal Subsistence Advisory Council represents
29 Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross and; Whereas,
30 Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy Cross and their customary
31 and traditional use areas are under steadily increasing hunting
32 pressure from non-local sources and this is anticipated to
33 increase substantially as sport hunters exist in the Three Day
34 Slough area in the next two years. Whereas, the increasing
35 numbers of hunters are also competing with the booming wealth
36 population so the moose population is destined to change if
37 there is not a reduction in hunter pressure and; Whereas,
38 efforts to request special permits for wealth reduction
39 programs have been denied by the State of Alaska and efforts to
40 trap wolves don't appear heavy enough to have a substantial
41 effect so it doesn't appear that active management will occur
42 within GMU 21(E) and: Whereas, the extra hunters within GMU
43 21(E) are non-local and their level of time, money and fuel far
44 exceeds that found within the local hunter population and;
45 Whereas, the local hunters within GMU 21(E) must expend far
46 more money, fuel, food and time than is normally allowed for
47 the hunting during that fall moose hunting season and these
48 extra expenditures are significantly and substantially unduly
49 effect the resources of local subsistence hunters; in other

50 words, they can't afford it and; Whereas, the lands within GMU

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1 21(E) are under the jurisdiction of both the State and the
2 Federal government so any effort that will be made to restore
3 adequate subsistence hunting opportunity for local hunters
4 within GMU 21(E) must be made cooperatively between the State
5 and Federal game managers. Now, Therefore, be it resolved that
6 the Western Interior Federal Subsistence Advisory Council
7 directs and authorizes its Federal game managers to attend and
8 participate actively within the intent to restore subsistence
9 hunting opportunity within GMU 21(E) at interagency GMU 21(E)
10 cooperative committee, hereinafter known as interagency
11 committee, held in conjunction with the State of Alaska and
12 local users within GMU 21(E). Be it Further Resolved that the
13 primary issue on the table at the interagency committee will
14 consist of the following, the moose hunting season will begin
15 August 20th and will end September 10th. Boat and motorized
16 motor size restrictions and individual wolf harvest limits of
17 up to 20 animals.

18
19 And that's basically it right there.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, we have this resolution before
22 us that they're asking -- and the summary of this, let me see
23 if I understand it. Basically we're asking the Federal
24 agencies or managers involved to meet with this committee or
25 cooperate with them in achieving these goals is what it's
26 saying?

27
28 MR. G. SAM: That's correct, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And they're -- Jack?

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: And that's a formulation of a new
33 committee or is this committee around?

34
35 MR. G. SAM: Yes. It would be formulated with the
36 State of Alaska and, you know, the local users within the area
37 of GMU 21(E). Because who better to know than the people who
38 actually live there.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: This seems to be in line with what
41 we were asking for some kind of a joint meeting down here to
42 work on some better long range solutions to some of these.
43 Questions or comments by members?

44
45 MR. DEACON: Comment, Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Henry.

48
49 MR. DEACON: Like I said yesterday morning in some of

50 my reports, we need to prepare for this impact we had like up

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1 in the Minto area, Nuvar River (ph), Koyukuk and we're the next
2 in line for these and we have to be prepared and establish some
3 protection for -- this is what we meant. That's really
4 something we need help on this year and we asked for it. We
5 need to work on this, it's really -- I really don't know how to
6 really say it. And this, too, we also talked about interstate
7 agency committee to be formed within this area to really work
8 on the system. So I don't see this on this resolution, that
9 interact agency.

10
11 MR. G. SAM: With the local area biologists, you know,
12 and probably the Fish and Game. I think that would be Jim
13 Wellington, Mike, no Jack Whitman, okay. And that's something
14 that the -- you know, the G.A.S.H. committee could look into on
15 their next meeting. This is just like along with the local --
16 the meeting in Shageluk, they were going to have to select
17 certain people that's going to be on this committee. You know,
18 people that, you know, are very active, they're not going to
19 kick back and just watch the whole process wash over them.
20 You'd want somebody in there that's going to, you know, be very
21 outspoken because that's what it's going to take.

22
23 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton from BLM. And personally I'm
24 really glad to see this kind of initiation of -- or what I call
25 basically planning -- wildlife planning. It's needed in Alaska
26 -- probably all over Alaska. You guys have probably the best
27 opportunity to do a super good job of long-term planning to
28 resolve these problems. You have relatively abundant resources
29 right now, you recognize the fact that they're threatened down
30 the road. I'm the BLM biologist for this area and I've done a
31 lot of work here and it seems like a lot of the work that I do
32 out here is kind of done in a vacuum. We have quite a bit of
33 information and we -- I'll throw out to you right now, what
34 Deacon said a while ago, you have voluntary harvest reporting
35 people in the villages. There's a lot of that data we need --
36 I'm willing to pay \$200 a month for monthly harvest reports
37 that have fairly specific information on location of kills,
38 animals. We need to have some documented -- I guess what I
39 call field proofing of where you guys real important use areas
40 are because nobody can protect those unless we really know
41 where they are. And we need that kind of documentation that's
42 specific. It helps the Board makes decisions, it helps each
43 agency make decisions and it will help us cooperate to make
44 actually joint decisions.

45
46 My offer to you folks right now is if I can -- I mean
47 I'll do the paperwork and do the cooperative agreements and if
48 you folks can indicate or identify somebody in each village
49 that would be willing to do a very accurate, very complete job

50 of harvest reporting for us, I'm willing to pay those people

00191

1 \$200 a month to do that. This is the same thing we've done for
2 Lime, same thing we've done for Unalakleet. The reporting has
3 been excellent. The kinds of information we get help us make
4 the real hard decisions that have to be made because we know
5 exactly what's going on. We put that information in with where
6 the access is, where the actual distribution of animals are.
7 It gives us flexibility to make decisions for everybody's well
8 being, not just this person or that group or so on and so
9 forth. It helps us look at the big picture. And that's
10 something that's been missing. And like I say, I'm offering
11 right now, you know, I can -- I'll do the paperwork and I don't
12 enjoy paperwork anymore than anybody else, but I would like to
13 setup at least a five year contract. Get a harvest data base
14 and distribution of harvest uses, what's harvested, where it's
15 done, patterns or these villages in particular.

16
17 So when you folks are put in a position with people
18 moving in here to hunt in these lands here, you know, exactly
19 -- you know, we know exactly what areas we have to protect for
20 you folks because that's -- you know, what you guys have to
21 depend on year after year after year, has to be protected and
22 the populations that are protected for those uses in the long-
23 term. We can't do that without good information and you folks
24 are the only ones that can provide that information, we can't.
25 We have no means of collecting it otherwise.

26
27 But I personally look very much forward to actually
28 joining in this kind of an endeavor to manage this thing kind
29 of jointly, take a look at what we've got and see what our
30 flexibility is and protect your interests in the long-term.

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, Jeff. And I might
33 suggest the same thing we.....

34
35 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I've got a question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ron.

38
39 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, so were you at that Anvik meeting?

40
41 MR. DENTON: Pardon?

42
43 MR. R. SAM: Were you at the Anvik meeting?

44
45 MR. DENTON: I wasn't invited. Didn't even know it was
46 happening.

47
48 MR. R. SAM: Were there any of our State or Federal
49 biologists, agency people there at all?

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1 MR. G. SAM: They were invited, but unfortunately they
2 couldn't make it. The weather was too bad or something like
3 that to not making it.

4
5 MR. R. SAM: Maybe I have a question for you then,
6 Gabe, was there any action needed at this time?

7
8 MR. G. SAM: I don't think so.

9
10 MR. R. SAM: I was just informational?

11
12 MR. G. SAM: No, this is a resolution that's been drawn
13 up at that meeting.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: What it's asking, Ron, is down in
16 the, be it resolved, is that we are -- actually it says we are
17 directing and authorizing the Federal managers to attend and
18 participate in future meetings with this group is what it's
19 saying.

20
21 We might want to think about that. I don't know if we
22 would authorize, we're not kind of sitting on the budget
23 string, there may be another word we could use there. But
24 we're requesting or encouraging, I don't know what the term is.

25
26 MR. G. SAM: Well, I kind of like the word,
27 authorizing, it's got a more direct meaning to it, you know.
28 Aren't we done asking begging and begging for certain things to
29 be done?

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: This resolution basically goes along with
36 what we received earlier from Tom Boyd on the Federal agency
37 memorandum of agreement with the Alaska Department of Fish and
38 Game and their proposal to work more closely with the Federal
39 Subsistence Board system. If this resolution passed, it would
40 affirm that the Federal agencies should seek to work more
41 closely with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: This would actually be killing two birds
46 with one stone somewhat.

47
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right, right. Anymore questions for
49 Jeff? Henry, you had comments on this?

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1 MR. DEACON: I had a comment. We did invite people,
2 you know. It was bad weather that day. There was people that
3 was supposed to come from McGrath but got weathered out, so
4 they didn't show up. But we really did need advice, but it was
5 -- this is what came out of it.

6
7 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I think there's a possibility that,
8 you know, your group there may not, you know, basically have a
9 mailing list of all the players.

10
11 MR. DEACON: Yeah.

12
13 MR. DENTON: BLM, you know, we're stuck in Anchorage,
14 we don't have an infrastructure out here and people out here.
15 And so we have to be contacted, I guess directly to me. And
16 I'll certainly give you my card and stuff so we can be very
17 closely involved. We have a very keen interest in this region
18 here. We have a very large land base out here.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, members would look at that --
21 you'll see down in the area around Holy Cross, Paradise, Anvik,
22 Grayling, Shageluk, that yellow land is all BLM land. There's
23 actually more BLM land down there and the refuge is further up
24 the Innoko. But right around the village, it's all this yellow
25 land that Jeff holds responsibility for.

26
27 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman?

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

30
31 MR. DEACON: I got another question. Is that
32 interagency group that we're trying to form, our tribal office
33 is trying to locate various people agencies to how to really go
34 about to make this happen. Do you have any advice for us, like
35 where to go?

36
37 MR. DENTON: I think it's -- in terms of interagency
38 needs there, I think it's a relatively small group. You have
39 the Innoko Refuge, you have the BLM in terms of the Federal
40 lands, you have your various corporations who have an extreme
41 vested interest in this because in terms of big game, you folks
42 probably have the most important habitats are under your --
43 basically your private land control. You folks are probably
44 the biggest player. And so your corporations are an extremely
45 important part of this.

46
47 And I think this kind of stuff is real obvious. And
48 then the State Fish and Game folks, you know, they have a --
49 their authority is for all the lands that aren't Federal public

50 lands. So I really think you have a relatively small working

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1 group. I think we have an area of extremely rich resources
2 that everybody realizes there's a need for management. We have
3 the opportunity to be ahead of the curve here and do a good job
4 of long-term wildlife planning. Set good objectives that will
5 meet everybody -- meet especially your needs for the long-term.
6 There's no time like now to do it when there's fairly abundant
7 resources. This is the best time to be doing, planning for
8 when pressure really comes to bear on those resources. So
9 you're prepared, you know exactly what your options are and
10 where you need to go.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Ray?

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: I think Jeff and I can work up a list of
17 all the names of who needs to be in -- and it's obvious from
18 last night's testimony and other testimony that we would need to
19 have representatives from the different law enforcement
20 component in this meeting so that they are also involved. But
21 we can work that list through and probably the lead we would
22 give it to, I gather would be to give it to the chair of the
23 G.A.S.H. committee, Ken Chase, or would it be through the
24 tribal council at Grayling? I'm not clear on it right at the
25 moment.

26

27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, we can get that to you.

28

29 MR. DEACON: Tribal council.

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You were saying, tribal councils,
32 Henry?

33

34 MR. DEACON: Yeah, that's where we'll try to form to
35 get all these agencies together.

36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: It would be tribal then, okay.

38

39 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

40

41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: It's been my concern down in this area
44 under agency testimony that there's moose survey data,
45 interagency that doesn't seem to be crossing any boundaries.
46 There doesn't seem to be a lot of comparison between what
47 happens in the refuge and -- I think this is an excellent plan
48 to take State, BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife data and mix it
49 altogether, plus mix all the ideas together and come up with a

50 real good idea what the -- truly what the moose population is,

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1 not spread all these studies throughout different little spot
2 areas.

3
4 MR. DENTON: Actually, there's been a lot of
5 cooperative effort. The G.A.S.H. one's that have been
6 attempted that were unsuccessful due to weather were joint
7 efforts. The radio tagging and work that's been down here have
8 been joint efforts with refuge and BLM and Fish and Game. Some
9 of the areas that are large blocks, like the stuff to the west
10 of the Yukon River, which is all BLM -- BLM basically has done
11 that. The satellite imagery vegetation mapping work that's
12 being done is potentially a pretty high profile interagency
13 project that's going on now. So these things aren't done in an
14 agency vacuum. We share the data back and forth to some
15 degree. There's some reluctance with various agencies.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I haven't heard anybody objecting to
18 this action. I'm wondering for the sake of moving forward if
19 somebody is ready to move this resolution, we can -- Jack.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: I so move to adopt this.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, it would be resolution 97-1
24 because it's the first one we've adopted this year.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

27
28 MR. DEACON: I second it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, moved by Jack and seconded by
31 Henry. Now, if you'll look at the actual resolution, is
32 everybody comfortable with the wording as is?

33
34 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman?

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

37
38 MR. R. SAM: I was thinking along the same lines as you
39 were, I'm wondering about the word, authorizes, maybe we could
40 change that to encourages.

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: I second the motion to amend that
45 wording.

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, well, with the -- if the mover
48 and second agree to that, we could just make it a friendly
49 amendment.

00196

1 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

2
3 MR. DEACON: What was the change?

4
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Directs and encourages.

6
7 MR. R. SAM: I have one more question on this.

8
9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, go ahead.

10
11 MR. R. SAM: Okay, the moose hunting season will begin
12 August 20th and end September 10th. Is this consistent with
13 the local hunting season?

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think what those are is proposals
16 that will be discussed at that meeting, it's not something
17 we're adopting right now. They're saying that this is what
18 they want to put on the table is the discussion of that.

19
20 MR. R. SAM: Okay, if this is coming up on a future
21 meeting and something that we're not passing at this time, I
22 feel comfortable with it as it is.

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That's my understanding; is that
25 right? These are the ideas that you want on the table to be
26 talked about at that meeting?

27
28 MR. G. SAM: That's correct, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, okay. So the only action we're
31 taking is we're directing the agencies that are involved in
32 this to encourage them to get together and do this. Okay, any
33 other.....

34
35 MR. R. SAM: Question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, question's been called for.
38 All those in favor signify by raising your right hand. Okay,
39 it's yes votes for all six members present. The resolution is
40 adopted.

41
42 MR. G. SAM: Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think that will come up when we --
45 I don't know quite how to end this letter from Herman, is this
46 a report for -- I mean is it related to some of the proposals?

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, after just looking at it a
49 few seconds ago, he reviewed the book and all the proposals and

50 then felt that those comments needed to be addressed. So I

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1 don't know how to deal with that. Just so it's clear to
2 everybody, Herman Morgan faxed in comments because he couldn't
3 make the meeting. His first comments you'll be getting later
4 are directly related to a proposal that's before you. The
5 comments that you're looking at now are kind of over arching
6 general comments for the southern/western part of the region.
7 So it's at your pleasure how to introduce them.

8
9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, I think to get them into the
10 record, there is a place -- don't we have a place -- we had at
11 the beginning of the meeting concerns and so on for members
12 that were here. Somehow we could incorporate this in the
13 minutes, I think, so it would be there. And then we could have
14 this to look at when we deal with proposals. But that would
15 put it on the record.....

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: Right.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS:as comments from one of the
20 board members who wasn't here.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: If that's comfortable with the full
23 Council.

24
25 MR. R. SAM: I think we are at the right place for this
26 letter right now. It says other agencies, Native corporations,
27 et cetera, tribal councils, village and.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All right. So we note receipt of
30 this from Herman Morgan and ask that it be included as part of
31 the minutes. Is that.....

32
33 MR. R. SAM: Do you need a motion?

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: No, this is not a motion item. This
36 is his comments of his concerns.

37
38 MR. R. SAM: It's just that I don't think it takes a
39 motion, I think that we can, by general consensus acknowledge
40 receipt and the concern.

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Okay, thank you.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

45
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: But to address what Herman Morgan is
49 saying here is that there's a little problem and so forth. But

50 in the bottom line is, we need to do something know. But under

00198

1 the Federal system at our last meeting, it was apparent that
2 wolf control under the Federal program is almost impossible to
3 do.

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Very difficult.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: And although recognizing this need, our
8 hands are basically tied with this issue other than the
9 education program that we've put forth.

10

11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, in the proposals we can look
12 if any deal with that. The other place would be in a report
13 that's made to -- like when I go to the Federal Board as part
14 of our report, we could note that as concerns and in the annual
15 report, say that this is a growing concern in the area. That
16 would be one way of passing this forward.

17

18 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman?

19

20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

21

22 MR. R. SAM: I would then also direct a quick response
23 to Herman Morgan and then at -- in this response you ask him to
24 tie in with the McGrath area resolutions with their word
25 problem, so we can expedite this issue.

26

27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack.

32

33 MR. REAKOFF: Do you think when you attend the Board
34 meeting that they may free up some funding for this edu -- with
35 reiteration that there's wolf problem in this area. Do you
36 think the Federal Board may free up a little bit funding to
37 help the State implement this trapper training program down in
38 this area?

39

40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I don't know. We'd have to direct
41 that to the agencies to see if that's needed. Is there someone
42 from the State level -- how ready is the State to offer these
43 kind of training sessions in the villages if they got requests
44 from several villages, are they ready to respond? Can you
45 answer that?

46

47 MR. WORTHINGTON: I didn't catch all of that, it was on
48 wolf trapping?

49

CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The question -- they were talking

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1 about these seminars on wolf trapping and so on. We've been
2 encouraging people to contact the department, do you have the
3 funding to be able to respond to those requests if you got
4 several of them from communities?

5
6 MR. WORTHINGTON: Okay, I can't speak for the entire
7 department, but as far as to the question, do we have funding
8 to respond to these, last -- the current fiscal year we're in,
9 the Division of Wildlife Conservation took a 1.4 million dollar
10 cut in budget. And I guess the answer would be, can we -- does
11 the department have the funding to go to each village and put
12 on a trapping seminar, I would probably have to say a qualified
13 no, but I need to backup.

14
15 The department -- the Alaska Trappers Association is
16 the organization that has been putting on the wolf trapping
17 seminars. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been
18 assisting the Trappers Association, but we are not in the lead
19 of going out and giving these trapping seminars. The Alaska
20 Trappers Association has a very good system setup for wolf
21 trapping or any other kind of trapping seminars. They have
22 training courses all setup that are very, very good.

23
24 Just this last winter, Jack Whitman, in McGrath
25 attempted to get a trapping -- a wolf trapping seminar setup
26 and taught in McGrath where the Alaska Trappers Association
27 would bring in their instructors and -- there's a number of
28 instructors, but three of the main ones are Ben Hopson out of
29 Anaktuvuk Pass, Jim Masic from the Chatanika River and Danny
30 Grandguard from Tok. These are some of the really hot wolf
31 trappers. And they are some of the teachers that assist in
32 this class. These guys were going to be brought down to
33 McGrath -- the Alaska Trappers Association was going to -- puts
34 it on, but they have to have funding from some source to do it.
35 It costs money to bring these guys in from the field, it costs
36 money to feed and house the participants of the -- that are
37 taking the course. As I said, Jack was trying to put on the
38 course in McGrath, trying to help organize it and there wasn't
39 enough interest, not enough people signed up to make it a
40 viable program. And so also the funding that had been
41 tentatively -- promised for -- my understanding is that the
42 funding that had been tentatively promised didn't come through
43 so it got canceled. It was going to happen -- it was either
44 earlier this week or last weekend is the dates that were setup.

45
46 I've been talking to quite a few people in the Galena
47 area and also some -- a few people I've been able to talk to up
48 river on the Koyukuk to see if there'd be interest in having
49 this in Galena and quite a few people have said a resounding

50 yes. The problem is the funding to do it. The Alaska

00200

1 Department of Fish and Game doesn't have the funding to put on
2 a trapping seminar. If we can get some funding to put
3 something together and to pay for the Trappers Association to
4 bring their instructors out to Galena and also it -- there's a
5 problem in trying to figure out what time of the year to have
6 it. Time wise, everybody has the time to do it in say February
7 or March, but if we have a trapping seminar in February or
8 March, well, that's about the end of the trapping season and by
9 next November trapping season not as many people are going to
10 be interested in it. The other -- I talked to people about
11 having it in the fall and when to have it in the fall, when
12 people aren't -- it'd have to be after hunting season and
13 before trapping season because these guys aren't going to leave
14 their traplines to come down to teach a course, so we have to
15 have it before then. But also people are getting ready for the
16 winter, putting up wood and everything else. So it's a problem
17 trying to figure out when to have it. So I think that can be
18 -- we can address that, when to have it just working with
19 people. The funding is the big problem, coming up with funding
20 for it.

21
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That was the question that Jack had.
23 Maybe we could ask that when this interagency group gets
24 together, since wolves is one of the factors over here, there
25 might be some discussion of that by the groups of how these
26 might be brought about. I don't know if we can solve it here
27 today. Anybody know a source of funding for sponsoring these
28 kinds of training, any of the agencies?

29
30 MR. BOOTH: Mr. Chairman, my name is Tony Booth,
31 Division of Refuges. One possible source of funding we can
32 look at is we do have what's called a challenged cost share
33 program. I think we mentioned it in our response to the annual
34 report, but we might look at that as a possibility. That's a
35 program in Fish and Wildlife Service where there are monies
36 appropriated for us to use in partnership with other entities.
37 It's a program where we might match -- provide certain funds if
38 other interested parties could provide some matching funds. In
39 this case, you might have school districts or local university
40 program or something. We put up some money and they match that
41 and maybe the State can go into -- you know, certainly if we
42 can get together different interested agencies and other
43 parties together on this, we might be able to come up, at
44 least, with some partial funding on it. And I know in the past
45 that we have at least provided some support, logistical or --
46 and funding support for a trapping program in Galena back in
47 1991, so you know, there is a possibility we can help out.
48 Like I said, we can look into that.

49

There's always a -- in the past there's been a pretty

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1 consistent amount, you know, at least some money available
2 through that program and right now I could go back and see if
3 there is other possibilities. But I know the Fish and Wildlife
4 Service has had over the last several years, has had an
5 increased level of emphasis on environmental education and
6 educational programs and this might be possibility we can look
7 at. I can't make any promises, but I think the challenge cost
8 share might be a possible alternative we can look at to help
9 out.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. I think for the record,
12 we may need an identity on the tape, your identity, state your
13 name. You didn't at the beginning, I think of your comments.

14
15 MR. BOOTH: Tony Booth.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: We got it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You got it, okay, good, thank you.

20
21 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman?

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Henry.

24
25 MR. DEACON: If one of you can answer a question here.
26 That's one of the concerns that we had, we don't want to say
27 this controls harvest more -- harvest wolves. And the things
28 that came up is to do it ourself within our own village, to
29 quit talking to Federals and State and let's do something about
30 it ourself was one of the questions. And we'll pay anybody
31 that gets wolves. And it came up and they said, well, they got
32 to get this approval and that approval and -- but we're trying
33 to come up with some kind of funding from our village, in fact,
34 they're still working on it -- our tribal office to try to get
35 funding -- to try to find the funding so we can send out
36 hunters and pay them for harvesting wolves. And so we're still
37 working -- I hate to try to say we got to have this agency --
38 but we need advice. One Fairbanks person that used to be a fur
39 buyer suggested that, he said, you might as well just stop
40 talking to fishing -- or Federals and do it yourself. You
41 people have to do it, not let somebody tell you how to do it
42 and that's true. That made sense to me, so I brought it home
43 and had a meeting on it and I brought it up in Anvik and they
44 were interested, too, but they need to know more about it.

45
46 MR. BOOTH: Are you talking about a harvest incentive
47 program?

48
49 MR. DEACON: Yeah.

00202

1 MR. BOOTH: Or harvest bounty or something?

2

3 MR. DEACON: It's a bounty, but it's not a.....

4

5 MR. BOOTH: I know there was a bill in the State
6 legislature for that. I assume that's died right now, but, I
7 don't know, maybe the State will comment on it more.

8

9 But that usually stimulates a lot of public opposition,
10 but I don't know, that may be a possibility. I can't speak on
11 behalf of the State or anything.

12

13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think again, these are ideas that
14 can be explored at that meeting that you're going to have. I
15 think we have to move forward, we still have a lot of proposals
16 we have to deal with here.

17

18 Let's move on down then, we're under new business, I
19 believe. The Federal regulation proposal review. Item 1
20 there, was it status on customary and traditional
21 determinations?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We're going to
24 present a real brief summary of the status of c&t proposals and
25 some comments on two proposals. I'm looking for Rosa Meehan,
26 who was going to present that and I don't see her right at this
27 second. It would take only two minutes or so to do that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there anything in there?

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there is a table on that, Tab --
32 boy, I don't know right off the top of my head which one it
33 is.

34

35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, we're in the back somewhere, I
36 know we've gone through most of them.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: It's under Tab O. And if you start from
39 the back of the tab and work forward you also come to these
40 charts that are going up and down -- I don't know, you'll just
41 see some charts there, I won't try to describe them. And if
42 you walk through that you'll see Region 6. Has everyone found
43 those -- it kind of looks like it because you have your books
44 turned at an angle.

45

46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: It's Page 4 if you look at the pages
47 in the middle there.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Rosa's back so we'll put her on the spot

50 this time. Tony was the last one, now it's Rosa's turn. But

00203

1 basically this is to make you understand the backlog, c&t
2 requests and deferred proposals and different things like that
3 as to where we're at and she'll give a real brief thing on that
4 and we'll be on our way into proposals.
5

6 MS. MEEHAN: Thanks Vince. Before we get into the
7 proposals what I'd like to do is share with the Council where
8 we are in the backlog c&t proposals. And if I can direct your
9 attention to Tab O.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think most of us have found it.

12
13 MS. MEEHAN: It's on Page 4. For Region 6 we had
14 listed a total of 10 backlog c&t proposals. And for this year
15 we had planned to get six of these proposals done within this
16 regulatory cycle and unfortunately we were unable to complete
17 Proposals 77 and 57. And 77 has to do with -- it's a c&t for
18 black bear in Unit 19. And the proposal was to change the
19 current c&t determination of all rural residents to limit it to
20 rural residents of Unit 19(A) and (B).

21
22 The second one that we were unable to complete this
23 year is Proposal 57. It has to do with caribou in Unit 21.
24 And that proposal was to add Anvik. Currently the c&t
25 determination is for residents of 21(D), west of the Yukon and
26 Koyukuk -- Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages and rural residents of
27 Units 23 and 24.

28
29 We were unable to get these done because George Sherrod
30 who is the anthropologist for this region has had some rather
31 intense personal things going on; his wife died about a month
32 ago. He was working on these proposals and they simply just
33 did not get done. It is our intent to complete these proposals
34 next year as well as the remaining four that are identified for
35 the '98 cycle.

36
37 So we were able to complete Proposals 55, 58, 59 and 60
38 and we will be presenting the analysis on those.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Any questions about c&t?
41 Let's take 10 minutes at this point and then be ready to go
42 into the proposals.

43
44 (Off record)

45 (On record)

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I've got 10:08, we're on proposals.
48 For the members, it's back to Tab XYZ, the last tab in there.
49 If you turn the first page over, there is a chart -- that's it

50 right there, the chart. We're going to defer some of those at

00204

1 the top, they're a little bit heavier, some of these at the
2 bottom we can move through faster and get used to the routine
3 of the process. So we'll go down and start on Proposal 31.

4
5 MS. MEEHAN: Before we get into the proposals, I would
6 just like to share with you that in getting all these
7 proposals, the analysis done and presented, it's been a real
8 group effort. And I'd like to really acknowledge the help that
9 has been put in by the Park Service, in particular, in getting
10 some of these proposals in.

11
12 Rosa Meehan with Office of Subsistence Management. And
13 before we get started, I just want to share with you that we've
14 had a lot of people help us get the analysis done. And I'd
15 like acknowledge, in particular, the Park Service for their
16 help on a number of the proposals and ask the Council's
17 indulgence that there'll be a real changing cast of characters
18 up here as we bring people up to give you the analysis
19 information. But we do have all of the proposals covered.

20
21 And the first one, Proposal 31 was done by the Park
22 Service and Hollis Twitchell will be presenting the analysis.

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Vince.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Just to get all our wheels greased
27 together here, in your file folder I put together kind of a
28 cheat sheet of the proposals if you want to use that to walk
29 through, it's this color. And I will -- the way the plan is
30 with proposals is, if it's agreeable to the Council, would be
31 that I'll introduce the proposal, which is basically telling
32 you the proposal number and where you can find it and what
33 species it's dealing with and if it's seasons or c&t, customary
34 and traditional use. Then I'll turn it over to the Staff to
35 provide the proposal analysis. They will also provide the
36 Regional Council recommendations and if they don't have it,
37 then I or other Staff will provide that. Then it will come
38 back to me to provide you a summary of written public comment.
39 I will solicit if the State wants to comment in addition to the
40 summary of the comments provided, then open it up for public
41 testimony and then you guys discuss and take recommendations;
42 if that's okay with the Council to take that order.

43
44 Okay, Rosa already brought it up, it is Proposal 31.
45 It's found on Page 56 in the last tab, XYZ, in your book. And
46 it is dealing with wolf and I think I'll leave it at that on
47 the seasons and Hollis Twitchell will be presenting it. Thank
48 you and we'll be on our way.

49

MR. TWITCHELL: Good morning. Hollis Twitchell, Denali

00205

1 National Park. I was asked to present this proposal primarily
2 because it effects park users at Denali. To understand the
3 proposal it's useful to look at a little bit of the background
4 that led up to it. I alluded to it yesterday when I talked
5 about an illegal harvest by a non-subsistence user outside of
6 the Park in 1985 which stirred up intense controversy and
7 started a letter writing campaign and petitions that -- the
8 Park has received over 1,200 letters as a result of that.

9
10 This proposal in a way responds to one of the major
11 questions that were raised by many of those people submitting
12 letters questioning the merits of a fall and a spring hunting
13 of wolves. Questioning whether, if the pelts are not prime at
14 that time of year, why is it considered a subsistence take.

15
16 This particular topic and issue was taken up by the
17 Denali Subsistence Resource Commission in their meeting, April
18 29th, 1996. The way the proposal in your booklet is written,
19 it suggests that there will be a change -- asking for a change
20 in wolf hunting seasons in Units 13, 16, 19 and 20. Which
21 would change the hunting season from currently August 10th to
22 April 30th to November 1st to March 31st, which would be the
23 trapping season. The author of this proposal, after reviewing
24 the minutes of the meeting realized that the proposal as she
25 submitted it went beyond what the commission had asked for.
26 The commission in its meeting had passed a motion to change the
27 hunting seasons to coincide with trapping seasons only within
28 Park lands in Unit 20(C). They did not support changing the
29 hunting seasons in Units 16, 13 or 19. In addition, they did
30 not support changing the hunting seasons in the preserve areas
31 within Unit 20(C). In 20(C), we have both park and preserve
32 lands.

33
34 So the author requests that the proposal be modified to
35 only include park lands within Unit 20(C). And so the analysis
36 that follows focuses on what subsistence use occurs only within
37 those park and preserve lands.

38
39 Is there any question before we go any further?

40
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any questions for Hollis? Okay,
42 proceed.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: Wait, my question is 20(C) is immediately
45 north of the Denali -- or in the northern part of Denali Park?

46
47 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct. Rosa, if you would
48 point out the areas on the map.

49

CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You're saying this lighter area?

00206

1 MR. TWITCHELL: The lighter area is the preserve areas
2 and it would not include preserve areas in 20(C), it would be
3 only the purple area which is the park additions.

4
5 MS. MEEHAN: It only includes this area within the
6 boundary here like that. It does not include this preserve
7 area here or this addition right here. SO it's just this
8 limited area right up here. That's the old park with the
9 shaded area, that's the old park.

10
11 MR. TWITCHELL: This area is in Eastern Interior
12 Regional Council's area. The reason it's being co-presented
13 here is the Villages of Nickolai and Telida, which are in the
14 Western Interior region are qualified subsistence users for the
15 park and so they potentially could harvest wolves if they went
16 that far over.

17
18 The commission was very specific in not including the
19 preserve lands in this proposal because State, sport and
20 general trapping regulations would apply there and they could
21 see no reason to curtail or limit the subsistence take in terms
22 of the season on those preserve lands, while maintaining a
23 longer sport opportunity. And therefore, they focus the
24 proposal only to park lands in 20(C).

25
26 The primary reason for the change was that they
27 considered the fur was not prime in August, September and
28 October or in April. And that the qualified subsistence users
29 rarely take wolves during those times of years and that is
30 substantiated also in the harvest sealing records we'll get to
31 in a minute. The second reason for their proposal was that the
32 fall wolf hunting season became very much an issue, a political
33 issue at Denali and it's appropriateness as a subsistence
34 harvest has been questioned by other public interests.
35 Therefore, resident zone communities that are eligible to hunt
36 and trap and fish in park areas, that would be the villages of
37 Nickolai and Telida, Lake Minchumnia and Cantwell. In looking
38 at the harvest records for the last 10 years, there were only
39 two communities harvesting wolves in this area and that was the
40 village Lake Minchumnia and Cantwell. There were no harvests
41 from Nickolai or Telida for the last 10 years period in 20(C).

42
43 Looking at the 1984 to 1994 harvest sealing records for
44 both the park and preserve lands by Park Service qualified
45 subsistence users, there is a total of 42 wolves or 3.8 wolves
46 per year that came from UCU's that are in or extend into Denali
47 National Park and Preserve. UCU's just means unified coding
48 units, it's the way the State identifies smaller areas within a
49 game management unit for management purposes. Those -- that

50 information doesn't indicate whether the harvest occurred from

00207

1 park lands or from lands outside of the park boundaries. So
2 the park called up all of the subsistence users who had harvest
3 records and inquired from them whether they -- their harvest
4 actually occurred from the park lands or not for this last --
5 for that 10 year period. This interview information indicates
6 that there were only 15 wolves actually taken from park or
7 preserve lands during that 10 year period, that averages out to
8 1.4 wolves a year. The rest of the wolves that were reported
9 out of that 42, the remaining 27 came from State lands
10 adjoining the park and preserve boundaries.

11
12 The Park Service has been engaged in wolf studies in
13 Denali for many years. Intensive wolf studies have been going
14 on since 1986. The park believes that the wolf population is
15 a healthy and stable population and there's no concerns
16 whatsoever at the level of harvest having any impact on the
17 wolf population. So it's not a biological question at all.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think we can probably move on down
20 through at this point.

21
22 MR. TWITCHELL: Okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: What is next in your scenario,
25 Vince, where are we at?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: The next would be, if we're ready to move
28 out of analysis, would be to go to Regional Council
29 recommendations, which I have on the overhead here. But the
30 first one to come up, I'll need input from someone that
31 attended the Southcentral meeting. I just heard rumors that
32 they rejected the proposal and I'd rather someone attended the
33 meeting share that information.

34
35 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct. I was at the
36 Southcentral meeting. And the Southcentral Regional Council
37 voted to reject the proposal. They indicated there was no
38 convincing reason why there should be a further reduction in
39 the wolf harvest opportunity. It appeared from the harvest
40 records that subsistence users were self-regulating themselves
41 in terms of not taking wolves during that time of year when the
42 fur was of less value. The harvest records indicate only two
43 wolves were taken during that fall period, September -- August,
44 September and October and only two wolves were harvested in
45 April. So they rejected the proposal on that grounds.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: And Eastern Interior as you see up here
48 rejected the proposal because of the traditional practices that
49 occur outside when the fur is prime. So they felt they had

50 traditional practices of harvesting wolves outside that period

00208

1 of time considered when the fur is prime so they rejected it.
2 So both Eastern and Southcentral rejected.

3
4 That brings us up to written comments on Proposal 31.
5 For Proposal 31, if there's someone from the State that wants
6 to cover it, that's fine or I can summarize their comments.
7 Okay, we only have one comment on Proposal 31, Alaska
8 Department of Fish and Game does not support the proposal. The
9 basis of their support is that there is currently no biological
10 basis for reducing the hunting seasons for wolves in these
11 units. The proposed regulation would prohibit the harvest of
12 wolves during the moose hunting season. Although only a few
13 wolves are taken during the period of proposed closure, wolf
14 pelts are not valueless at this time, contrary to what is
15 stated in the proposal. They may not be prime for sale, but
16 can be used for making ruffs and other handicrafts.
17 Differences in Federal and State regulations will cause
18 confusion for hunters as the park and preserve boundaries are
19 not easily identified in the field.

20
21 We also note that hunting in the additions to Denali
22 National Park already is limited to members of the park
23 resident zone communities and a few other local residents who
24 have permits. This proposal does not present any compelling
25 arguments for reducing the current season dates.

26
27 That's the only other written comment we've received.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Is there any public
30 testimony, anybody who would like to speak on this issue?
31 Okay, it's open for Council discussion? Any discussion by
32 members?

33
34 As Hollis said when this came up on Denali, the Council
35 there that had initially proved this, it wasn't biological
36 reason, it was partly political that there was a season opened
37 at a time when furs were not primed, nobody was taking them
38 then and that was being challenged by others. But as it's been
39 stated by the other groups, there's really no biological need
40 for this closure, so I could go either way on it. Go ahead,
41 Jack.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: As the area is within the Eastern
44 Interior, I would feel that -- and we have somewhat of a
45 neutral position, I would feel that we should either table or
46 go along with their reasoning, which is non-biological.

47
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, I think it would be better, if
49 we could, to take action on it. Because then when it comes to

50 the Federal Board, it's easier -- they would want to know why

00209

1 we tabled and so on.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So do we have -- on these proposals,
6 are we using the procedure where we have a motion to approve
7 and then have to vote against that or can you make a motion
8 to.....

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Whatever you're more comfortable with and
11 if we don't understand, I'll definitely raise my hand.

12

13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. I know that's what the State
14 uses some.....

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: We tried that with Eastern Interior
17 and.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: It gets confusing.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So I'm open to entertain a motion if
24 there's a motion from the Council, move to support or move to
25 reject, it's simple?

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: I make a move to reject this proposal,
28 31.

29

30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, is there a second to that?

31

32 MR. R. SAM: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Ron.

35

36 MR. DEACON: Question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All those in favor signify by
39 raising your right hand. Okay, it's yes votes for all members.
40 So our recommendation is the same as the other regions to
41 reject.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: And I'd like to note under non-biological
44 necessity.

45

46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, next proposal.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: The next proposal is Proposal 53, which
49 is found on Page 61 in your book. That is dealing with moose

50 in Unit 18 and it's a new proposal. Provides the c&t

00210

1 determination -- I'm sorry, got to keep the tape happy, I'm
2 sorry.

3
4 This is Proposal 53 on Page 61, it's dealing with
5 revised c&t for moose in Unit 18. I do need to pass out Herman
6 Morgan's comments and then I'll summarize those when we get to
7 that section. Taylor Brelsford will be presenting the analysis
8 on this.

9
10 MR. BRELSFORD: For the Council members who'd like to
11 follow this in the booklet, it's found on Page -- the analysis
12 starts on Page 64 in the portion following Tab XYZ.

13
14 And Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that this
15 proposal originated with your Council and was deliberated, the
16 technical information was reviewed by your Council last year,
17 what we're dealing with now is a more specific focus of your
18 proposal, I think I'm going to move kind of quickly through the
19 technical information, not go all the way back to the beginning
20 on it.

21
22 So I think what I'd like to sort of start with is the
23 fact that the proposal concerns uses by several central
24 Kuskokwim River communities. The communities of the Kalskag,
25 Aniak, Chuathbaluk, their uses of moose in Unit 18, the region
26 covered by the Yukon-Delta Regional Council. And just to catch
27 everybody up, this proposal was launched by the Western
28 Interior Council last year and at the time of the Board
29 meeting, a discussion was held between the Chairs of the Yukon-
30 Delta Council and the Western Interior Council and you guys
31 realized that a proposal for those four villages to have c&t
32 uses throughout Unit 18, all the way from St. Michaels to
33 Quinhagak, that that was kind of overbroad. And so the
34 decision at that time was to agree to defer in April of last
35 year at the Board meeting and instead to come back with a more
36 specific or a more focused proposal. And so there were some
37 further meetings between the two Councils through the summer
38 and the effect is a proposal that focuses just on the area near
39 the Unit 19 boundary, basically up river from Tuluksak and
40 there's actually a mapped delineation of that on the preceding
41 page, Page 63.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So the Unit 18 boundary runs through
44 the right edge of that shaded area is where the boundary
45 between 18 and 19 is. And so we're going into 18, just into
46 that shaded portion, that's the only area that we're saying
47 that people from Aniak and these other communities should have
48 the right to hunt in there.

49

MR. BRELSFORD: That's correct. So instead of the

00211

1 whole region west of Kalskag, our attention is now directed
2 just at this up river sliver of land between Tuluksak and
3 Kalskag, that's the part of Unit 18 under consideration at this
4 time.

5
6 In relation to the eight factors a very important one
7 is this idea of long-term consistent use of a resource so
8 you'll find some information summarized regarding the historic
9 uses of moose in Unit 18 and of course, you all realize that
10 it's a new species. The species has been migrating out to the
11 coast, so the long time history is not that long. It was in
12 the turn of the century, the 1930s in the lifetime of elders
13 today that moose were found inside of Unit 18. Most of our
14 information actually comes from some mapping data, subsistence
15 use area maps and maybe we'll take a second in a minute and
16 look at that. It is significant that there's not a lot of real
17 specific harvest data dating back through the past generation,
18 the past 20 or 30 years. Most of the information that we'll
19 have to work with is derived from these mapping exercises.

20
21 The other key factor in c&t analysis that I think is
22 very much at work here is the one having to do with harvest
23 patterns that are near or reasonably accessible from the
24 communities. And that's where kind of geography, the maps of
25 where people go to hunt, that's kind of the key question. So
26 what I'd like to do is maybe ask you to turn with me to Page
27 71, these maps for a quick second, I think they kind of layout
28 visually what we're talking about. So Map 71 shows Western
29 Alaska, the unit boundary kind of runs roughly -- irregularly,
30 but roughly in the center of the map. And this particular map
31 refers to the use area by the community of Chuathbaluk. And
32 what you can observe is that the moose hunting area for the
33 residents of Chuathbaluk extends just a teeny bit into Unit 18,
34 just about where the label for the village of Lower Kalskag is
35 located.

36
37 The next page talks about community use areas --
38 depicts -- it gives a picture of community use areas for the
39 community of Aniak and again the same thing, there is a small
40 portion of land west of Unit 19 in the Unit 18 area and that's
41 shaded kind of quick to view there. That study refers -- this
42 was done with a samples of households, about 30 households in
43 Aniak and the question asked of them was where has your
44 household hunted moose in the last 20 years, so that map is
45 intended to go back to the '60s -- from the period of the mid-
46 60s to the mid-80s. The following page, Page 73, gives a
47 similar picture for uses by the community of Upper Kalskag.
48 And the page after that touches on the uses by Lower Kalskag.
49 The following page includes some information on map use areas

50 for the community of Holy Cross. Now, that wasn't originally

00212

1 part of your proposal, but we tried to be sure that when we're
2 changing something that we don't leave somebody out by an
3 accident. So what you'll see there is there is actually a
4 portion of Unit 18, on the Yukon drainage, in which Holy Cross
5 residents do have a traditional use area.

6
7 So that's the basic evidence here. And I think that
8 actually brings us to the conclusion. Summing up the
9 information, the preliminary conclusion and the Staff
10 recommendation is to accept the proposal to recognize the
11 customary and traditional uses of Chuathbaluk, Aniak, Lower and
12 Upper Kalskag and Holy Cross would be added based on the mapped
13 information that we just looked at. That's the Staff
14 recommendation. And the other key building block in working on
15 this is to know that the Yukon-Delta Regional Council did
16 support it.

17
18 I think maybe a moment in passing, we need to express
19 appreciation to Rudy and the others for making the effort to
20 come down and join with us in the last few days.

21
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We appreciate you coming down and
23 being with us at your expense.

24
25 MR. BRELSFORD: There are no public comments, so that
26 concludes the Staff information. And I guess the next step
27 would be?

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Public testimony.

30
31 MR. BRELSFORD: There we are, thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there anyone who wants to speak
34 to this issue here? Okay, that brings us down to Council
35 discussion. Yes, Vince.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: How could I forget, we do have Herman
38 Morgan's comments on this proposal. I handed them -- I
39 believe, yes, I handed them out just a minute ago or so.

40
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Just a minute ago?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: I hope.

44
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, right, right here. The
46 following is a list of the local people's comments regarding
47 customary and traditional use by Unit 18, residents of Aniak,
48 Chuathbaluk and Napiamiut. Those are ancestral hunting
49 grounds, William Morgan, Sr.

00213

1 There's a lot of old camp sites in the area of Unit 19,
2 we don't want to claim the whole area, just the part we used
3 and still use. Gerald Simeon, Sr., who owns a cabin 10 miles
4 from the Unit 18 boundary.

5
6 People used to travel back and forth between Paimuit on
7 the Yukon and Oohamute on the Kuskokwim, trail between the
8 villages borders Unit 18. They used to hunt over there, too.
9 Mary Nicoli.

10
11 State is possibly one of the worst things to happen to
12 local people who depend on subsistence, since these Native
13 organizations claim to represent people. People involved in
14 game management should be the ones who actually hunt and go out
15 and see the land. Mark Matter. I'm not sure I understand
16 that.

17
18 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could elaborate
19 on that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

22
23 MR. BRELSFORD: We actually did receive a letter from
24 the Kuskokwim Native Association, I apologize. I was getting
25 in a hurry. Objecting rather strongly to this proposal. And
26 implying that it had been the Federal agencies that had offered
27 the proposal, rather than realizing that it originated with a
28 Regional Council member from Aniak. As a result there was some
29 discussion in Aniak about the validity of the mapping effort
30 and.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

33
34 MR. BRELSFORD:kind of the credibility of this
35 idea that some of the village -- some village hunting took
36 place down river. I think people are very concerned about the
37 politics of up river, down river moose hunting dilemmas. What
38 you have in front of you, the comments that Herman and Ray
39 Peterson sought out from members in the community was really an
40 effort to kind of lay a foundation and strengthen the
41 credibility of this and to very much point out for the record
42 that this proposal originated with people -- with
43 representatives from the Kuskokwim villages, not at all from
44 any of the State or Federal agencies.

45
46 I think to some extent, the fact that there is
47 concurrence by the Western -- by the Yukon-Delta Council with
48 this idea suggests that there's grounds for a consensus here
49 and that some of the concerns about political discord in Aniak

50 may have been a little -- they might have been more relevant a

00214

1 year ago when the discussion was regarding all of Unit 18, but
2 I'm not sure they were really taken into account the narrowing
3 of focus, the more specific land within Unit 18 that's under
4 question at present.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. The next comment was from
7 Raymond Peterson. He's also a former employee of Kuskokwim
8 Native Association and he says, these old people that we
9 interviewed about where we used to hunt, they don't lie. Why
10 do some of the shareholders have Native allotments in Unit 18.
11 Kuskokwim Native Association has its own political agenda. In
12 other words, if they've got allotments there, they must have
13 been using the area.

14
15 Probably one of the most striking comments on the
16 statement made by the Kuskokwim Native Association was from a
17 non-shareholder expressed disbelief that a Native organization
18 would want to do this against its own people. We have to work
19 together if we want to succeed in fish and game management. If
20 we're divided on these issues it makes it more difficult to
21 succeed, Herman Morgan, Council member.

22
23 So these are all, as you said, directed -- it comments
24 the fact that the -- which group that -- the Bethel.....

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD: No, no, it's actually the Aniak based
27 tribal association, the Kuskokwim Native Association that
28 raised.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That is opposed to.....

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD:questions.

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS:having rights in 18?

35
36 MR. BRELSFORD: That's correct.

37
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, okay.

39
40 MR. BRELSFORD: That letter came forward suggesting
41 that it was.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, so it was right in the
44 community then.

45
46 MR. BRELSFORD: There's some debate within the
47 community.

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, yeah, okay. That's all the

50 written comments we have then, I guess. Okay, again, was there

00215

1 any public testimony?

2

3 MR. COFFING: Excuse me, Ray.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Mike.

6

7 MR. COFFING:I'd just need a point of
8 clarification. Are you going to read the State comments?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: The summary I have does not have any
11 State comments on this proposal. so if the State would
12 like.....

13

14 MR. COFFING: I don't have them either, but I know they
15 were submitted.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: I can double check.

18

19 MR. BRELSFORD: I think we may have a breakdown in the
20 paperwork, I can't imagine how that would ever happen. Mike,
21 are you familiar enough with the State's views to offer those
22 verbally?

23

24 MR. COFFING: I think I -- yeah, close.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, if you want to, Mike.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, while he's doing that, as
29 in the past, we've taken -- and I failed to bring it up, so I
30 apologize. I've made full copies of all the public comments
31 and they're in books like this, there's -- were two of them
32 over here. If for some reason the summary or whatever is not
33 clear to you or you want to see the full text, it's here and
34 Mike has a copy of the same letter I think he'll be reading
35 from. What I was going by was a summary that was put together
36 and apparently that is somewhere in there and I can't find it
37 or it didn't get in there, I apologize.

38

39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Mike.

40

41 MR. COFFING: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is --
42 these comments that the State prepared. And on -- I think the
43 general approach on most of the c&t proposals here, the State
44 deferred final comment because they hadn't seen the analysis.
45 But there's a comment that I'd like to read here and then
46 perhaps I can explain if there are any questions about it.

47

48 Proposal 53, Unit 18 moose, c&t proposal. The final
49 comments were deferred. An additional comment is the

50 Department recommends careful evaluation of the available

00216

1 information to determine if Upper and Lower Kalskag have a
2 documented history of moose hunting in the quote, the remainder
3 of Unit 18, as you see in the proposal here. So perhaps to
4 elaborate, before you took any action here, before this
5 proposal was even in front of you, Upper and Lower Kalskag had
6 c&t use of moose in all of Unit 18. The proposal and map
7 information indicates that Lower and Upper Kalskag use
8 essentially that part of Unit 18 that has been identified as
9 the shaded area. So I think our question here was more one of
10 clarification to the Council. And that is, do you intend for
11 Lower and Upper Kalskag to continue to have c&t use of all of
12 Unit 18 or was it your wishes to basically prepare that back
13 into that smaller area which the mapped information supports.
14 That's the comment. That's all I have.

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. And we did -- in our
17 proposal, we listed those communities, why would we do that
18 because they don't need to be added, they were already in there
19 with c&t, right?

20
21 MR. COFFING: Upper Kalskag was in by mention, Lower
22 Kalskag.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Aniak and Chuathbaluk were not?

25
26 MR. COFFING: That's right. Lower Kalskag, I think
27 there's been some confusion whether, in fact, Lower Kalskag is
28 Unit 18 or in Unit 19 by the fact that it's right on the
29 boundary. I mean the boundary runs literally through the
30 middle of town. And I think it was assumed that it was in 18.
31 The reason it was included in the proposal last year was to
32 make it explicitly clear that it is included. And I think when
33 that analysis was presented the last round, the idea was to
34 present information for that area including information for
35 both Upper and Lower Kalskag. So you had that in with a packet
36 of information to consider along with the Aniak, Chuathbaluk,
37 Holy Cross information.

38
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Council discussion.

40
41 I was involved in this at the Federal level when they
42 were coming up and this was paired up in our discussions with
43 -- if you remember, they were asking Unit 18 residents -- 18
44 were asking for customary and traditional in all of 21(E).
45 They wanted to have rights clear up here. And then at the same
46 time Aniak and Chuathbaluk were asking for rights in the --
47 down in all of 18. In talking about it, they said, well, we
48 use the area down by Paimuit, that area. They only really used
49 part of it. So we were saying, as a precedent thing, we would

50 not want Aniak to be included in all of 18 because then they

00217

1 could use that as an argument for saying, well, if we give you
2 rights to that whole area, then you should be able to have --
3 we should be able to have rights of all of 21(E). So we sat
4 down in a group at the meeting in there, the Chair down there
5 and we started looking at a map of the areas we were talking
6 about and we asked them to do what was done, to go back to the
7 mapping and figure out what they were using. So now that's why
8 our proposal has been narrowed down, we're saying that Aniak
9 should be able to go into 18 where they customary and
10 traditionally hunted. And if they press the issue over here,
11 then the same process should be used here, there should be maps
12 to determine exactly how far up Russian Mission is coming and
13 some of the other communities and not be asking for rights of
14 whole units.

15
16 So we are kind of setting precedent by pushing this
17 proposal forward and getting it approved. But we're doing it
18 to say it should be restricted to only the parts of a unit that
19 they were actually using historically. That was my reason for
20 working on this and meeting the Chairman and coming up with the
21 maps. Yes, Vince.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: And Ray, the earlier version of that
24 proposal was supported by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council.

25
26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Which, when we originally had it in there
29 for all of 18. So they've supported the large c&t
30 determination and now.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS:also this more refined reflective of
35 traditional use.

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes. Jack.

38
39 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to hear from people in Holy
40 Cross on their position on obtaining some c&t into Unit 18.

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there someone from Holy Cross who
43 would like to comment on their use of that portion of 18?
44 Right now there is not a -- you don't have a customary and
45 traditional finding of using the area down -- is it Paimuit
46 Slough area -- this proposal would grant you a customary and
47 traditional finding in that area, is there any comments on that
48 by people here? Go ahead then if you have some ideas.

49

MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Angela Demientieff for the record.

00218

1 The only ones I know are some people who have some Native land
2 claims down there. There's about three families living in Holy
3 Cross that do hunt down around the Paimuit area, they go down
4 there to Unit 18 and for them to be able to continue to keep on
5 going down, I would support the c&t for Unit 18 for this area.

6

7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any other Council comments?

8

9 MR. R. SAM: Angela, I would support this proposal as
10 presented.

11

12 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: For that Unit, okay.

13

14 MR. R. SAM: Are you comfortable being included with
15 all these villages that are.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You say you're not comfortable?

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: It's got to be amended.

20

21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You better speak to that issue.

22

23 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: The only thing I don't feel
24 comfortable about is we included all the other people listed up
25 there. My feeling is that if we go ahead with this and give
26 the c&t to include Holy Cross, Aniak's going to come back again
27 to us one day and ask us again to be included in our 2(E) which
28 we were trying to protect in Aniak -- at our meeting in Aniak.
29 So I know the people in Holy Cross are going to go down to 18,
30 but I don't want it to be in part of the c&t determination.

31

32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jeff.

33

34 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton, BLM. Just as a matter, I
35 guess of geography, when you look at the actual drainage of
36 Paimuit Slough, it is not in Unit 18. A very, very small part
37 near the mouth is. Probably 98 percent of Paimuit Slough is in
38 21(E). You have to look very closely where the boundary line
39 is. An extremely small part of Paimuit Slough is involved in
40 18.

41

42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So you're saying the area that's at
43 risk is a very small area even for the ones in Holy Cross that
44 go down there, they're not likely to be doing that much hunting
45 in that?

46

47 MR. DENTON: Yeah. When you really look at it and the
48 moose concentrations that are down there, the moose
49 concentrations -- the real heavy moose concentrations are still

50 in 21(E).

00219

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, the way to handle this if we
2 had to move to adopt this, then I think Angela, if you would
3 move to amend and exclude Holy Cross, if that's what your
4 wishes are, we could deal with it that way. But we should have
5 a motion concerning the proposal. If we feel comfortable with
6 the rest of the proposal, then I would entertain a motion to
7 adopt or approve. Jack, you're neutral, you want to move?

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: I move to adopt the proposal.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, is there a second to that?

12
13 MR. R. SAM: I'll go ahead and second it for discussion
14 purposes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. All right. so we have the
17 proposal before us. Now, is there a feeling that it should be
18 amended?

19
20 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes. I feel that it should be
21 amended to exclude Holy Cross on the list of -- on this
22 proposal that we're talking about.

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there a second to that motion?

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

27
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Jack. Moved by Angela,
29 seconded by Jack. Discussion of that, the motion to amend.
30 All those in favor signify by raising your.....

31
32 MR. R. SAM: Just a second.

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, Ron.

35
36 MR. R. SAM: On Page 75 we have that Holy Cross c&t
37 map, I just want to ask Angela, you want to go ahead for the
38 time being give up that use as to 18?

39
40 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes. Because it's a very small part.

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That's what the effect of this
43 amendment would be. For those who were going down there were
44 giving up that c&t at this point. I don't know, these things
45 aren't locked into stone, the issue can be revisited if it's an
46 issue later. Any of them can be brought up again.

47
48 All those in favor of the motion to amend. Yes votes
49 for all six members present. Motion carried. We're back to

50 the main motion now, which is to approve this proposal, 53.

00220

1 MR. R. SAM: I've got a question.

2
3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

4
5 MR. R. SAM: When did the Yukon-Kuskokwim area people
6 meet?

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD: The Council meeting, the Yukon-Delta
9 Regional Council met in Bethel two weeks ago. I believe -- it
10 may have been three weeks ago, it's quite recent. Actually I
11 know how to look this up.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And at that meeting they did
14 approve, right, this proposal?

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD: That's correct. Including -- as
17 recommended by the Staff, so it included Holy Cross in their
18 version. But I think if the Council were to proceed with the
19 action that you've put forward, the Board would be inclined to
20 take the word of the villages directly effected, the Holy Cross
21 representatives on the matter of where they use, so that
22 there's no barrier in having a slight difference between the
23 recommendations of Y-K and yourselves.

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, anymore comments on this
26 motion? All those in favor signify by raising your right hand.
27 Okay, again, yes, votes for all six members present. Motion
28 carried.

29
30 We're down to the next proposal.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: The next proposal is Proposal 56. It's
33 found on Page 77 in your book. This is a proposal dealing with
34 Units 20 and 21. It's dealing with moose. It's wanting to
35 create a controlled use area prohibiting air boat use. And
36 Pete DeMatteo will be presenting that and then we'll go through
37 the record as we proceed.

38
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Again, I think in helping us listen
40 to the comments, if there's a statement on how this effects us
41 to begin with. I mean we have communities near that area, is
42 that right, there's some of our communities that may be
43 effected by this or is it just because it's the proposal in the
44 adjacent area?

45
46 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Pete DeMatteo, Office of
47 Subsistence Management, biologist. That is correct. Ruby
48 would be the closest community to the proposed controlled use
49 area that could be effected by air boat traffic. Ruby, as you

50 know, lies in the Western Interior region.

00221

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

2

3 MR. DeMATTEO: The proposed controlled use area
4 straddles both Interior and the Western Interior regions, which
5 is why we're presenting this proposal to the Council today.

6

7 I have a map here that may be of some help. Proposed
8 controlled use area is represented on the map that you see on
9 the screen behind me, which appears as a smudge unfortunately
10 on this map. This corridor is not the proposed controlled use
11 area. The proposed controlled use area are the drainages or
12 the tributaries that drain into this smudge looking corridor.
13 It covers from Cos-Jacket, which is an abandoned community up
14 about 45 miles up the Tanana, clear down river down on the
15 Yukon River to a place known as the Lower end of Mason Slough.
16 So again, the proposed controlled use area is -- are the
17 tributaries that drain into this corridor.

18

19 Now, I'd like for you to keep in mind that air boat
20 traffic would still be permitted to pass through this corridor
21 on their way to points elsewhere. The proposed controlled use
22 area would cover Units 20(F) and 20(C) and also 21(B). The
23 proposal was originally submitted by the Tanana Tribal Council
24 where they had concerns for their service area.

25

26 Their main concerns were to protect water fowl habitat
27 and to prohibit the use of air boats for the use of hunting,
28 for transporting moose parts and also transporting moose
29 hunting equipment. The use of air boats on national wildlife
30 refuges is prohibited by law except on designated roads and in
31 designated parking areas. In the proposed controlled use area,
32 you will see in the map there is only one small portion that is
33 Federal land which indicated on the map that lies within the
34 proposed controlled use area. And any supportive action taken
35 by the Federal Board would limit the Board's ability to
36 regulate air boat traffic within the proposed area, outside of
37 the Federal boundaries.

38

39 With that the Staff recommendation is to defer action
40 pending further consultation with the State and at the Eastern
41 Interior Council meeting, Staff recommended that the tribal
42 council write a similar proposal to the State Board of Game and
43 that Staff would provide any technical assistance if necessary.
44 That was the Staff recommendation, yes.

45

46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And will you repeat that again, that
47 was to defer action pending submission of proposals to the
48 State about the effected area and seeing how they respond or
49 waiting until there's more discussion with the State, state

50 that again?

00222

1 MR. DeMATTEO: I'm sorry. What Staff recommended to
2 the Eastern Council was to defer action pending further
3 consultation with the State.

4
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

6
7 MR. DeMATTEO: We also recommended that the Tanana
8 Tribal Council submit a similar proposal to the Board of Game.

9
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

11
12 MR. DeMATTEO: And I understand that the proposal they
13 are writing is underway and the finishing touches are being put
14 on and we offered technical assistance if needed.

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Vince.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry, for the little confusion on that.
19 The Eastern Interior recommendation on that was essentially
20 deferred or no action. They continued to affirm their support
21 for banning air boats in the area because this is also their
22 proposal. They put in a companion proposal and they supported
23 -- they passed two motions to support writing a letter to the
24 State Board of Game supporting Tanana Tribal Council State
25 proposal and like Pete said, that technical assistance be
26 provided to the tribal council to write that proposal. So
27 basically they adopted the Staff's recommendations.

28
29 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman?

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

32
33 MR. R. SAM: Move to table.

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, move to table has precedence,
36 it's not debatable. I'm not -- okay -- you can't comment on
37 it. So the motion is to table this item, you can call for a
38 vote.

39
40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Jack.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: I think a move to defer in -- to align
45 with the Eastern Interior for the same grounds would be.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, is there a second to that
48 motion -- the other one -- I didn't ask for that -- is there a
49 second to the motion to table? Okay.

00223

1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

2
3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: No you can't amend it or debate it --
4 no, we have to move to table. That's why I was.....

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: You can take a vote and vote out.

7
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All right. All those in favor of
9 the motion to table. Opposed. Okay, the motion has lost.
10 We're back -- Jack.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to defer under the same
13 reasonings given by the Eastern Interior Regional Council with
14 -- my personal feelings is that another avenue is to make a
15 same day airborne type regulation for airboats.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, you're debating. Your motion
18 -- state the motion again.

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: The motion is to defer with the same
21 reasoning as Eastern Interior.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, is there a second to that
24 motion?

25
26 MR. DEACON: I second it.

27
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, seconded by Henry. Any
29 discussion of that motion? All those in favor signify by
30 raising your right hand. Okay, it's all yes votes for all
31 members present, motion carries. Thank you.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: That moves us up to Proposal 57 -- I'm
34 sorry, let me stand corrected on that. That moves us up to
35 Proposal 63, which is found on Page 86. This deals with Unit
36 22, wolves, and it's a revised c&t determination. And I'm
37 drawing a blank who's presenting that.

38
39 MR. BRELSFORD: Proposal 63 if we're ready to proceed.

40
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

42
43 MR. BRELSFORD: It's a revision to the c&t
44 determination. And if you look at the existing c&t
45 determination you'll recognize that it's very, very wide
46 ranging. It's a situation in which the rural residents from
47 out on the Alaska Peninsula through Southcentral Alaska all the
48 way through northern Alaska are recognized as having c&t uses
49 of rural -- in Unit 22.

00224

1 The interests of this Council is in the tract that Unit
2 24 residents are included among those presently having a c&t
3 use in Unit 22 and Unit 21 residents would also be effected.
4 So your concern is for the interests of the residents of Unit
5 21 and 24 where they are currently recognized as having a c&t
6 use inside Unit 22. The specifics of the proposal would
7 continue to recognize a c&t use by residents of Unit 21(D),
8 west of the Yukon River and -- but in effect, residents of Unit
9 24 would fall out of the c&t determination under the proposed
10 change.

11
12 It may be worth taking a second and looking at the maps
13 for Unit 22. We have several in a row and we might want to
14 familiarize ourselves with the conservation units and the
15 drainages and so on.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Who wants to walk us through that
18 and point it out.

19
20 MR. BRELSFORD: I can may a rough cut at that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

23
24 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, there's a bit of a
25 narrative description of the percentage of Federal lands in the
26 text, but I think the easiest way is actually just to turn to
27 the map on -- it will be on Page 116 of the regulations
28 booklet. I think the general points that have been made about
29 land status in Unit 22 are that overall there's a rather modest
30 amount of Federal land. It's concentrated to the east in some
31 BLM lands. This would be in Units 21(A) and a portion of
32 22(B). But when you get on to the Seward Peninsula proper,
33 there's very scattered Federal land except for up in the
34 northern portion of the Seward Peninsula and then the Bering
35 Land Bridge National Preserve is found.

36
37 So most of what we're concerned about is the
38 neighboring boundary between Unit 21, 24 and 22.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So it's not on this map at all then,
41 it's this portion right in here?

42
43 (Off record comments - away from mike, discussing maps)

44
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And the proposal would give c&t
46 findings to the residents of this area?

47
48 MR. BRELSFORD: 22 west, that's correct. If you're to
49 move the current regulation that includes Unit 21.

00225

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, up here, okay. So we're saying
2 just residents that live on the west side, like Kaltag and so
3 on, should have.....

4
5 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. That's the proposal.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

8
9 MR. BRELSFORD: If we've got kind of the geography and
10 the impasse on Region 6 residents in mind then they would -- I
11 think the most important element of this c&t -- all the
12 descriptive material is the first of those factors, the long-
13 term consistent pattern of use. And the general picture is the
14 communities studies within Unit 22 turn up a fairly infrequent
15 level of wolf harvest. It's not a large number, it's not con --
16 it's not a large number from year to year, so even when you
17 cover a long period, it's a relatively modest number. But
18 there's a long time historic description of uses of that sort.
19 For your purposes, what's significant is that neighboring --
20 any record of uses by neighboring villages in Unit 21(D) and
21 the important factor for us is that according to harvest
22 tickets, the only communities outside of Unit 22 reporting the
23 harvest of wolves inside 22 are Bettles, Fairbanks, Kotlik and
24 Wasilla. It's a little uneven as a source of information,
25 harvest tickets are not uniformly turned in. But to the extent
26 that they record uses, that's what it turns up.

27
28 If you look at the lengthy table on Page 88 and 89,
29 it's broken out by subunits. And so in Unit 21 -- 22(A), it's
30 quite clear that the vast majority of harvest occurs by
31 residents of Unit 22, this would be the right-hand column. The
32 left-hand column identifies those harvests by residents from
33 outside of Unit 22.

34
35 The same sort of pattern holds for the remaining
36 subunits. The other portions of that table. And the summary
37 comment on the following page in the little box, this would be
38 at the top of Page 90, points out that 95 percent of the
39 harvest of wolves in Unit 22 is by Unit 22 residents. So the
40 basic information suggests that there's very little spillover
41 or coming in from neighboring units in order to harvest within
42 Unit 22.

43
44 Sorry, Jack, go ahead, help us out.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: Where is Kotlik, I'm not sure where that
47 is?

48
49 MR. BRELSFORD: Kotlik is in Unit 18. It's in the --

50 at the mouth of the Yukon River.

00226

1 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD: Perhaps a pretty important interest to
4 us is this factor on Page 90 in the middle of the page asking
5 about consistent use, near or reasonably accessible from the
6 community or area. That first paragraph describes some mapping
7 of Unit 22 communities, Brevig Mission and Nome, showing that
8 they harvest fur bearers and travel rather widely. It then
9 says that traveling 100 miles from home communities for fur
10 bearers is a reasonably common practice. And with the use of
11 snowmachines and all terrain vehicles replacing snow shoes and
12 dog sleds, that range of hunting effort is relatively common
13 today. It then points out that rural residents of Unit 21(D),
14 west of the Yukon and 23 to the north could travel -- they
15 would be within range, this 100 mile range of Unit 22, so the
16 primary basis -- the basic information suggesting that 21(D)
17 residents should be included in Unit 22 is not from positive
18 documentation, it's essentially based on this idea that it's
19 within a reasonable range of travel.

20

21 So with that I think we're ready to turn to the Staff
22 recommendation and some of the sister Council recommendations.
23 On Page 92, you'll see that the suggestion in the preliminary
24 conclusion is to be a little more narrow than the proposal
25 itself and to raise a positive customary and traditional use
26 determination for hunting wolves by Unit 22 residents in Unit --
27 local residents in Unit 22 and then to add Kotlik to that.
28 And again, Kotlik neighbors just to the south of Unit 2 on the
29 south side of Norton Bay -- Norton Sound, excuse me.

30

31 In the discussion and justification, the second
32 paragraph takes up this question of residents of Unit 21(D)
33 west of the Yukon River and the communities to the north in
34 Unit 23 and again, points out that Unit 21(D), this portion of
35 the Yukon River would fall within the 100 miles reasonable
36 range. And where we end up is asking the opinion of the
37 Regional Council, of you all, whether that's a reasonable
38 basis, whether there are real interests at stake on the part of
39 residents from those Yukon River communities of continuing to
40 trap or hunt in Unit 22. So that's a critical question that we
41 need your specific advice about.

42

43 And the final paragraph says that, you know, for the
44 communities from down on the Alaska Peninsula and wide portions
45 of southcentral and northern Alaska, they don't have a historic
46 use, the distances are too great. It's not reasonable to have
47 that very, very wide ranging c&t that was there at the
48 beginning.

49

So that concludes my comments on it. I'd be happy to

00227

1 entertain questions if I've fouled it up somewhere along the
2 line here or else we could proceed with the public comments and
3 the State's comments.

4
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So the communities that are effected
6 in our area are Kaltag, Nulato, basically, those -- Grayling?

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Koyukuk -- Grayling would be in 21(E),
9 as I understand it.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right, it is.

12
13 MR. BRELSFORD: Koyukuk would be included and Galena, I
14 think.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Kaltag, Nulato and Koyukuk, these
17 three would be the communities requesting whether we feel it's
18 important that they have rights within this area across the
19 divide?

20
21 MR. BRELSFORD: That's correct.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I would think certainly with Kaltag
24 you have the -- Unalakleet, there must be traffic through
25 there, that is fairly close to the boundary, it's less than a
26 hundred miles.

27
28 MR. BRELSFORD: Should I mention the Seward Pen
29 recommendation? I think my rhythm is not quite right on this,
30 Ray, I mean to include the Seward Peninsula recommendation.
31 They are the home Council on this question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

34
35 MR. BRELSFORD: And their recommendation, after the
36 Staff analysis was to continue to include all residents of Unit
37 22 in the home region, and the residents of 21(D), west of the
38 Yukon River, Kotlik and then some communities from Unit 23.

39
40 So of interest for your question, they continued to
41 recommend a positive c&t determination for those villages,
42 Nulato, Kaltag, Koyukuk.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

45
46 MR. BRELSFORD: They don't object to that. They see
47 that as a reasonable pattern of subsistence uses.

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: But originally, c&t was for all of

50 those of 21 and all of those of 24, right?

00228

1 MR. BRELSFORD: That's correct. As well as many, many
2 others, some down on.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

5
6 MR. BRELSFORD: It was very wide ranging.

7
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any public comments on that?
9 Vince, something else, written comments?

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, we had one written comment,
12 which was from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And
13 basically their final comments were to defer on this one.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Their final comments were deferred,
18 excuse me.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. So that brings us down then
21 to public testimony. All right then, Council discussion of the
22 issue. Jack.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: I feel that we should go with what the
25 Seward Peninsula Council has designated, west of the Yukon
26 River.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

29
30 MR. REAKOFF:and adopt.

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: I move to adopt.

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, is there a second to that?

37
38 MR. R. SAM: Second.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, seconded by Ron -- moved by
41 Jack, seconded by Ron.

42
43 MR. R. SAM: Question.

44
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Question, okay.

46
47 MR. R. SAM: Question.

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All right, all those in favor

50 signify by raising your right hand. Yes votes for all members

00229

1 present, motion carried.

2

3 I had just one comment that I wanted to make. I think
4 that it is important because this is again, setting a precedent
5 that we're more interested in being more restrictive on the c&t
6 to the communities that actually have it. It's kind of in line
7 with the further action we took down here and I think we are
8 setting precedent that we don't deal with whole units when
9 people have c&t only in smaller areas. So I think it's good
10 that we do this kind of thing.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Because the opposite, if we didn't
15 act, they would still have the c&t for the whole unit. And
16 we're saying that we like that idea, which is not good.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I had a note here that lunch will be
21 ready at 11:50, which would mean we'd have to break about 11:40
22 to be over there; it will give us 10 minutes to get over there.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just to make sure it's
25 clear in my mind, the motion was to adopt Seward Pen's
26 recommendation?

27

28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: For those units west of the river,
33 yeah.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Correct, thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, the next proposal, Vince.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: The next proposal is Proposal 64. I
40 believe someone's handing out the analysis -- no, I have it in
41 my hand, if someone will hand out the analysis on that. The
42 actual proposal is found on Page 64, but the analysis is being
43 handed out, it's dealing with Unit 23, black bear. It's a
44 revised c&t use of that use. And I believe -- it looks like
45 Taylor is presenting that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. I have kind of a
48 question on procedure. Since some of these are a little more
49 marginal to our area, I wonder if we need the full analysis of

50 these, if there aren't questions and concerns. That maybe we

00230

1 can kind of summarize some of the analysis and then if people
2 have concern and need to, you can expand it more, on these ones
3 that are kind of marginal. Thank you.

4
5 MR. BRELSFORD: Very well, point taken. This primarily
6 effects the Northwest Arctic region, the Kotzebue Sound region.
7 The interest for the Western Interior Council is focused on the
8 neighboring villages, villages neighboring Unit 23 in Unit 24,
9 that's going to be the Upper Koyukuk villages. So the question
10 is whether some of the Upper Koyukuk River villages go across
11 the land into the Upper Kobuk River drainage. That's the
12 point.

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD: The effect of this proposal in Unit 23
17 for black bear is to go from a no determination, the Board
18 never made a decision, never reviewed the history or the
19 current uses, they had no determination and this would change
20 that. It would substitute a positive c&t determination for the
21 residents of Unit 23. So you're a neighboring unit, some of
22 your folks may have used a portion of that unit, that's the
23 question we need to look at.

24
25 You're probably aware that black bear habitat is not
26 evenly distributed throughout Kotzebue Sound, it's in the
27 timbered areas, not in the costal areas, so not all of the
28 communities are immediately adjacent to black bear habitat and
29 therefore, their harvest patterns reflect availability of the
30 species. A couple of pages in there's a quick summary of the
31 community studies for Kotzebue, the Noatak River village and
32 then the Kobuk River villages. There are no community study
33 data or harvest ticket data concerning Upper Koyukuk River
34 villages going over the height of land, okay. So if we look on
35 factor four, this is on Page 4, concerning use patterns that
36 are near or reasonably accessible from a community or area, the
37 pertinent paragraph is at the bottom of Page 4, it's critical
38 for the Western Interior communities. It says, there is no
39 indication in the literature or the data bases that other
40 communities outside of Unit 23 take black bears in Unit 23.
41 There's a discussion of the Purcell Hot Springs on the eastern
42 end of the Selawik Refuge. They're frequented in the past by
43 residents of Galena, Allakaket, Koyukuk, Huslia and Hughes.
44 Since it's good black bear habitat, it's possible the people
45 from these communities harvest black bears while they're there
46 at the springs. And the source of information on this is one
47 of the refuge staff, Gene Peltola, Jr., that's a personal
48 communication. He's aware of people from Unit 24 coming into
49 that area, that portion of 23.

00231

1 Moving to the end, the Staff recommendation is to stick
2 with the proposal as it's written in the first case, that the
3 c&t for Unit 23 would be all residents of Unit 23. But in the
4 justification you'll see a request that we asked your all's
5 input on possible uses by Galena, Allakaket, Koyukuk, Huslia
6 and Hughes, concerning the edge of the Selawik Refuge
7 neighboring Unit 24. So that's the status of the Staff -- of
8 the background information and the question that we put before
9 you for your information.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Next would be written comments?

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It's the same, from
14 the State, their comments have been deferred on this. And did
15 we cover the Regional Council recommendation on this?

16
17 MR. BRELSFORD: The Northwest Arctic meets next week so
18 we don't have the.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

21
22 MR. BRELSFORD: The Northwest Arctic Council meets next
23 week so there are no recommendations or actions on their part
24 at this point. So I think we're to public testimony then,
25 right.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. Is there anyone who wants to
28 speak to this issue.

29
30 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair?

31
32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Gabe.

33
34 MR. G. SAM: I'm from Huslia and yes, we do in the
35 springtime hunt black bears when they come out of den over in
36 the Purcell Hot Springs.

37
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

39
40 MR. G. SAM: And it is -- we have been doing that for
41 quite some time. And one of the questions I have is, it says
42 that black bear meat is used for dogs; is that for -- I'm not
43 quite sure who -- may be used for human consumption or to feed
44 dogs based on the condition of the meat and individual hunter
45 needs and preferences. Who is that talking for? Is that for
46 -- because on Page 4 it talks about Huslia, Hughes and Galena,
47 Allakaket and we don't use black bear meats for dogs. I don't
48 know where that information came from.

49

CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Do you want to answer that, Taylor,

00232

1 it was a proposal from Unit 23 residents, which are Inupiat
2 residents, right?

3

4 MR. BRELSFORD: That's correct. And the source --
5 Gabe, we're in the paragraph at the top of Page 5.

6

7 MR. G. SAM: Yeah.

8

9 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay, the source in parenthesis there
10 is Armstrong 1997. It's a personal communication with Barbara
11 Armstrong, our -- the Coordinator for the Northwest Arctic
12 Council, lifelong resident of the Kobuk River and Kotzebue.
13 That is her description of contemporary uses. I'm not in a
14 position to evaluate whether she was referring to all people,
15 some of the people.....

16

17 MR. G. SAM: Okay, I just wanted to make it clear that
18 bear meat for us on that river, it's a delicacy and it's a
19 strong part of our culture and we respect the animal pretty --
20 pretty thoroughly. And we hunt them in the old traditional
21 ways -- in the fall time of going into the dens, you know, and
22 it's a -- it's a real delicacy and I'm sure Mr. Derendoff can
23 testify to that. And I just wanted to state on the record that
24 we don't practice feeding bear meat to dogs.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any other public comment? Okay,
27 we're down to Council discussion then of this motion. I can
28 see from the recommendation now they're asking for c&t
29 determination -- Unit 23, they've never had that c&t before.
30 They're not saying anything about our unit, they're not saying
31 that you have or have not. They're just asking for
32 determination for their area basically in this proposal. And
33 so the Staff's saying -- do we want to just have them adopt it
34 that way or do we want to encourage input from these other
35 villages or have them included now, I guess would be the.....

36

37 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chairman?

38

39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Bill.

40

41 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chairman, I believe we should be
42 included in the Huslia area, because like Gabe Sam stated, that
43 we did value the bear meat.

44

45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. If that's the feelings of the
46 Council, then what we could do is move to adopt and then when
47 we have that on the table here, we could amend it by adding
48 communities like we did on that other motion. That would be
49 one way of getting the proposal -- yeah. Do you have comments,

50 too, before we.....

00233

1 MR. R. SAM: Yeah. For the record I'll move to adopt
2 for discussion purposes.

3
4 MR. DERENDOFF: Second.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, moved by Sam, seconded by Bill
7 -- I mean Ron and seconded by Bill. Okay, now we have the
8 motion before us. Discussion.

9
10 MR. R. SAM: I guess that I moved to put this on the
11 floor, but maybe I could amend it to delete Galena, Allakaket,
12 Koyukuk and Hughes and that further -- or further input or
13 written comment from these communities.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I'm sorry, I'm not clear, what do
16 you want to -- you want to eliminate those communities?

17
18 MR. R. SAM: Yeah -- well, maybe not eliminated, but we
19 can get some written testimony from them to -- as to their
20 extent of uses.

21
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, that's the Staff
23 recommendation kind of that we have before us.

24
25 MR. BRELSFORD: Ron, could you repeat the named
26 communities that you think probably don't have uses at this
27 point -- don't have documentation?

28
29 MR. R. SAM: I don't think Galena, Allakaket, Koyukuk
30 and Hughes.

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Well, the motion doesn't say
35 anything about them, so we wouldn't have to do anything with
36 that motion. They're not in the motion now, those communities.
37 If you want any of those communities amend -- included, like
38 Hughes you were saying, then you would move to amend to add
39 them to that proposal.

40
41 MR. R. SAM: Oh.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And then we could make
44 recommendation to the Staff that they further document other
45 communities, see what I mean? The proposal itself doesn't say
46 anything about those communities as I understand it. It says,
47 only residents of Unit 23, the one that's on the table right
48 now.

49

MR. BRELSFORD: If I understand the intention.....

00234

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD:the original motion is Unit 23
4 residents in Unit 23 -- the effect of Ron's comments would be
5 to add only Hughes -- only Huslia to that list at this point
6 and to seek further documentation for the others.

7

8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, okay, I understand.

9

10 MR. R. SAM: Yes, that's exactly.

11

12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That was the intent, okay. Is there
13 a second to that motion then?

14

15 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chair?

16

17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Bill.

18

19 MR. DERENDOFF: This is getting confusing here. The
20 boundary -- the boundary land, Unit 23.....

21

22 MR. BRELSFORD: Bill, this map, the big map might help.

23

24 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman?

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

27

28 MR. R. SAM: My concerns is that the only real trail or
29 access to the eastern boundary of the Selawik National Wildlife
30 Refuge is from Huslia through -- to Kobuk area and they're the
31 only ones that may use it. We -- all the rest of the
32 communities are restricted by no ice, no snow, no real trail to
33 really go into that area for a traditional c&t use of black
34 bear within the falltime hunt that we traditionally use. So
35 the only one that would be effected is Huslia and that's the
36 only one I would like to see included at this time in that 23
37 proposal.

38

39 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chairman?

40

41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Bill.

42

43 MR. DERENDOFF: I would like to also include the
44 Huslia. As I say, about 30 miles from -- you see where that --
45 that Unit 23 boundary.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

48

49 MR. DERENDOFF:that's -- I'd say 30 miles from

50 Huslia, so we are very close.

00235

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, a point of order right now.
2 What we've got is a motion to adopt the proposal before us, so
3 it's on the table. Ron is making amendment to -- a move to
4 amend that to add Hughes to that so that you would be given c&t
5 and he's asking that research be done on those other
6 communities on their use. Now, I need a second to that motion
7 to amend.

8
9 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, the amendment concerned
10 Huslia, I think you misspoke and said Hughes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I'm sorry, I'm switching. And what
13 you're saying supports that, that Huslia does use that area,
14 you're close to it?

15
16 MR. DERENDOFF: It's these other villages should be --
17 a study for them.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. And that was in the motion,
20 if we could get a second for it, it would do that. The
21 amendment would do that. It would include you and it would ask
22 that those other communities be studied to see -- documentation
23 to see if they use it if we approve this motion to amend.

24
25 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Or actually get a second to that,
28 we're kind of discussing something that we don't have -- is
29 there a second to that?

30
31 MR. DERENDOFF: Yes, I second that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, seconded by Bill. Okay, now,
34 discussion of that. Does everyone understand, we've got the
35 motion -- or we've got the amendment to the motion before us.

36
37 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair?

38
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

40
41 MR. G. SAM: Maybe there's one other community that
42 should be added on to that and that's Galena. We have
43 residents in Galena that originally are from Huslia and they
44 still practice their hunting practices up in that area. And
45 some of them are like Barney Attla, Hazel -- not Hazel
46 Strasburg, but Hazel Strasburg is a hunter from up there -- or
47 down there that do a lot of hunting over there. I couldn't
48 speak for Allakaket or Hughes, but I know there's hunters from
49 Galena and I know they should not be left out.

00236

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, so there's some hunters from
2 Galena that would use that?

3
4 MR. G. SAM: Yes. And maybe Galena could be added to
5 the amendment.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Maybe there should be
8 clarification -- or comment here that right now under State
9 seasons there's kind of a year-round season on black bears, is
10 that right, in that area, with three bears and so on?

11
12 MR. BRELSFORD: That's generally true.

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So the c&t finding would not stop
15 anybody from hunting there, do you see what I mean? Because
16 they still could do that now under the State season. What this
17 does is say that, yes, they have customary and traditional. If
18 they go to seek information, then we would have accurate data
19 on how many people in Galena and the others -- and we could ask
20 them to be added later, see what I mean? We're not excluding
21 them now. We're not eliminating hunting opportunities for them
22 now because there are State seasons, but we are asking that it
23 be looked at and that it be documented, who used it and then we
24 could just come in with another proposal in a year to give them
25 c&t. Do you see what I'm saying?

26
27 MR. G. SAM: Yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. So our action right now isn't
30 going to really cut anybody out from opportunities to hunt, but
31 it is saying that, yes, we know the residents of Hughes have
32 that customary and traditional so they should be.....

33
34 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, that was the intent of
35 my motion but my discussion to go ahead and direct these other
36 villages to submit documentation if they want to use this area.
37 We're not trying to cut anybody off, but this -- Huslia
38 automatically included in this.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Are we ready to vote on the
41 motions then -- question then. Okay. All those in favor for
42 the motion to amend signify by raising your right hand.

43
44 Okay, we're amending the proposal to have -- to -- the
45 original motion is for a c&t determination for residents of
46 Unit 23, they had a proposal for the Board to recognize their
47 customary and traditional right. Okay, we brought that motion
48 to the table and said, we want to amend that by adding
49 Hughes.....

00237

1 MR. DERENDOFF: Huslia.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS:Huslia, sorry, I keep doing
4 that -- add Huslia and that these other communities we listed,
5 Galena and so on be studied to see what their use is. So right
6 now we're voting just to add that to the proposal that's going
7 to the Board.

8

9 MR. R. SAM: Okay, this is the amendment only, right?

10

11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The amendment only is what we're
12 voting on right now.

13

14 MR. R. SAM: Question

15

16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, all those in favor signify by
17 raising your right hand. Okay, yes, okay. Now, the whole
18 motion is before us as amended, which includes Huslia and asks
19 that a study be done on those other communities.

20

21 MR. R. SAM: Question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All those in favor signify by
24 raising your right hand. Okay, good, I think we got it done.
25 Yes votes for all six members, motion carried. Sometimes it
26 gets confusing when you start having amendments out there.

27

28 We're getting very close if they're going to be ready
29 at 11:50. I think maybe we should recess and go on down to the
30 school and have lunch and how about if we come back again at
31 what time, 12:40, 12:45.

32

33 MR. R. SAM: Sounds good.

34

35 MR. DERENDOFF: It's up to the Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: 12:45, quarter to 1:00 we'll be back
38 here and ready to go again.

39

40 (Off record)

41 (On record)

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Proposal 55 is on Page 1 in
44 Tab XYZ. It deals with Unit 24, black bear. It's dealing with
45 a revised c&t use and Pete DeMatteo will be presenting the
46 analysis.

47

48 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, residents in Unit 24 in
49 Wiseman have traditionally hunted black bear within Unit 24 and

50 fulfill the eight criteria factors for c&t determination for

00238

1 black bear. There is little information regarding residents
2 along the Dalton Corridor, however, in camps and in Coldfoot,
3 but these residents of these areas tend to be transient as
4 their livelihood tends to be road work maintenance. Stevens
5 Village black bear use area maps do not extend into Unit 24,
6 therefore, unless additional information is provided, it'd be
7 difficult to provide c&t use determination for Stevens Village.

8
9 In addition, there is insufficient evidence to indicate
10 if residents in communities neighboring Unit 24 and communities
11 of Galena, Tanana, Koyukuk or Nulato utilize 24 for black bear.
12 Personally speaking I can say that there are several families
13 in Galena that do go up into Unit 24 to harvest black bear.
14 And there are several families that I know personally that do
15 go up annual to harvest black bear in that unit.

16
17 The Staff recommendation is to modify the proposal.
18 The customary and traditional use determination for black bear
19 in Unit 24 should be for residents of Unit 24 and residents of
20 Wiseman, but not including any other residents of the Dalton
21 Highway Corridor management area.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Now, by saying residents of 24, what
24 other villages are impacted by that?

25
26 MR. DeMATTEO: Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Evansville,
27 Hughes and Huslia.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Are we ready to go down to --
30 so that's the analysis, where are we at Regional Council
31 recommendations?

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Eastern Interior did address this
34 proposal and hopefully you can see that up there. Basically
35 they looked at the proposal and came up with the language here
36 to modify it. They wanted to modify the c&t determination for
37 Unit 24 to read that portion south of Caribou Mountain and
38 within the public lands would be rural residents of Stevens
39 Village and Unit 24, including residents of Wiseman, but
40 excluding other residents of the Dalton Highway Corridor.
41 Going on, the remainder of Unit 24 would be rural residents of
42 Unit 24 including Wiseman residents, but excluding other
43 residents of the Dalton Highway Corridor. And I was unable to
44 map that out. If we need it mapped, we do have a map that Jack
45 could assist us in drawing this area up if need be.

46
47 We did have public comments on this from Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game. Their final comments are
49 deferred. But as presented, this proposal would recognize c&t

50 uses of black bear in Unit 24 by Stevens Village residents

00239

1 only. Published documentation does not indicate that Stevens
2 Village harvests black bear in Unit 24 or that there's a
3 community pattern of use of black bear in Unit 24 by Stevens
4 Village. And that's the only written comment that I'm aware of
5 and the State may want to elaborate on that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

8
9 MR. GOLEMBESKI: My comments are not from the State
10 there. I recently attended the Middle Yukon Fish and Game
11 Advisory Committee and the G.A.S.H. Advisory Committee. Both
12 of those groups on February 1st came out in opposition of this
13 proposal as it reads. Their justifications were, this proposal
14 as it reads, excludes the villages of Huslia, Hughes, Alatna
15 and Allakaket from hunting and also Galena from hunting in this
16 area. They stated at that time that -- well, they noted that
17 Stevens Village, itself is outside this game management unit,
18 so they were in opposition of this. They feel that residents
19 of Huslia, Hughes, Alatna and Allakaket and Galena should be
20 allowed to hunt black bear at this time. It's been customary
21 and traditional for them.

22
23 So both groups were supposed to send representatives
24 here to support their view. But Benedict Jones from Koyukuk is
25 not here and I don't know how was appointed for the G.A.S.H.
26 committee. So I just wanted to inform you on that. They both
27 supposedly drafted proposals, letters to send to the Council
28 here, but I'm not sure if you received them in time or not.

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Question about when the c&t
31 determined. They are making a determination for who has c&t in
32 24, right? It's based on the unit, it's not based on the
33 village? So it's not saying Stevens has, but -- it's not being
34 neutral on others, but by that action, if it just said Stevens,
35 then they would be the only one that was found to have c&t; is
36 that correct?

37
38 MR. DeMATTEO: That is correct.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah and so that's why the
41 opposition, okay. Any other public testimony on this?

42
43 MR. R. SAM: I guess I'm not clear to what area we're
44 talking about. I know where our village is located, but where
45 are we being excluded from?

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, all of Unit 24 I guess. There
48 would be -- the original proposal said only residents of
49 Stevens Village had c&t there, that's what they were asking

50 for. And if it went through that way, then they would be the

00240

1 only ones determined to have that unless other villages were
2 added to it. So if you have a map of Unit 24, then that's the
3 area that's under discussion. It begins just below Huslia and
4 then goes all the way up, so Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket,
5 Bettles, Evansville, Wiseman, all of those are within 24.

6
7 And the recommendation again -- to see where we're at,
8 the recommendation of Staff is what now?

9
10 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, the Staff recommendation is
11 to modify the proposal. The customary and traditional use
12 determination for black bear for Unit 24 should be for
13 residents of Unit 24 and residents of Wiseman, but not
14 including any other residents of the Dalton Corridor.

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. And that's the -- okay, and
17 then you have the Eastern Interior's right below that, I see.
18 We have nothing on the table. These are kind of -- we've got a
19 recommendation and we've got Eastern Interior's before us
20 there, so we could move either one of those if you wish or we
21 could take some other kind of action.

22
23 We'll pause a minute. Behind us here, some of the
24 members are looking at a map if some of you need to refer to
25 that map to be clear on what you're talking about before we go
26 on.

27
28 MR. REAKOFF: I don't agree with the way they've
29 written their proposal either. The way their proposal is
30 reading that nobody else would have c&t for black bears in Unit
31 24. I understand the way they want it, they want to be able to
32 hunt black bears over the hill and into a little bit of Unit 24
33 and they've sort of mixed up their use area with their
34 proposal. I would have to -- it's too bad we didn't have
35 somebody from.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, rather than try to craft one,
38 another option would be for us to defer this and ask that a
39 study or a finding be done on Unit 24 with maps and so on of
40 who has c&t. In other words, defer it to initiate the studies
41 so that there'd be data that'd come back that would show who
42 was actually using it instead of us saying, well, this village
43 is and isn't, without having the analysis. Would that be.....

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Well, as far as I understand the Staff
46 has already -- can't find any documentation of Stevens Village
47 use into that Unit 24 area. I don't know if they've -- there's
48 been enough study about that done or why there isn't that
49 documentation available.

00241

1 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, the current Staff analysis
2 indicates that there's insufficient evidence to indicate if
3 residents and communities neighboring Unit 24 such as Galena,
4 Tanana, Koyukuk and Nulato utilize 24 for black bear hunting.
5 I know for certain from personal experience that there are
6 people in Galena that do venture up into Unit 24 on an annual
7 basis to hunt black bear because there are strong family ties
8 between some Galena residents and also Huslia, Hughes and up as
9 far north as Allakaket.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

12
13 MR. DeMATTEO: As far as Stevens Village, black bear
14 use area maps do not extend into Unit 24 as stated in the
15 analysis.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I stand corrected. I see what
18 you're saying, that the Staff is to go ahead and deal with 24,
19 but just for the resident communities there, yeah.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, also in your file we went
22 ahead and pulled copies of maps of the community study done by
23 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence
24 in 1988 with the land resource use patterns of Stevens Village,
25 that's in your packet towards the back in your notebook file I
26 gave you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: And so you may want to look at that. We
31 have it here just in case you wanted to look. Stevens Village
32 also has a land use management plan. I didn't bring copies of
33 that, but they're basing their decisions on their land use
34 management plan. It has the cover page of land and resource
35 use patterns in Stevens Village, Alaska by Valerie Sameda.

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, the map that I'm looking on
38 black bear actually shows no black bear use up in that area,
39 this is their own map from the community? On Figure 30?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Based on this study, correct. I don't
42 want to speak for Stevens Village, they feel that they do use
43 that area, so I'll just leave it at that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, how does the Council wish to
46 proceed? Well, if you Staff recommendations, how do you feel
47 about that, do you feel comfortable with going that far?

48
49 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, what's going on now?

00242

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We have nothing on the table here
2 regarding this proposal, so it's a matter of someone wanting to
3 initiate a motion proposing one of these or deferring action or
4 whatever. I mean we've heard the analysis, we have a Staff
5 recommendation, we have Eastern Interior's recommendation, but
6 nothing's been moved yet by the Council. If you have testimony
7 as to -- from your perspective, you know, concerning any of
8 these, I'd be willing to entertain that or Vince, do you have
9 any more comments?

10
11 MR. GOLEMBESKI: I just wanted to state, you know, what
12 the G.A.S.H. Advisory Committee was in opposition of this
13 proposal as was the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

16
17 MR. GOLEMBESKI: They were in opposition to this as
18 written.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: As written, right.

21
22 MR. GOLEMBESKI: They didn't have any suggestions as to
23 remedy the wording on that. And since the representatives
24 aren't here, I just wanted to put their.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: But their opposition was because
27 Hughes, Allakaket and so on, those communities aren't
28 mentioned?

29
30 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Yeah, because other villages were
31 excluded.

32
33 MR. G. SAM: Could we amend it to add those?

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, you don't have to add those.
36 If we do that, we could subsistence the Staff recommendation
37 for that proposal. I don't know, if others don't have comment,
38 I would find it hard at this point to support Stevens Village's
39 proposal because I don't think even on their own maps we have
40 documentation that they're using that area and certainly not to
41 the exclusion of the other villages that are actually resident
42 in there. Yes, go ahead.

43
44 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, this is Mike Coffing,
45 Subsistence Division. I haven't looked at the maps that you
46 have in front of you from Stevens Village, which report is
47 that?

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: It's one that was done by them, it's

50 entitled Land and Resource Use Patterns in Stevens Village by

00243

1 Valerie Sameda, Tech Paper 129.

2

3 MR. COFFING: Okay. I guess one thing I would bring to
4 the attention of the Council is -- and it may be on those
5 figures, but it's not uncommon when we're putting together land
6 use maps like that that we do -- that we don't talk to every
7 household, we try to contact as many as we can and get
8 responses with the hopeful result that we end up with land use
9 maps that best represent the community's use area. It's often
10 the case that what we put on maps that are the size on the wall
11 behind you or that go on reports is the qualifier that
12 basically says, perhaps, possibly not all households were
13 contacted. That the use areas probably identify -- represent a
14 minimum of the subsistence use area and that for more current
15 or recent information, the reader is referred back to the
16 community.

17

18 So I guess what I'd like to caution the Council is is
19 that there is some land use areas used for black bear by
20 Stevens Village that may not be on those maps because the
21 individuals that use the areas weren't around at the time that
22 the map took place. I don't know that that's the case, but I
23 would say that that's a possibility.

24

25 MR. R. SAM: My question would then be -- now, I'm
26 totally confused about this proposal. Aren't we -- or a
27 granted use of black bear as far as Unit 24 is concerned?

28

29 MR. DeMATTEO: That is correct. Existing regulation
30 grants the residents of Unit 24 use of black bear. The
31 proposal as stated would change that and would remove residents
32 of 24 from the regulation and grant Stevens Village c&t use
33 determination for black bear in Unit 24.

34

35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Now, I'm confused. You say there
36 has been a c&t for the residents of 24? There's no c&t isn't
37 there?

38

39 MR. DeMATTEO: All rural residents, excuse me.

40

41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, all rural residents, okay.

42

43 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair?

44

45 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, as a point of clarification,
46 that is a State determination that the Federal Board adopted.

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Yes.

49

MR. G. SAM: It's becoming a habit me coming up here

00244

1 now. My name is Gabe Sam on behalf of Huslia. It's clearly we
2 established traditional hunting grounds in Unit 24 and on here
3 it says that we don't have a positive customary and traditional
4 finding for black bear, how is that determined?

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Go ahead, Vince.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Let's see if we can back up. Right now
9 the existing regulation is the Board has not made a
10 determination. When they don't have a determination, that
11 means all rural Alaskans qualify. So Huslia and all, et
12 cetera, qualify to take black bear in Unit 24. Stevens Village
13 submitted a proposal to try to define -- make a decision on
14 this, make a positive c&t. When we analyzed that, we look at
15 it, not just from Stevens Village, we look at it from that area
16 in question. When we did that, the Staff conclusion was, as it
17 says up there, to make the no determination, which means all
18 Alaskan residents qualify to -- and I can't read it, to Unit 24
19 black bear -- rural residents of 24 and residents of Wiseman,
20 but not other residents of the Dalton Highway Management
21 Corridor. Okay, that brings us up to the proposal analysis.
22 That same analysis was presented to Eastern Interior, who has a
23 member who's the chief of Stevens Village, they passed the
24 motion of taking the information provided by Chief Mayo at the
25 meeting. He drew a box on a map and converted that into
26 language to read -- well, I won't read it again, but it's the
27 one that they have the recommendation on. That brings us up to
28 the existing situation. So Staff is not saying ever that
29 Huslia does not have customary and traditional use of Unit 24.

30
31 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair?

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

34
35 MR. G. SAM: What I just wanted to make that known for
36 the record. And as for Stevens Village, you know, I haven't
37 heard of them hunting up in that area for as long as I've
38 known. And when I get back, I guess I'm going to have to give
39 Ben Stevens and Randy a call and see what's up there. That's
40 all I have for now.

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, we're back to nothing on the
43 table. Go ahead, Jack.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I think it'd probably be
46 wise to defer this for further study of the other adjacent
47 villages of Tanana. I know people used to go back and forth
48 between Tanana and Allakaket and there should be other -- if
49 we're going to make a c&t, we should do it all at the same

50 time. We should find out if Galena, Tanana and Stevens

00245

1 Village, Koyukuk utilize Unit 24 and do it all through the same
2 time. I don't know if Tanana's -- did you look into Tanana at
3 all?

4
5 MR. DeMATTEO: The existing documentation does not
6 state that Tanana does or does not hunt up in that area.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

9
10 MR. DeMATTEO: Further studies would be needed to
11 conclude that.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

14
15 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman?

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

18
19 MR. R. SAM: One of my biggest concerns as far as
20 Stevens Village is concerned is the use and access of the
21 Dalton Highway, which could open up a whole bunch of stuff that
22 we don't want seen up around that country. And as far as
23 Tanana goes, I would like to leave that off the record until
24 they do come up with a proposal. So after -- what little
25 clarification I could get on this, I think that we should go on
26 record as Unit 24, rural residents c&t use of black bear. We
27 should have it on record. Isn't that what the Staff
28 recommends?

29
30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: They excluded residents of the
31 Dalton Highway Corridor.

32
33 MR. R. SAM: Yes. That's what I want for the time
34 being.

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So are you prepared to move that
37 then?

38
39 MR. R. SAM: Yes, excluding residents of the Dalton
40 Highway, except for Wiseman residents.

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

43
44 MR. R. SAM: The Wiseman residents would be included.

45
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there a second to that?

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: I'll second to that.

49

CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Discussion of that motion

00246

1 then is before us. Yes, Pete.

2

3 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, before you go any further, my
4 fellow Staff members pointed out to me that there has been a
5 study which indicates that for Tanana and Stevens Village did
6 not document the use of Unit 24 for harvest of black bear.

7

8 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman?

9

10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

11

12 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, if and when Tanana and Stevens
13 Village residents do document, I think that we can address this
14 problem again.

15

16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Now, I guess a point of order here.
17 There is a proposal that's gone to the Board, so our motion
18 then is to substitute or replace that with this proposal or
19 amend it because we don't say anything about Stevens, it's kind
20 of a whole new proposal from the one that was in the book, is
21 that -- do you see what I'm saying?

22

23 MR. R. SAM: What I would -- what I want to go on
24 record as to go ahead and adopt the Staff recommendation as
25 presented up there on the.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: It's modified.

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, I understand that. Ron. But
32 I'm thinking, is our action in order here because we're kind of
33 taking something new to the Board, do you see what I mean? How
34 do they handle that Vince, procedurally? Do we have to oppose
35 Stevens Village and substitute this one or do we just say
36 replace it?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: No, you would modify the proposal to read
39 as up above. What you're saying is you're wondering is this
40 action then actually doing a different proposal?

41

42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: New proposal is what I'm saying.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Well, if we back up a little bit here,
45 all the analysis' provided by the area and that, so you're not
46 -- you've been informed of the information as best collected.

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah and, I guess basically Eastern
49 did the same kind of thing.

00247

1 MR. MATHEWS: Correct.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: They came up with new wording.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: And it was public notice through the
6 proposal book.

7

8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: So you're in the gray, but I don't think
11 you're near the black.

12

13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All right. So anyone want to speak
14 to Ron's motion then before we vote on it? All those in favor
15 signify by raising your right hand. Okay, it's yes votes for
16 all six members present. Motion carried. So we have adopted
17 the Staff recommendation.

18

19 Next item, I understand that 77 may be one that for --
20 I thought I heard that they weren't able to do the analysis
21 because someone was ill?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Correct, 77, is deferred to the next
24 cycle.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Same with Proposal 57. So that brings us
29 up to Proposal 58 and Proposal 58 is the same situation. It's
30 found on Page 17 in your notebook. It's dealing with Unit 24
31 brown bear and it's revising the c&t determination and I
32 believe it is a Stevens Village proposal.

33

34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: What page is that?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Seventeen.

37

38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, analysis on this please.

39

40 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, the community harvest studies
41 do not indicate that brown bear are presently hunted by Stevens
42 Village residents within Unit 24. In addition, there is
43 insufficient evidence to indicate if residents of Tanana,
44 Koyukuk, Nulato have hunted brown bears in the same unit.

45

46 There is some information that at least a couple of
47 Galena families to Unit 24 to harvest brown bears each year.
48 And again, I can speak from personal experience that several
49 families do make an annual pilgrimage into Unit 24 to hunt

50 brown bears in the spring of the year. There's little

00248

1 information regarding residents along the Dalton Highway
2 Corridor and camps and also in Coldfoot and again, these
3 communities tend to be transient in nature and they're
4 livelihood tends to orient towards road maintenance. Residents
5 in Unit 24 in Wiseman have traditionally hunted brown bear
6 within Unit 24 and fulfill the eight factors in order to have a
7 positive c&t use determination for brown bear.

8
9 The Staff recommendation is to reject the proposal
10 based upon the lack of information supporting Stevens Village
11 harvesting brown bear in Unit 24. Existing customary and
12 traditional use determination for residents of Unit 24 and
13 residents of Wiseman, but not including any other residents of
14 the Dalton Corridor Management area should be retained. Galena
15 also should be added if the Western Council agrees to.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Vince.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: The Eastern Interior took up this
20 proposal and I apologize for not having it on the overhead.
21 But basically the Eastern Interior to similar action that they
22 did with 55 and took that same area that's south of Caribou and
23 et cetera and recommended that, that the c&t be the same for
24 brown bear as they did for black bear in that section south of
25 Caribou Mountain as we described in the earlier proposal.

26
27 Public comment on 58, we had one public comment from
28 the State of Alaska. Final comments are deferred. Our
29 comments on Proposal 55 apply to Proposal 58 as well, where
30 there appears to be no documentation of use within 24 and the
31 State can elaborate on that if they desire.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Public comment on that?

34
35 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Dave Yokel with the
36 BLM. I don't want to differ with the Staff analysis on
37 people's use of brown bear or Jack's personal knowledge of
38 people's in the area use of brown bear, but I would differ with
39 the Staff's analysis of what people do for a living in the
40 Dalton Highway Corridor. The residents of the corridor are not
41 involved in highway maintenance. To the best of my knowledge,
42 the DOT's camps no longer have residents. The residents of the
43 corridor are involved in mining or in the operation of truck
44 stop, restaurant and hotel. And many of them are -- some of
45 them, I should say, are year-round residents. I just wanted to
46 make that one clarification.

47
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

49

MR. R. SAM: Sir, why don't you sit down a little bit

00249

1 more. I understand your position and I know the reasoning
2 behind it, but these residents, the year-round residents,
3 especially Coldfoot area, they're already covered by their
4 general hunt aren't they?

5
6 MR. YOKEL: They certainly are for black bear, which is
7 the proposal that you just finished with. I'm -- and I think
8 they are covered under State regs for brown bear on maybe one
9 bear every four years harvest limit, but I'd have to look up
10 the State regs to be sure of that.

11
12 And again, I'm not.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

15
16 MR. YOKEL:up here to say anything about people's
17 use of brown bear, I just want to point out that I think that
18 one part of the analysis on what they do for a living is
19 incorrect.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. But Dave, in your statement,
22 you're not arguing that they were customary and traditionally
23 using those, any of them, were you, because that was a long
24 term pattern and so on?

25
26 MR. YOKEL: No, I don't want to -- I don't want to
27 address that at all.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, okay.

30
31 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, and that was my reasoning for
32 sitting him back down to.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

35
36 MR. R. SAM:reiterate that they do have a right
37 to hunt under general hunts provided.

38
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I had a question about their
40 proposal as written or is in the book on Page 17. It looks to
41 me that in their proposal, they are saying, not just add them
42 to, but they're striking out, is that why the line's through
43 that? Is that the way they actually wrote the proposal, that
44 they're replacing residents of Stevens Village -- all that
45 other -- because there's a line through it?

46
47 MR. DeMATTEO: Are you referring to Page 17, Mr. Chair?

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

00250

1 MR. DeMATTEO: Yeah. The strikeout there is what
2 they're deleting and the highlighted area, the dark gray area,
3 that's the addition.

4
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So not only would they ask to have
6 it, but they're asking to have exclusive customary and
7 traditional, because they're striking out what is on the books
8 now?

9
10 MR. DeMATTEO: That is correct.

11
12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, I certainly could not support
13 that proposal. Okay, what is the -- Gabe, do you want to
14 speak?

15
16 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair?

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

19
20 MR. G. SAM: Yeah, good thing you brought that up, I
21 wasn't aware of that there. They're striking out residents of
22 24 and Wiseman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

25
26 MR. G. SAM: And replacing it with just the residents
27 of Stevens Village. That's -- well, I oppose that
28 wholeheartedly because we presently establish that we do hunt
29 up there along with Wiseman and I don't know -- I don't know
30 what the thinking is behind that. You know, it doesn't make
31 sense. I don't know when they've been hunting up there, maybe
32 a couple hundred years ago or so. But I'd like some more
33 discussion on this with Stevens Village if that's at all
34 possible.

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: If we put a positive construction on
37 it, they may have misunderstood that. That they may have
38 really just have been asking that they want it found for them,
39 that's all they're asking. But by the way they've written it,
40 it looks like they were striking out the other and replacing it
41 with themselves. Ron.

42
43 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman, again, as with the year-
44 round residents of Coldfoot and other residents up the Dalton
45 Highway, these people are covered under a general hunt, so I
46 don't feel that we're cutting them off in any way, just that
47 we're -- sooner or later we'll have to establish and recognize
48 their c&t use if there is such. And I have no other feelings
49 except to go ahead and do the same action as we did on the

50 prior one, the black bear.

00251

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

2
3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

4
5 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to reject this proposal,
6 whatever number it is and for it -- 58 for insufficient
7 documentation of Stevens Village c&t use.

8
9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. And would that include
10 recommended as is?

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: And remain as is.

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there a second?

15
16 MR. DEACON: I second it.

17
18 MR. R. SAM: Second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Henry already seconded.
21 Moved by Jack, seconded by Henry. Any discussion of that
22 motion?

23
24 MR. DEACON: Question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All those in favor signify by
27 raising your right hand. Yes votes for all members present.
28 Motion carried.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: That brings us up to Proposal 59 which is
31 on Page 30 in your book which deals with Unit 24 caribou and
32 it's a revision of the c&t determination.

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Staff analysis.

35
36 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I guess for the sake of
37 clarification I'll read the existing regulation because that
38 seems to be coming up at a later point, so maybe I can save
39 some time. Proposal 59 deals with caribou, the existing
40 regulation is Unit 24, caribou, all rural residents is the
41 current existing regulation. The proposed regulation is Unit
42 24 caribou, which would strikeout all rural residents and would
43 give c&t to rural residents of Unit 24 and the residents of
44 Anaktuvuk Pass, Koyukuk, Galena, Tanana and Stevens Village.

45
46 Residents in Unit 24 Wiseman and Galena have
47 traditionally hunted caribou within Unit 24 and fulfill the
48 eight factors in order to have a positive c&t use determination
49 for caribou. Again, there is little information regarding the

50 residents along the Dalton Highway Corridor and the camps and

00252

1 Coldfoot. Hunters from Coldfoot are known to have occasionally
2 hunted caribou within Unit 24, but no detailed information
3 exists. Hunters from Koyukuk are known to have hunted in the
4 Dulbi/Kateel and Lower Koyukuk River areas and also the
5 southwest edge of Unit 24. But whether they're harvesting
6 caribou in that area cannot be ascertained from the literature.
7 Although Stevens Village residents may hunt for other resources
8 in Unit 24, there is no record in the literature of caribou
9 hunting -- of them hunting in Unit 24. Tanana residents are
10 not known to hunt caribou in that unit.

11
12 The Staff recommendation is to modify the proposal to
13 provide a customary and traditional use determination for
14 caribou for residents of Unit 24, residents of Wiseman and
15 Galena, but not including any other residents of the Dalton
16 Highway Corridor Management area. Anaktuvuk Pass is within
17 Unit 24 boundary and also is included in this determination.
18 With input from this Council and the Eastern Interior Councils,
19 Kobuk, Stevens Village and Koyukuk could also be included.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: The only thing that you see up here
24 different is that -- additional, I shouldn't say different,
25 excuse me. That Eastern Interior reviewed this same proposal
26 and they supported the Staff conclusion with the modification
27 to include Tanana, Stevens Village, Kobuk, Koyukuk to be added.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any testimony?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: And then public testimony, I better do
32 that before the State buttonholes me again.

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Their comment was that their comments are
37 deferred.

38
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any public testimony on this?
40 What's the wishes of the Council?

41
42 MR. R. SAM: Move to adopt.

43
44 MR. DEACON: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Which one? The Staff or the Western
47 Interior's (sic)?

48
49 MR. R. SAM: Staff. Staff recommendation.

00253

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. There's a second to that, is
2 there?

3
4 MR. DEACON: Second.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Henry. Moved by Ron,
7 seconded by Henry. I have a question, Ron, did you look at
8 Western Interior's recommendation? What they ask is that added
9 to the study be those other communities. Do you have a problem
10 with that? It's the bottom line there.

11
12 MR. R. SAM: The one I moved on was the Staff
13 recommendation.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right, okay. But then what will
16 happen is the Federal one, you see, we'll be in -- we'll be at
17 odds a little bit with the Western Interior, so that -- I'd
18 like some comment on that for whoever goes into the Federal to
19 defend why we didn't want to include Tanana and so on if they
20 have thoughts on that or -- Vince.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think -- and Ron, please
23 stop me if I'm putting words in your mouth, I think Ron's
24 intent is to have all those communities included or added to
25 the existing proposal; was that correct?

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: No, there was no mention of that.
28 He just moved the Staff recommendation.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: And the Staff recommendation just says
31 residents of Unit 24, Wiseman and Galena and not the others
32 until we have further input.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, Jack.

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: I think there's a confusion, there's two
39 Staff recommendations. There's the one we're looking at in
40 this book that doesn't include Tanana and then there's this one
41 that's on the overhead that's including Tanana. And I -- the
42 motion on the floor is -- are you designating the one on the
43 overhead, Ron, Staff recommendation on the overhead?

44
45 MR. R. SAM: Yes, but I thought that we automatically
46 included Tanana, Stevens, Kobuk and Koyukuk?

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

49

MR. MATHEWS: No, the Staff recommendation is a nice

00254

1 way of saying, if you give us more input, then add those
2 communities is what that's saying. It's not saying that those
3 communities should be put in. They need -- we need additional
4 information. The Eastern Interior agreed that they felt that
5 those communities have customary and traditional use of caribou
6 in 24.

7
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. I stand corrected. Because
9 the Eastern didn't -- theirs really is the Staff recommendation
10 then basically.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Support it with the modification
15 to.....

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, correct.

18
19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Could they add it for study or could
20 be added for.....

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Added to the c&t.

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, okay, right, I see -- okay, I
25 see what you're -- Ron, go ahead.

26
27 MR. R. SAM: My reasoning behind this is that we cannot
28 -- we do not depend on caribou daily or yearly. There are some
29 times that we do not see caribou for about 10 years and then we
30 may have to go towards Tanana to get the other -- Tanana or go
31 up to Kobuk Valley to get some caribou.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

34
35 MR. R. SAM: What I'm trying to do is alleviate any
36 problems that may arise out of harvesting of caribou and where --
37 within this region. And I don't see any argument developing
38 by working with these communities that are mentioned.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. My confusion was I was
41 thinking that Western said study those communities, but they
42 were just changing their status, so I was in error.

43
44 Okay, so the motion before us is the Staff
45 recommendation, it's been moved by Ron and seconded again by
46 Henry. Discussion of that motion.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to make a motion to insert the
49 villages of Tanana, Stevens, Kobuk and Koyukuk into the motion

50 -- with that modification of the Staff.

00255

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Not for study, you mean, but for
2 inclusion?

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: For inclusion.

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, is there a second to that?

7
8 MR. R. SAM: Is that an amendment?

9
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

11
12 MR. R. SAM: Second.

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

15
16 MR. DEACON: Question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All those in favor of the motion to
19 amend by adding those. All right, yes votes for all present.
20 So we have the main motion with this, now the Staff
21 recommendation has been modified to change some from study to
22 actually being added as c&t. That motion, are you ready?

23
24 MR. DEACON: Question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All those in favor signify by
27 raising your right hand. Okay, yes votes for all six members
28 present, the motion is adopted as amended. Which puts us right
29 in line with Western -- Eastern Interior's recommendation.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: That brings us up to Proposal 60, which
32 is on Page 44, it's dealing with sheep in Unit 24. It's a
33 revision of the c&t determination.

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Analysis.

36
37 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 60 is submitted by
38 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee where they propose a change
39 inc&t for Unite 24, sheep. The existing regulation reads,
40 rural residents of Unit 24 residing north of the Arctic Circle
41 and residents of Allakaket, Alatna and Anaktuvuk Pass. The
42 proposed regulation would be the same, with the addition of the
43 communities of Hughes and Huslia. The use of sheep by Huslia
44 residents is less clear than some of the other communities on
45 the northern part of that region. References indicate that
46 Koyukukan Athabaskans traditionally hunted sheep in the
47 foothills and mountain ranges of the Brooks Range. Huslia,
48 being a traditional Koyukukan village, desires the continue to
49 practice their traditions of harvesting sheep in the northern

50 Unit of 24.

00256

1 Present harvest data and community surveys do not show
2 a continuing traditional harvest pattern. Additional
3 information from Huslia residents or this Council would be
4 needed to support this unit wide determination for sheep for
5 the community of Huslia.

6
7 Hughes is a resident zone community for the Gates of
8 the Arctic National Park and preserve, and thus would be
9 eligible to hunt sheep in the park. Huslia is not a resident
10 zone community and would be limited to hunting sheep outside of
11 the park boundary. There is sufficient evidence that Hughes
12 should be added to the existing customary and traditional use
13 determination for harvesting sheep in Unit 24 as Hughes meets
14 all eight factors for harvesting sheep.

15
16 The Staff recommendation is to adopt the proposal if
17 Huslia can provide additional information at these proceedings
18 to indicate sheep harvest in Unit 24.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And the proceedings be at the
21 Federal Board, when the Federal Board discusses it or here?

22
23 MR. DeMATTEO: I'm sorry, meaning this Council meeting.

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

26
27 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman?

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

30
31 MR. R. SAM: Move for adoption.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there a second to that?

34
35 MR. DEACON: Second.

36
37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, seconded by Henry. You're
38 moving the Staff recommendation?

39
40 MR. R. SAM: Yes. As far as I can see, all we're doing
41 is adding Hughes and Huslia.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. If Huslia can demonstrate use
44 here, right, okay.

45
46 MR. R. SAM: Okay, most of the residents that go
47 hunting sheep up the Gates of the Arctic or up to the foothills
48 of Brooks Range go with the people of Alatna and Allakaket.
49 And that's a lot of them move down there because of

50 intermarriage or just, you know, marrying and moving out of the

00257

1 village. A lot of them still do hunt up there, though it's not
2 yearly, you know, it's whenever you can afford to. As we
3 covered so clearly within the moose hunts here, we go when we
4 can afford it or when we plan far enough ahead to do -- instead
5 of having big 200 horse boats that can take us up there any
6 time we want, and that's why you don't have that c&t
7 documented.

8
9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, other comments? Do you have
10 written comments -- I guess we're getting a little hurried.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. We have written comments and then I
13 have a persona communication also on that.

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: The only comment is from Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game. Proposal 60, they're deferring
19 their comments but there are several instances in Federal
20 subsistence regulations of resident zone communities qualified
21 to conduct subsistence activities in national parks being
22 prevented from doing so because of current c&t determinations.

23
24 The personal communication I have is I did run into
25 Franklin Simon in Fairbanks and asked him about use of sheep up
26 in the Brooks Range in Unit 24 and he said his father and Oscar
27 Nicktoon used to go up there fairly regularly and that other
28 residents of Huslia would go up there if they were allowed.
29 And that's the communication I got from Franklin.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Public comment? Have we skipped any
32 steps?

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Just if there's anybody who publicly
35 wants to testify or if there's any other staff that may have
36 comments.

37
38 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

41
42 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to -- does the Gates of the
43 Arctic, what position does the Gates of the Arctic staff have
44 on this proposal?

45
46 MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Steve Ulvi, Gates
47 of the Arctic National Park. Jack, we don't have an official
48 position. Because the situation is really one of eligibility
49 that we're -- that I'm more willing to clarify, you know, the

50 record on if there are any questions about eligibility.

00258

1 But as it's been stated, the situation is is that
2 Hughes has -- is part of the resident zone for Gates of the
3 Arctic park, yet in this case they don't have c&t for sheep.
4 So by the strict rule of law, they wouldn't be able to come up
5 and hunt sheep even though they're eligible to do so in the
6 park in GMU 24. So this has been backlogged for a couple
7 years, I think, and I think it's a reasonable proposal.

8
9 The portion to add Huslia, Huslia as explained does not
10 have -- is not part of the resident zone. So people in Huslia
11 could apply for a Section 1344 permit, a subsistence permit if
12 they had that pattern of use at the time the park was created
13 and hunt sheep or any other species for subsistence purposes.
14 And I have only worked at the park for five and a half years
15 and I didn't exhaustively look at the record, but I don't see
16 where anyone who's a resident of Huslia has ever come to the
17 park and requested a permit. That's really only the
18 information that I have.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So the passing of this would clear
21 some roadblocks if they did apply and were found to have had
22 that use -- I mean had a history of it, the family of it or
23 whatever. And the same with the other community, now they --
24 since there's a c&t determination, then they would become
25 eligible, right, Hughes?

26
27 MR. ULVI: That's correct.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. Well, Bill?

30
31 MR. DERENDOFF: I don't have no direct -- someone never
32 told me directly, but it was already brought up by Vince about
33 our people going up to hunt sheep way up in the river in the
34 past. And maybe I'd have to question you on this -- what did
35 you call this, a 1344?

36
37 MR. ULVI: Yes. It's our code of Federal regulations,
38 so it's Part 13 for the Park Service for Alaska and it's 13.44
39 is the section in the regulation that allows for people who are
40 not residents of the resident zone for the park, that they can
41 apply for a permit to be eligible to conduct subsistence
42 activities in the park. That's for any park in the State it
43 applies. So there's two ways to be basically be eligible for
44 subsistence activities in a national park and one is that you
45 live within the resident zone and we have 10 communities as
46 such, which includes Hughes, but not Huslia. And if you live
47 in the boundaries of the park, then you're within the resident
48 zone, so you're immediately eligible for subsistence.
49 Otherwise the only other mechanism is to apply for this permit

50 based on a tradition and a pattern of use at the time the park

00259

1 was established in 1980.

2

3 MR. DERENDOFF: Okay, the traditional park, is there --
4 that traditional park, the people did go up there a long time
5 ago that lives presently at Huslia, I guess that's the way I
6 got it.

7

8 MR. ULVI: I know that with this proposal coming up,
9 that's one of the things the Federal program is looking for, is
10 for comments. And it's too bad the two fellows from Huslia had
11 to leave, but comments like that to help them assess and
12 document that history of use.

13

14 As I say, I've never had anyone come to me and I don't
15 know whether they've come before I worked there asking for a
16 permit or that kind of use so I've never done any research at
17 all and am familiar only with word of mouth and that sort of
18 thing. But certainly, I know, historically, there's been use
19 of that area for subsistence by people who live up and down the
20 Koyukuk.

21

22 MR. DERENDOFF: Well, we know that it's been used --
23 could we get this c&t rights to go hunting up there?

24

25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: If we pass this motion, then the
26 people from there who have done that could apply for the
27 permits.

28

29 MR. DERENDOFF: Oh, okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That was the way it would work. I
34 mean with this, there would be a determination by this group
35 that historically they did have or there were, at least, some
36 and they would have to -- the next step would be to apply for a
37 permit and on there, state that their family had gone up there
38 or whatever.

39

40 MR. DERENDOFF: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

41

42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ron.

43

44 MR. R. SAM: Okay, I think one of our confusions here
45 again is use or non-use of the permit system. Traditionally we
46 even -- us residents of Alatna and Allakaket have used just the
47 general hunt and the general ticket to go hunting up there.
48 That was because when the Gates were -- Gates of the Arctic was
49 established, we established our grandfather right to hunt

50 within the park system as residents of Alatna and Allakaket.

00260

1 And I think that the reason that you don't see that c&t or
2 permit use hunts right now is because people generally just use
3 the general public hunts that are available. Like I said, just
4 go with residents of Alatna and Allakaket.

5
6 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman, I certainly understand what
7 you're saying, Mr. Sam, I also have to point out that under the
8 strict letter or the law that would be illegal. Now, we're not
9 out there worrying about that and I'm certainly not worried
10 about that as I sit here, but in further response to Mr.
11 Derendoff, the other thing that's kind of implied by the
12 original proposal from the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee,
13 which I know you're on, is eligibility for Huslia as a
14 community to hunt sheep and conduct subsistence activities in
15 the park. That cannot be addressed through the Federal Board.
16 That's an eligibility for subsistence use in a national park.
17 And that is allowed for in our code of Federal regulations and
18 there's a process for coming to the Park Service and wanting to
19 add a community or have a community deleted from the resident
20 zone. So that is a separate process and I'd be happy to
21 discuss that with you at any time or anyone from the community
22 of Huslia so that you understand what that process is and how
23 you would have to go about applying for that resident zone
24 status. But it's not within the purview of this Council or the
25 Federal Board because it's an eligibility issue.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

28
29 MR. G. SAM: This is a question directed to Mr. Ulvi,
30 so what you're saying it's possible that Huslia could be added
31 to the resident zone of the Gates of the Arctic?

32
33 MR. ULVI: It's possible. It's allowed for in the code
34 of Federal regulations just as a resident zone community can be
35 deleted that's not found to any longer have a -- the term
36 that's used is, significant concentration of people that have
37 that history of subsistence use in the park without the use of
38 aircraft at the time the park was established. So just as
39 there is a mechanism for deleting a community that's currently
40 within the resident zone, there's also a mechanism for adding a
41 community. And right now, in fact, out for Wrangell-St. Elias,
42 the community of Northway and I believe it's Dot Lake are both
43 being considered to be added to the resident zone, so yes,
44 there's.....

45
46 MR. G. SAM: And Tanacross.

47
48 MR. ULVI: And maybe Tanacross. So there is a process
49 for that. But I just wanted to point out that that is separate

50 from.....

00261

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The action here.

2
3 MR. ULVI:this action.

4
5 MR. G. SAM: I guess what would be necessary is we'll
6 need some documentation, written testimony from people that
7 have gone up into the Gates of the Arctic -- I mean that have
8 family like Mr. Ron Sam over there was saying, that has gone up
9 into the Gates of the Arctic to hunt sheep?

10
11 MR. ULVI: That's correct. Under Proposal 60 and my
12 understanding here and please, someone correct me if I'm wrong,
13 but under Proposal 60, Hughes is already a resident zone
14 community, so if you pass this to include Hughes, then they
15 would have c&t for sheep. They're already eligible to come up
16 and hunt in the park because they are a resident zone community
17 and so then they'd have c&t for sheep, positive c&t.

18
19 Huslia, if you found Huslia to also have a positive c&t
20 for sheep in GMU 24, you would be eligible and legal to come up
21 and hunt sheep, but not in the park unless you, as an
22 individual or a family, went through this process to get this
23 13.44 permit. The separate issue we were just talking about is
24 that the entire community -- if the entire community had an
25 interest to try to become part of the resident zone for the
26 park for all subsistence uses, then you would have to go
27 through this other process and apply to the superintendent and
28 you know, it would be a much more involved larger process as
29 you might imagine. But it would be separate from this.

30
31 MR. G. SAM: Okay.

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So back to the action before us
34 here, we do have a motion and a second. And passage of this is
35 necessary for people of either community to be able to hunt in
36 the future, it's a c&t finding is what we're making. What
37 we're saying here -- all we're saying here is, we're not saying
38 they can or can't hunt, we're saying they had customary and
39 traditional use in that area.

40
41 MR. DERENDOFF: Oh, okay.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And with that information, then you
44 can go apply for a permit or you can go to the next step and
45 try to get the whole village included with the park. So the
46 only question before us is this accurate or not, I mean were
47 they or were they not -- did they not customary and
48 traditionally use that area because that's what the proposal's
49 recommending -- or stating.

00262

1 Do we need anymore discussion of the motion? All those
2 in favor signify by raising your right hand. Okay, Henry are
3 you going to vote -- yes, okay. Yes votes for all members
4 present. Motion carried. Thank you.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the next proposal brings us back
7 further down the chart and I put these on your -- the analysis
8 on your chairs after lunch. This happens to deal with Proposal
9 66. The proposal itself is on Page 96, but the analysis I
10 handed out after lunch, it's dealing with Unit 23, caribou and
11 it is a revision to a c&t determination.

12
13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, has everyone found it?
14 Analysis, go ahead.

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, with your permission,
17 we're again in the Northwest Arctic Region, this is Unit 23,
18 the Kotzebue Sound area and the species before us is the uses
19 of caribou, the customary and traditional uses of caribou. If
20 you look at Page 96, the proposal language itself, you'll see
21 that the change is actually very simple in the impacts on
22 residents of Unit 21 and residents of 23, the regions that you
23 represent. If you look at the top, you see the residents of
24 21(D), west of the Koyukuk and Yukon Rivers are currently
25 included in the c&t determination and residents of Unit 24 are
26 currently included. If you come down to the next section where
27 it says the proposed regulation, it has shading and strikeouts,
28 you'll see that even with the changes in the proposal,
29 residents of Unit 21(D) and residents of 24 would remain in the
30 c&t determination. So the proposal would make no change in the
31 c&t determination of people from the villages that you
32 represent. The only change concerning the folks you guys work
33 for would be to go from a herd designation. On the top it
34 says, caribou, Western Arctic herd only, that's the way we used
35 to do c&t determinations, the State did and we did. And if you
36 look just down below it, it would become a region
37 determination, it would refer to any caribou found in Unit 23.
38 So we would be organizing the c&t determinations by area, not
39 by herd, okay.

40
41 So I don't think there's probably a need to go through
42 the information about Kotzebue Sound residents hunting caribou
43 in Kotzebue Sound.

44
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

46
47 MR. BRELSFORD: That's pretty straightforward for them.

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

00263

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Let me instead draw your attention to a
2 little bit of the information and I'll be quick about it
3 concerning the uses by neighboring communities. So if you turn
4 with me, it's about three pages back, I realize with horror
5 there's no page numbers on this one, I'm looking at Table 3.
6 It's literally three pages back. And in the body of the table
7 you see Bettles, Galena, Hughes, Nome, Shishmaref. I draw your
8 attention to this simply to say that the Staff did search out
9 the records to find out what documentation for neighboring
10 areas, the areas next door to Unit 23 and from harvest tickets,
11 this was the data that was turned up. This set of communities
12 found around the neighborhood -- in proximity to Unit 23, they
13 had documented harvests inside Unit 23 based on these harvest
14 tickets.

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We've got some people trying to
17 locate these parts.

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah, I hate to run off while folks are
20 still -- Ron, could you maybe show Bill, it looks like may not
21 have the page in front of him. So three pages in Vince.

22
23 (Off record comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Go ahead.

26
27 MR. BRELSFORD: I just wanted to give kind of one point
28 of reference on the data concerning the communities that you're
29 responsible for and we'll act on in a second. There's a little
30 bit of additional information drawn from the community harvest
31 surveys, the subsistence division technical reports. So
32 there's a foundation for the recommendation is really the point
33 I'm making.

34
35 If we move all the way to the end of the proposal and
36 look at the preliminary conclusion, the suggestion is -- it's a
37 little wordy, but the effect is to include residents of 23, the
38 home region, residents of 22, 21(D) west of the Koyukuk and
39 Yukon, that's status quo. That's how it is so far. Then when
40 we turn to Unit 24, the effect of this language is to include
41 the villages in Unit 24 except for the Dalton Highway Corridor.
42 That would be a change from the status quo.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

45
46 MR. BRELSFORD: Unit 24 residents would be included,
47 but not -- with the exception of the Dalton Highway Corridor
48 residents. So the individual village names are laid out, some
49 of them from the north and other neighboring regions. But as

50 concern, Unit 21(D), it would remain the same as it used to be,

00264

1 as concern to Unit 24, it would include all residents except
2 for the Dalton Highway Corridor. So maybe with that I
3 could.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. And then it's shifting from
6 herd.....

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD:if you have any questions.

9
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS:to caribou?

11
12 MR. BRELSFORD: Exactly.

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. Or Western Arctic herd --
15 okay.

16
17 MR. BRELSFORD: To caribou found in Unit 23, that's
18 correct.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Vince, any other -- what's that
21 Staff?

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Can you keep us going on the
26 procedure?

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: Rosa, the question was whether we had a
31 Seward Peninsula Council recommendation? I guess my suggestion
32 to you all is that you focus your attention on the units -- the
33 regions 21(D) and 24 and that you would be sort of the prime
34 voices, the experts on those particular units.

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. Was there any written
37 comments?

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: While we're waiting on that
40 recommendation, there was public testimony -- or I mean written
41 comment from Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Proposal 66,
42 their final comments are deferred. But Unit 22(A) is excluded
43 from this proposal for the area south of the Arctic Circle,
44 while even more distant areas, i.e., Units 22(C) and 26(A) are
45 included. If supporting documentation is available,
46 consideration should be given to including Unit 22(A) in this
47 proposal. And they may want to clarify that and there may be
48 others that want to testify here.

49

MR. BRELSFORD: Unit 22 (A) again, is a portion of the

00265

1 Seward Peninsula Region, a somewhat remote from the areas that
2 this Council represents.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

7
8 MR. REAKOFF: I wanted to alert the Staff to -- I see
9 some -- that they keep -- that statistical demographics on
10 demography seems to be incorrect. There is no such place as
11 Dietrich Camp, that was a pipeline camp and it's been totally
12 dismantled, it's just a gravel area. And Coldfoot is a
13 primarily a truck stop and a DOT camp with one or two permanent
14 -- actual permanent residents. And I wanted to alert the Staff
15 that Dietrich is no longer -- was never a community and there
16 was some of this language in the previous proposal. I think
17 current demographics would -- should be changed or adhered to.

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD: Although I'm not the Staff's specialist
20 that worked on this, I think those points are very well taken
21 and we ought to get it right from now on. We've been offered
22 some good advice.

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, any public -- oh, yes, go
25 ahead, Mike.

26
27 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, thank you, Mike Coffing,
28 Fish and Game Subsistence. I was looking at the State's
29 comments as Vince read them in and as I read the proposal and
30 maybe I'll ask for clarification from Staff so that I'm reading
31 this correct. I don't see that 22(A) is being excluded for
32 eligibility to south of the Arctic Circle, in fact, it's
33 included by the fact that all of 22 is being eligible, that's a
34 proposal, is that correct? All of 22 would be eligible for
35 caribou and Unit 23, south of the Arctic Circle; is that
36 correct?

37
38 MR. BRELSFORD: No, I believe not, Mike. This is the
39 fine print that's not very much fun, but very quickly the
40 strikeout portion where the second body of text, proposed
41 regulation.....

42
43 MR. COFFING: Oh, so it's 22(B) only?

44
45 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

46
47 MR. COFFING: Got it.

48
49 MR. BRELSFORD: The remaining portion is 22(B) only

50 under the proposal itself. The Staff recommendation is the 22

00266

1 as a whole be included.

2

3 MR. COFFING: Okay, thanks. I apologize Mr. Chairman, I
4 think the State's comments will stand as Vince presented them
5 then.

6

7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any other testimony on this?
8 That brings us down to Council discussion then. Do we have a
9 motion then regarding this?

10

11 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

12

13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: I have one, Anaktuvuk people have
16 relatives over in the Kobuk that I know and they go --
17 occasionally go into the Kobuk side, is that -- was it shown
18 that Anaktuvuk people didn't have any use of Unit 23 for
19 caribou?

20

21 MR. BRELSFORD: No, I think on the contrary, Anaktuvuk
22 would be included as a Unit 24 -- within the designation of
23 Unit 24 residents. And the only exception to 24 had to do with
24 the Dalton Highway Corridor.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

27

28 MR. BRELSFORD: So those uses are certainly recognized
29 and incorporated in the recommendation.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any other questions by the group?
34 If not, do we have a motion. Vince?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: We better be clear on this. I did this
37 late last night on this overhead, so let's -- can we take a
38 second just to make sure we're clear on this Anaktuvuk Pass?

39

40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Sure.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

43

44 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, my mistake, on the Staff
45 conclusion, the preliminary conclusion, the first portion asks
46 to -- or suggests deleting a number of camps, Coldfoot,
47 Dietrich Camp, Wiseman and Anaktuvuk Pass. I had miscalculated
48 -- mistallied, when I said the only effect in Unit 24 was the
49 Haul Road Corridor. Looking back at the basis for that

50 statement, if you turn back to the backside of the third page,

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1 it's the opposite side of the page that had Table 3, the third
2 paragraph, the bottom paragraph begins with the words, all of
3 the residents of Unit 24, historically harvested caribou
4 throughout the Brooks Range continues today -- not all of Unit
5 24 residents are likely to travel into 23 to harvest caribou,
6 Anaktuvuk Pass and Wiseman do not travel today to Unit 23 to
7 harvest caribou. That is the information from the literature,
8 but I think Jack -- the purpose of the Council is to backstop
9 where there are errors in the literature and that sort.

10
11 MR. REAKOFF: I know Raymond Paniak from Anaktuvuk told
12 me he has relatives over in the Kobuk. And Ben Hobson goes
13 over into the Noatak and has been down to Ambler. So I would
14 be reluctant to exclude Anaktuvuk from a c&t for Unit 23.

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, we don't have a motion before
17 us, so you if you want to make a motion with that added, then
18 that would be.....

19
20 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to insert Anaktuvuk in
21 the positive c&t finding for Unit 23.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, that doesn't deal with the
24 whole thing.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

27
28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Actually we need to move the Staff
29 recommendation with it.

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, you want the whole.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. So we don't have to amend it.
34 We can do it at one stop.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: All; right. I make a motion to adopt the
37 Staff recommendation with the insertion of Anaktuvuk Pass in
38 the positive c&t for Unit.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, is there a second to that
41 motion?

42
43 MR. R. SAM: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Ron. Discussion of that
46 motion. All those in favor, signify by raising your right
47 hand. Yes votes for all members present. Motion carried.

48
49 With the permission of the Council at this point, some

50 of the students are again visiting here, they have to leave

00268

1 soon some of them wanted to address us and they didn't have a
2 chance. Would you allow modifying the agenda to allow them to
3 make those comments?

4
5 MR. R. SAM: No problem.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Hearing no dissent. Yes,
8 Judy, do you want to introduce them and we would be very happy
9 to hear them at this time if they have something they wanted to
10 say to us. They need to use the microphone for purposes of it
11 being heard and recorded. You can go ahead and introduce them
12 and then call them, yeah. And Judy, the procedure, of course,
13 is to introduce yourself and using your name and if you
14 students would watch Judy then you would follow that procedure,
15 you would give your name and then enter your testimony.

16
17 MS. DEMIENTIEFF-WALKER: First of all, I'd like to
18 thank the Council for giving my students and I the opportunity
19 to speak. My name is Judy Demientieff Walker. I am a 45 year
20 old resident and subsistence dependent of Holy Cross. I have
21 been listening for the last two days of the many rules and
22 regulations that you, the Council, State and Federal employees
23 have to work out for the benefit of all subsistence users.

24
25 I listened to the many testimonies about the illegal
26 users and abusers of a valuable and dependent source of
27 survival for many aboriginal Natives. I feel frustration,
28 anger, and even release of getting something finally out in the
29 open. I have these same feelings as everyone here. The
30 subsistence way of life is not only a means of survival, it's a
31 cultural and tradition based on for generations.

32
33 Just last fall my 14 year old son got his first moose
34 with his dad. It was a very proud day in my family. We
35 celebrated with a potlatch, feeding elders and community
36 members. Giving fresh meat and gifts to the elders and other
37 guests present. His dad gave him the rifle he used to kill the
38 moose which is a sign of pride and reaching a point in his life
39 where trust and greater responsibility is given. I share this
40 very personal event in my son's life with you to show that
41 hunting and fishing is not only a subsistence way of life, but
42 a valuable way of teaching and sharing and passing it on to the
43 next generation.

44
45 I am a middle and high school teacher at Holy Cross
46 school. And my values on traditional beliefs on the
47 subsistence way of life is also brought into the classroom.
48 It's implemented into writing activities relating to elders,
49 people and animals we depend on for survival. It is also used

50 in hands on activities such as berry picking in the fall, which

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1 is made into jams and jellies or saved for Native ice cream in
2 the winter. Wild tea is gathered and dried for winter use.
3 Salmon and chum fishing is a favorite activity because it
4 includes the elders and the men and women of the community.
5 The boys go fishing with the men and learn to drift, head, gut
6 and clean the fish. The young girls learn to cut them into
7 salmon strips or dry and split fish for smoking and drying
8 carefully. The proper wood is gathered by them and they rotate
9 times to check the smoke, cut wood and take care of other
10 responsibilities for caring for the fish. Later this fish is
11 given to our elders and people who don't have fish or used at
12 school potlucks.

13
14 All these and more are taught to our young people.
15 Future dependents of the subsistence way of life. I'm sharing
16 this with you to help you understand that the subsistence way
17 of life is very much a part of all of our lives, not only in a
18 subsistence way, but culturally and traditionally. It teaches
19 responsibility, sharing, caring and respect.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Judy, you can move that
24 a little bit, that's what was getting that feedback, for the
25 students sake. I didn't want to interrupt you. Thank you.

26
27 MS. DEMIENTIEFF-WALKER: The kids know who's next.
28 This was short notice and I thought they did really well for
29 such short notice.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, who's next?

32
33 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Hello everybody, my name's Jason
34 Demientieff. I'm in the 9th grade. My parents are Luke and
35 Sandra Demientieff and my grandparents are Alice and Luke
36 Demientieff and Frank Turner. Anyways, I'd like to say that
37 hunting and fishing is very important to me and to everyone
38 else in this community. And hunting and fishing is our
39 tradition and we'd like to see our tradition keep on going.
40 all my life I learned how to hunt and fish and I'd just like to
41 see our tradition passed on to others. Thank you.

42
43 Next up is Vaska Gregory, Jr.

44
45 MR. GREGORY: Hello everyone. My name is Vaska Joseph
46 Gregory, Jr., and I'm a senior of Holy Cross High School. My
47 grandparents are the late Frank and Louise Gregory, John and
48 Martina Paul. I've been out hunting and some trapping with my
49 brother and dad. I love going out with my dad and brother

50 looking for geese, moose and fishing whenever we can and

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1 learning the Native way. What we catch is food on my family's
2 table and there are no preservatives and chemicals in the food.
3 It's just a good natural taste.

4
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you, Vaska.

6
7 MR. WALKER: Hello, my name is Alton Walker, Jr. I'm
8 in the 9th grade. My grandparents are Irene Walker, the late
9 Jimmy Walker and Margaret and Nick Demientieff. I love to go
10 hunt geese and ducks in the spring and rabbits in the winter.
11 I give almost all of the game I bring home to my grandma,
12 Irene. I like to go ice fishing in the winter or grayling in
13 the summer. I like to go camping with my family, hunting game
14 and eating what we've caught around the campfire. As my mom
15 mentioned before, I got first moose this fall. Spending time
16 with my dad, that's what subsistence and fishing means to me.

17
18 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Congratulations and thank you.

19
20 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: My name is Leonard Demientieff, Jr.,
21 and I'm in the 10th grade. My grandparents are Luke and Alice
22 Demientieff. As a young child, they taught me the subsistence
23 way of life of both cultural and traditional ways. Both
24 hunting and trapping are very important to us because it puts
25 food on the table and trapping is used for both income and
26 clothing. That's why subsistence is important to me, it's our
27 way of life. Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you.

30
31 MR. SAMULSEN: Hi, my name is Leon Samulsen and I'm 15
32 years old and in the 10th grade. My grandparents are the late
33 Jake and Lena Alosciouss. Subsistence is important to me
34 because fish and meat is a daily meal at my house. My
35 ancestors from Paimuit were traditional subsistence users and I
36 will continue this tradition, but I can't, if they keep trying
37 to take away our subsistence rights. So please continue
38 supporting the subsistence issues. Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you.

41
42 MR. WALTON: Hello, I'm Edward Walton. I'm 17 in the
43 11th grade. My grandparents are Edward and Lina Demosky. I
44 like to hunt moose because it's fun being outdoors and we need
45 meat to eat because store prices are too expensive around here
46 and besides it's our way of life.

47
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. I want to thank all of
49 you for taking part in this. And I hope that you realize this

50 can be a long process. We have to go at this for two days and

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1 I hope also you'll be thinking though about getting involved
2 yourself in the future and perhaps you might be sitting in some
3 of these chairs, but also think about the chairs out there.
4 These are the individuals that are involved in actually
5 managing those resources for us. Those jobs require sometimes
6 professional training or college, but be thinking about that,
7 that's a possibility in the future that you might be sitting in
8 either of these chairs. Good luck.

9
10 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, I think we ought to give these
11 young people a round of applause.

12
13 (Applause)

14
15 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We'll take a 10 minute break at this
16 time.

17
18 (Off record)
19 (On record)

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I want to remind you, again, that
22 those of you who ate that beef stew at the school, you need to
23 make a donation over here. The money is going to be taken over
24 shortly. So if you did eat over there and didn't make a
25 donation, please do that.

26
27 Okay, we're ready to continue with the proposals then.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the next proposal is
30 Proposal 69, but I'd like to discuss 69 and 70 together right
31 at this moment and see if we need to go through Staff analysis.
32 69 and 70 are proposals from Stevens Village and Dinyee
33 Corporation dealing with black bear and brown bear in Unit
34 20(F) and 25(D) asking for an area -- this area in there for
35 customary and traditional use of those species for the
36 residents within that area -- for Stevens Village residents
37 within that described area. The question before you is do we
38 know of -- well, first off is, neither of those units are
39 within Western Interior. So do we know of use by Western
40 Interior communities of black bear and brown bear in Unit 20(F)
41 and 25(D)? And if there is no knowledge of that, then maybe
42 the Council would like to just take no action on these
43 proposals.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: I'm not aware of any use in those units

50 by people from our area for black bear or grizzly.

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1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ron or Bill, do you have comments on
2 that?

3
4 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman, there's only one area that I
5 would be concerned about and that would be -- that covers the
6 old mail trail that's still in use between Allakaket, Tanana,
7 Hughes and there may be some take, but I -- I don't think I
8 could really establish c&t use at this time. If there are
9 takes it would be incidental, traveling or whatever the season
10 -- you know, stuff like that. And again, this one area -- it
11 covers the trail between (indiscernible) and Alatna and Hughes,
12 Tanana. Here's Tanana and we have this old mail trail that
13 goes up to the Allakaket and Hughes and this is the only area
14 -- we may take some animals, but I don't know if it could be
15 classified as c&t.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Bill, do you have any comments at
18 this time?

19
20 MR. DERENDOFF: Mr. Chair, I don't know of any hunting
21 that is taken there in 20(F), no.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And our lack of action doesn't
24 prevent us from coming forward in the future if we document
25 that. I mean the c&t aren't frozen, we can open it up later.
26 Yes, Ron.

27
28 MR. R. SAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in that light I would
29 move that no action be taken on Proposal 69 and 70.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there a second to that?

32
33 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Jack.

36
37 MR. DEACON: Question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any discussion? The question's
40 called. All those in favor signify by raising your right hand.
41 Okay again, yes votes for all members present. Motion carried.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us up to
44 Proposal 74, which is in your brown book on Page 125. It deals
45 with sheep in 26, it's a revision of the c&t determination, so
46 Proposal 74.

47
48 MR. BRELSFORD: I think Steve was so taken aback by our
49 breathtaking speed that he doesn't realize he's on deck.

00273

1 MR. ULVI: 74, I understood I was going to have to do
2 75 and 76, but I can help you out with 74 if you need it.

3
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, as I understand it, this
5 proposed change is to add Point Hope to these, right?

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: And remove.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon and Venetie
10 from the one in 26(C). Well, that seems a long way outside our
11 area. I'm wondering -- Jack is the only one, your Wiseman is
12 mentioned in here and you're included, do you have.....

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, this proposal was -- deals
15 primarily with the North Slope and I have no opposition to
16 Point Hope being included in the Unit 26(B) sheep hunt. I
17 can't speak for the Unit 26(C) deletion of Chalkyitsik, Fort
18 Yukon and Venetie, that's not within my parameters.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Eastern.....

21
22 MR. REAKOFF: It's way to the Eastern Interior's
23 jurisdiction. So I have no opposition to Point Hope being
24 included in the Unit 26(A) and (B) sheep hunt.

25
26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Would our lack of action on this
27 signal anything to the Federal Board, is there comment that we
28 need to -- Dave.

29
30 MR. YOKEL: This is Dave Yokel, BLM. I think it would
31 have caught up with you here, but I don't think you want to
32 take no action, Mr. Chairman, because the North Slope Council
33 voted to exclude Wiseman from 26(A), so you might want to
34 discuss that part of the proposal.

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, go ahead with the analysis
37 then if you have it.

38
39 MR. ULVI: Steve Ulvi with the Park Service. You have
40 to excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I misunderstood that I would be
41 asked to do this along with 75 and 76.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, Ron.

44
45 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for Jack
46 of Wiseman. They excluded Wiseman from 26(B), do you feel that
47 you have enough use up there to warrant to be included.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Yokel said that Region 10 had

50 excluded Wiseman's use -- voted to exclude Wiseman's use for

00274

1 26(A), which is to the west of the Ayyiak River. Wiseman's
2 primary use for sheep on the Arctic Slope has been in Unit
3 26(B) and that seems to have been retained. So I could go with
4 Region 10's amendment as long as we're maintained in Unit 26(B)
5 for sheep.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: What if we acted to defer this
8 proposal to them as long as they retained you in 26(B) or
9 something like that? I have trouble trying to figure out even
10 with the analysis there of acting on the proposal itself here
11 because it's so far outside our area.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Under the preliminary conclusion of the
14 Staff it says to modify the proposal to provide a positive
15 customary and traditional use determination for residents of
16 Anaktuvuk Pass in Unit 26(A), residents of Anaktuvuk Pass,
17 Kaktovik and Wiseman for Unit 26(B) and residents of Kaktovik
18 and Arctic Village for Unit 26(C). I think that that, the
19 Staff analysis -- or modification is pretty good.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, are you ready to proceed with
22 some analysis or support or give us at least a recommendation?
23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Maybe while we're switching players here,
25 we've been bouncing staff so this was going to happen and I
26 apologize for that. I'll just pickup on public comment and
27 it's real easy to do because the Alaska Department of Fish and
28 Game's comments, their final comments were deferred. And they
29 may want to add more and there was no other public testimony
30 and I will make sure that Taylor or I will give you Eastern
31 Interior's recommendation and we already heard North Slope's
32 recommendation. Thank you.

33
34 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, this can be very quick.
35 Again, the interests that concerns the Western Interior Council
36 are the uses of Wiseman and how those are represented in the
37 proposal and in any changes. Under the proposal itself there
38 would be no changes that concerns the community of Wiseman.
39 They currently have a c&t determination for sheep in Unit 26(A)
40 and (B), they would retain that c&t determination for Unit
41 26(A) and (B) under the proposal.

42
43 In terms of the Staff work, the analysis that's
44 provided, on Page 129, in the middle of the page, there's a
45 paragraph concerning Athabaskan uses throughout the mountains
46 of the upper Alatna River, the John River and the Middle Fork
47 of the Koyukuk. Hunters would venture into the other side of
48 the Brooks Range. Further down that paragraph, there's a
49 reference to Wiseman. It reads, there is no indication from

50 harvest permit data of Wiseman residents harvesting sheep. I

00275

1 think that has to be viewed with a note of caution. That it's
2 one source of information, not the only source. That's the
3 first reference concerning Wiseman based on the Staff work.

4
5 If we go to Page 132, the second to the last paragraph
6 begins with a sentence concerning Arctic Village sheep harvest
7 and down towards the end, there's a discussion of Wiseman
8 harvest areas. It reads, specific information on Wiseman
9 harvest areas for sheep are unavailable although Scott's study
10 in 1993 indicates that hunting in general occurs in Unit 25
11 with less hunting in Unit 26. It goes on to cite a personal
12 communication with Steve Ulvi that Wiseman residents only very
13 occasionally hunt in Unit 26(A) and this is -- this access is
14 predominately with an airplane. Any sheep hunting in Unit 26
15 is believed to most like be in Unit 26(B).

16
17 So that, if we then forward -- go ahead to the
18 preliminary conclusion, the modification offered by the Staff
19 would recognize the traditional uses of Wiseman residents in
20 Unit 26(B), it would be consistent with that earlier comment
21 concerning most effort occurring within Unit 26(B). So I think
22 as we have a very knowledgeable resident, what we could ask is
23 to confirm is this tentative appraisal about right, and if so,
24 it would seem that the Staff recommendation squares with that
25 information.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: Well, you know, people have hunted in
28 Unit 26(A), but it's not a primary area of use on the Arctic
29 Slope sheep hunting, the primary use has been mostly in 26(B)
30 for North Slope hunting. I mean people from Wiseman have
31 hunted in 26(A) and there's long history of different people
32 that have lived in Wiseman that had gotten into the fringes of
33 what would be considered 26(A) because it's -- the boundary of
34 26(A) is the Ayiyak River. So if you hunt the -- you could go
35 through Olat Pass (ph) and you get a little bit to the west,
36 you might be in 26(A), just in the fringe, but I wouldn't
37 actually consider it a primary -- you know, the whole Unit
38 26(A) a primary part of -- the use of the North Slope, so I
39 would -- I would be -- it would be amenable to go along with
40 Region 10 and basically the Staff's proposal to maintain
41 Wiseman's use in 26(B) of that c&t determination.

42
43 You know, basically these determinations have to do
44 with time of stress and I feel that the people of Anaktuvuk
45 would have the priority in 26(A).

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there any written comment on
48 this?

49

MR. MATHEWS: I already gave the State's.

00276

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: That was the only -- the only other thing
4 we had is Eastern Interior, which mainly they spoke only for
5 Eastern Interior communities. They felt that Chalkyitsik, Fort
6 Yukon and Venetie should stay in for 26(C), and they made no
7 comments or recommendations on North Slope communities of being
8 in or out.

9

10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any public comment on that? All
11 right. Council discussion or motion? Are you ready to move
12 something, Jack, it's your area, I think, I'd defer to you.

13

14 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt the Staff
15 recommendation, which is up on the board there and provide a
16 positive c&t determination for Anaktuvuk in 26(A), residents of
17 Anaktuvuk Pass, Kaktovik and Wiseman for 26(B).

18

19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there a second to that motion?

20

21 MR. R. SAM: Second.

22

23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Ron.

24

25 MR. DEACON: Question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Any discussion? Hearing none, okay,
28 all those in favor signify by raising your right hand. Okay,
29 it's yes votes for all members present. Motion carried.

30

31 And we're down to 75 and I understand you want to deal
32 with 75 and 76 together?

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Proposal 75 and 76 start to
35 be found on Page 138, they deal with sheep in Unit 24 and 26.
36 And in your chart it's wrong there, it deals with seasons and
37 harvest limits for 75 and 76 is to establish a community
38 harvest limit and revise season dates.

39

40 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman, Steve Ulvi with the National
41 Park Service and I've been asked to give the background of the
42 proposals. Proposal 75 was proposed by Ben Hopson, a resident
43 of Anaktuvuk Pass at the fall Barrow meeting for the North
44 Slope Regional Council. And the reason for the proposal as it
45 exists, as you can see, it's three sheep of any sex. We're
46 talking about residents of Anaktuvuk Pass only. We're talking
47 about within Gates of the Arctic National Park only. And that
48 would be in the northern most part of GMU 24, the very northern
49 most part of your region here. And parts around Anaktuvuk of

50 GMU 26. So their proposal was only for residents of Anaktuvuk

00277

1 and that portion -- northern most portion of GMU 24 would be
2 what would concern this Council.

3
4 So therefore, Proposal 75 would not effect any other
5 residents of your region or of the North Slope region either.
6 They proposed an increase of the bag limit from three sheep of
7 any sex to six sheep of any sex. They proposed to shorten the
8 season from August 1st to April 30, shorten it and begin it a
9 little earlier, July 15th to December 31st. And of those six
10 sheep, for an individual bag limit, they proposed that two be
11 ewes.

12
13 Now, the reason -- my understanding of the reason of
14 the people of Anaktuvuk Pass made this proposal was because for
15 the last few years they've had difficulty being able to count
16 on the migrations of caribou through Anaktuvuk Pass there in
17 the fall primarily, although to some degree in the spring also.
18 And they are, of course, in prime sheep habitat there in
19 Anaktuvuk Pass and they hunt sheep regularly and they wanted to
20 increase their opportunity when caribou are not readily
21 available to harvest sheep -- more sheep in the area.

22
23 The national -- and if you move then to -- and we'll do
24 this in a combined fashion and please just interrupt me if
25 there are any questions. Proposal 76 was proposed by the
26 National Park Service. And the background for this proposal is
27 that for several years we, as well as other wildlife managers
28 and local residents of communities within the area of the
29 Brooks Range, and particularly the central of Brooks Range,
30 have been concerned with a decline in sheep following a couple
31 of hard winters in the early '90s. And we had been toying with
32 the idea of putting a proposal in in the last couple of years
33 to change the existing season and bag limit of three sheep, any
34 sex to put some limits on ewes and try to spread the use out a
35 little bit. We weren't able to conduct a good sheep survey
36 until July of '96 when we did so in cooperation with the Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game, talked to the local hunters and
38 conducting a sheep survey in the vicinity of Anaktuvuk Pass
39 based upon their area of sheep harvest, their primary core area
40 so that we could survey that area effectively. As a result of
41 that sheep survey which did document a decline in the sheep
42 numbers from the 1980s -- a fairly serious decline and the
43 Proposal 75, we decided to go ahead and put in this proposal,
44 which in many ways is similar to Anaktuvuk Pass's proposal, but
45 calls for -- rather than an individual bag limit, a community
46 bag limit, with a community harvest system and a cap of 35
47 sheep, which is more animals than the documented recent harvest
48 in the last seven years of documented harvest and that only 10
49 animals out of that 35 be ewes. And we also went along with

50 beginning the season on July 15th, because it seems to be a

00278

1 customary pattern for them to harvest some sheep in mid summer
2 there. And we left the season until April 30th, the full
3 season. Se we started a little earlier and left it all the way
4 to April 30th so they could spread out some of the harvest in
5 the wintertime using snowmachines.

6
7 A couple of the issues here you probably should be
8 aware of, one is that Tim Osborne who is the area biologist for
9 GMU 24 used to take a spring trip every year by snowmachine up
10 to Anaktuvuk Pass and sometimes to Wiseman and Bettles and kind
11 of -- he kind of had a State permit sheep registration permit
12 hunt going there in the park. Now, the thing is that he is now
13 retired and so he was getting some pretty good harvest
14 information, I think by talking to the people he knew to be the
15 primary sheep hunters and finding out what they had been
16 getting and that kind of thing. We don't have that information
17 to rely on anymore. And so we are concerned enough about that
18 local sheep population to have put in Proposal 76.

19
20 I have -- I know Vince can speak to the actions by the
21 North Slope Council and the comments that we have received.
22 But I do also have some maps here of the sheep survey area and
23 we can talk about -- and we have an overhead here we can put up
24 if people have questions about more of the background
25 information. But I'll leave it at that at this stage and Jack
26 is very familiar with these two proposals. So I'll leave it at
27 that for now.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Written comments?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I do and I'll need some direction on
32 this because there's two comments here. There's one that is
33 quite lengthy from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
34 I'll go with the second one and then see how to proceed with
35 the State one.

36
37 The Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence
38 Resource Commission, they support Proposal 75 and took no
39 action on Proposal 76. And I'll leave that up to Jack to
40 further explain that if needed during discussion, what that
41 action meant.

42
43 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I can read into
44 the record their recommendation or maybe Mike wants to do it.
45 It would be great to hear Mike's voice. The reason I say that
46 is because there's quite a bit in here and I think for
47 fairness, I think it would be best of the State to cover it.

48
49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Mike.

00279

1 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, thank you. It is lengthy
2 and I guess I can do a couple of things. One is I can read
3 everything that's in here or I can be brief and kind of
4 summarize what the State's position is and how that compares
5 with what the recommendation is.

6
7 I guess in general, what I think I'll do here is be
8 brief and if you want me to elaborate more, give you more
9 detail, please ask and I will be happy to do that. For both of
10 these proposals, the State's position is they support the
11 proposals, however, where the State differs with what the Staff
12 recommendation is is the State recommend a community harvest
13 limit of more than 35 animals, but not more than 60 animals.
14 And the reason for that is to allow or accommodate for some
15 additional harvest of sheep in years when caribou are not
16 available. So when years when caribou aren't around, people
17 depend more on sheep and so that's why the State's position is
18 for a bag limit of more than 35 animals.

19
20 The State does support the seasons, July 15th to April
21 1. That specifically is the season that's in Proposal 76. One
22 additional comment relates to harvest monitoring. Steve
23 mentioned that Tim Osborne used to gather some harvest
24 information on his snowmachine trips up that way. The North
25 Slope Borough also has a harvest assessment program in place, I
26 mean it's existing now in Anaktuvuk and I think, in fact, all
27 the North Slope rural communities. So what the State is
28 suggesting is that the National Park Service be responsible for
29 monitoring the hunt and to work with the North Slope Borough to
30 gather good harvest information from the communities.

31
32 That summarizes it and I'll stop.

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You mentioned you do have harvest
35 data, what has been the average harvest over the last few -- do
36 you have anything like that now?

37
38 MR. COFFING: I have nothing in front of me, I would
39 have to defer to the Staff and the analysis. I don't have any
40 of Tim's information with me.

41
42 MR. REAKOFF: That's on Page 145.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: 145, okay, an average of 20 to 30,
45 okay, I see it.

46
47 MR. R. SAM: This is for the top figure of 60 on there
48 or what did you say?

49

MR. COFFING: Pardon me?

00280

1 MR. R. SAM: Your top harvest of how many?

2
3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Fifty.

4
5 MR. COFFING: Well, more than 35, but less than 60.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, okay.

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: And Mr. Chairman?

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: I'd like to know, specifically, what the
14 Region 10's recommendation -- or what they passed.

15
16 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Dave Yokel with
17 the BLM. The Region 10 chose to amend Proposal 75, first of
18 all, to include all Federal lands within 26(B) as well as what
19 the proposal states. That would mean all of the Gates of the
20 Arctic Park and Preserve lands that are in 26(B) as well as the
21 Bureau of Land Management lands and the Dalton Highway Corridor
22 in 26(B) and the Arctic National Refuge lands that fall within
23 26(B). And they would have a village limit of 60 sheep per
24 year with a three sheep per day per hunter possession limit.
25 And they rejected Proposal 76.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ron.

28
29 MR. R. SAM: Which one did they reject?

30
31 MR. YOKEL: They chose to reject Proposal 76, which was
32 provided by the Park Service. Proposal 75 was originally
33 suggested by Ben Hopson, who is a member of the Region 10
34 Advisory Council.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

37
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

39
40 MR. REAKOFF: We discussed these two proposals at our
41 November -- middle of November SRC meeting for the Gates of the
42 Arctic Park.

43
44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: There was -- the people of Anaktuvuk feel
47 that they were more inclined to have a per hunter bag limit
48 rather than a community bag limit. And they felt that six
49 sheep -- because there's only -- they say there's very few

50 people that actually hunt sheep, but the guys who do go

00281

1 hunting, they get quite a bit of sheep and they share those
2 sheep among the community members. So they -- that's why they
3 wanted to increase their bag limit to six sheep per hunter.

4
5 Realizing that sheep numbers have gone down, they feel
6 that primarily -- and myself, I feel also that although this
7 may look like it would increase the harvest, which will have to
8 be closely monitored, I don't think that it would go a whole
9 lot outside of its parameters of between 12 to 33 sheep, you
10 know, which is way within the Alaska Department of Fish and
11 Game's 60 sheep harvest guideline.

12
13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: And that was some of the reasons that
16 were kicked around. There was also -- the SRC requested from
17 the North Slope Borough a harvest data collection person, sort
18 of a liaison for harvest data collection which they -- to be
19 stationed in Anaktuvuk Pass -- or what they wanted is a job for
20 one of the local people there to collect -- have -- be more
21 sensitive to local interests and so forth. That was some of
22 the reasons why the SRC was more favorable towards Proposal 75.
23 I'm a little bit reluctant about Region 10's total inclusion of
24 26(B) into the six sheep harvest. You know, that 26(B) goes
25 way over and that.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Didn't Region 10, though say three
28 per hunter and with a 60 total?

29
30 MR. YOKEL: Extended the individual bag limit -- they
31 amended Proposal 75 to a village bag limit of 60, which was the
32 upper end of ADF&G's suggested number.

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

35
36 MR. YOKEL: But then they had a possession limit per
37 hunter of three sheep per day. So that when a hunter went to
38 the field and had three sheep he had to go home before he could
39 shoot another one.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: So they scrapped the six sheep thing?

42
43 MR. YOKEL: Yes.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: But as far as Unit 26(B) and what Region
46 10 does in their region, I can't really -- it doesn't effect
47 Wiseman so I can't really talk to that. But as far as Unit 24,
48 the Park Service is going to do a collaring program and do a
49 lot of sheep study work in that Anaktuvuk area and as far as

50 personally -- personal knowledge of what the sheep populations

00282

1 have been going through in the last few years, it's my personal
2 opinion that the sheep decline -- and the decline is basically
3 stopped and is starting to begin to increase. So I'm not -- I
4 think that after some study work, with some real actual numbers
5 from the Park Service about sheep movements and what sheep --
6 it's the contention of the people of Anaktuvuk that sheep move
7 a lot more than the Park Service thinks they do, they -- the
8 people of Anaktuvuk, they see sheep moving from mountain range
9 to mountain range and moving around, so they're not as stable
10 in population -- or it's perceived that the sheep don't just
11 stay in one place like Park Service seems to think that
12 populations could be wiped out and the people contend that, no,
13 the sheep move around a lot more and have more -- are real
14 movement oriented.

15

16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: So I'm -- you know, I have concern for
19 the game, but I don't think that the harvest levels will
20 increase drastically with this proposal and I don't think that
21 -- I think that next year with some real statistical data about
22 sheep movements, we could make more defined -- if it's needed,
23 more defined regulation change.

24

25 So I make a motion to adopt what the proposal that
26 Region 10 had, which stays within the State's 60 sheep cap
27 guideline. I have reservations about Unit 26(B), but I can't
28 deal with that. And their three sheep per day.

29

30 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there a second to that motion?

31

32 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Angela. Discussion.

35 Yes, Ron.

36

37 MR. R. SAM: I think -- let me think about it a minute.

38

39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I had one question. I see in Region
40 10's proposal, they don't have anything limiting the number of
41 ewes, did they discuss that at the meeting, of that 60 total?

42

43 MR. YOKEL: I don't -- I can't answer that, Mr.

44 Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

47

48 MR. YOKEL: I don't recall them including a limit of

49 ewes once they changed from the.....

00283

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

2

3 MR. YOKEL:individual bag limit to the village
4 bag limit.

5

6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, I see there's no limit there,
7 but did they have any discussions about that? Were there any
8 concerned about ewe harvest?

9

10 MR. YOKEL: There was some discussion of percentage of
11 the individual bag limit being ewes, but then they changed to
12 this village bag limit and I don't have a personal recollection
13 of a limit on ewes.

14

15 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman?

16

17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

18

19 MR. ULVI: I have a different recollection of Dave. My
20 recollection is that they decided that there would be a cap, a
21 community cap of 60 sheep, but they would stay with the six
22 sheep as an individual bag limit and the original proposal
23 allowed for two of those sheep to be ewes then out of the six
24 per person. So my recollection is that they have that two ewe
25 out of six for an individual hunter as a way to ensure that the
26 ewe harvest was reduced. And they also incorporated from our
27 proposal the field daily possession limit of three sheep to try
28 to spread the harvest out a little bit.

29

30 MR. YOKEL: And I won't disagree.

31

32 MR. ULVI: And unless we had something in writing from
33 that modification.

34

35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

36

37 MR. R. SAM: Could you state your motion again, Jack, I
38 think you alluded to three sheep as the bag limit?

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Well, it was unclear, we're into two
41 different Region 10 decisions. If indeed Steve's
42 interpretation of Region 10's adoption, the 60 cap, the six
43 sheep limit, with a two ewe, you couldn't kill over two of
44 those six as ewes, that's even better.

45

46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And three per day.

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: And three per day, I think that's a
49 pretty good deal. And I would make a motion to adopt that if

50 that's the case.

00284

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, with the consent of the second
2 we would modify your original one to include that.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. I want to make a modification to
5 that because it's unclear, but if that's, indeed, the case I
6 want to stay with what that is.

7
8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, is that agreeable?

9
10 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

11
12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay, we'll consider that a friendly
13 amendment then. So the motion before us is as stated, you want
14 to state that again to the best of your recollection? Sixty --
15 yes, go ahead.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry to be bouncing around on this,
18 but if it's necessary we can get something faxed from the
19 office exactly what they did if we need that. The transcript
20 is out and we can get a summary, but I know Steve would capture
21 it -- so if you need that we can get that faxed, that's your
22 prerogative. The North Slope region's recommendation.

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ron.

25
26 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, could you state that full motion
27 again, I'm confused now.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Okay, the modified motion is, if indeed
30 what Steve said was that Region 10 had adopted a 60 sheep cap --
31 community cap, a six sheep bag limit, with -- from July 15th
32 to December 31 and three per day with a two ewe maximum
33 individual limit and that's the motion.

34
35 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And that's all Federal lands, that
36 was the other component of what I was hearing, rather than
37 talking about portions of.....

38
39 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, they went for all of Unit 26(B).

40
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Ron.

42
43 MR. R. SAM: Okay, so what we're looking at is six
44 sheep bag limit, that's individual hunter with a limit of two
45 ewes?

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

48
49 MR. R. SAM: And also a 60 total cap?

00285

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Um-hum, for the community. And then
2 the hunter can only take three per day, so he'd have to make at
3 least two trips.

4
5 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman?

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

8
9 MR. ULVI: One thing I'd like to point out and state
10 for the record here before you move on and possibly get to a
11 vote, is that, the National Park Service is still concerned
12 with the possibility of overharvest of local subpopulations.
13 We believe that from biological information available from
14 collaring studies in the Brooks Range, primarily in Arctic
15 National Wildlife Refuge and some of the studies done in the
16 northwest Brooks Range where this decline was very serious in
17 the last few years and there's now a permit system and closure
18 over in the Barik mountains, that, in fact, it is possible to
19 overharvest local sheep populations because there isn't a great
20 deal of movement -- or the distances are quite short.

21
22 Now, as Jack stated, we do have some money and plan to
23 work with the community to try to put some collars on sheep in
24 that area and better understand that in the future. Given that
25 concern that we have, and that's my job is to attempt to work
26 with subsistence eligible people in communities to provide for
27 continuing opportunity and to protect natural and healthy
28 populations of fish and wildlife, that's very clear in the law.
29 Our feeling is is that because they have asked to shorten the
30 season, in fact, so that there be very little time, except for
31 an exceptional snow year, before December 31st to travel very
32 far from the community, certainly they can travel by
33 snowmachine, but most of this hunting would occur, as the
34 documented harvest shows, would occur in late July, August and
35 September and early October. And that will be primarily by ATB
36 in a few valleys around Anaktuvuk Pass and in that area.

37
38 So I do believe there is a potential for harvest to be
39 concentrated, particularly if caribou numbers are very low and
40 people are out on the land, as they are, and seeking to harvest
41 ungulates.

42
43 I might also point out that the moose numbers in that
44 area are also very low. There's a documented crash in moose on
45 the North Slope in the last few years. There's a closure on
46 those moose up there now. And so if caribou aren't around,
47 sheep are the only other large animal that's really around.

48
49 We feel confident that the community and the sheep

50 hunters there are cognizant and aware of that but there is this

00286

1 difference of opinion about whether or not sheep move very far
2 and re-populate valleys and hillsides and certain summer and
3 winter range, and whether they don't. And it's an honest
4 difference of opinion and we hope that this research will help
5 clarify that.

6
7 So given that, we are still concerned that in this
8 modified proposal that there is really still no clear method
9 for harvest documentation. Because although as Mike correctly
10 pointed out, the North Slope Borough is -- has entered into a
11 harvest documentation project for all North Slope communities,
12 they are in their second year for Anaktuvuk Pass and their
13 first year for Nuiqsut, which are resident zoned communities
14 for us, and of course Anaktuvuk's the one we're concerned with
15 in this case, I have talked to Harry Brower, Jr. who is running
16 that program and he assured me that there is really no way for
17 us to receive harvest information for sheep or any other
18 species through that project, except for once every six months.

19
20 And although we are not expecting that local people
21 would in any way purposely over-harvest populations, we want to
22 work with that community and we would like to be able to track
23 that harvest. And as I mentioned earlier, Tim Osborne no
24 longer will be running up there and conducting kind of his own
25 because of his personal abilities and his knowledge of the
26 hunters, where we will not have that information available any
27 longer. And we all know that the basic State harvest ticket
28 system provides sketchy information at best.

29
30 And so I would ask you to please consider when you vote
31 for this modification or however you choose to handle this, you
32 please consider some language having to do with the National
33 Park Service and the Community of Anaktuvuk Pass developing a
34 cooperative harvest system to better track that harvest.

35
36 And as you well know, the Board has quite a bit of
37 latitude to describe something and ask the Agency in question
38 to develop something.

39
40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Do you feel would that be a friendly
41 amendment, Angela, to include that a cautionary -- Ron.

42
43 MR. R. SAM: Yes. With the understanding that this is
44 more to protect the residents of Anaktuvuk and the resources
45 available.

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All right. Comments taken that we
48 have a motion and a second, we'll just include it in that one.
49 Yes. Okay. Any other comments? I like what I hear, that

50 sounds better.

00287

1 MR. R. SAM: Yes, especially in light of the fact that
2 they are way on the other end of ours.

3
4 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. I guess what I'm saying, I
5 can't say one way or another because they're outside of our
6 area, but I like the idea of the community bag limit and the
7 way they've set it up. There is a cap on it. I feel more
8 comfortable with that, with the information we've got.

9
10 MR. REAKOFF: Well, this hunt includes -- half of the
11 hunt area is in Unit 24. It's actually within our region.

12
13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: And, you know, the survey that they did
16 they found 2,800 sheep in this area. And even at 60 -- if they
17 killed all 60 of the sheep within the cap, that's still only
18 two percent of the sheep population. And the decline of sheep
19 is in no way is subsistence hunter influenced. It's a natural
20 decline from snow and predation and so forth.

21
22 I agree with Steve's, you know, cooperative harvest
23 gathering idea. That sounds good.

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any other comments? All
26 those in favor signify by raising your hand? Yes votes for all
27 members present. Motion carried.

28
29 That concludes the proposals. Let me look back to see
30 where we are in the agenda. I think that brings us down to
31 Item C, because there was no presentation on the predator/prey
32 relationships, as I understand it. And that's the US Fish and
33 Wildlife Service notice on animal trapping in the wildlife
34 refuge. We had reports and discussion of that, but we have
35 taken no action. So that's the topic before us now, the
36 discussion of that. Call for information. Vince.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm just trying to move a
39 bunch of paper here. I believe we're up to the trapping issue
40 in National Wildlife Refuge, correct?

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I need to give you a couple of
45 handouts so we can work on that cooperatively. I'll have
46 someone hand out to you a copy of the North Slope Regional
47 Advisory Council's letter on use of leghold traps in National
48 Wildlife Refuges. Also a copy of your Chair, yourself Ray
49 Collins, trapping in there, and then you need page two of Craig

50 Fleener's, the Chair of Eastern Interior letter. His is in

00288

1 your book. And I have to find out what tab that's under, but
2 during copying the second page did not copy. And that is under
3 Tab W.

4
5 And I think it would be wise to turn to Tab W for
6 several reasons. One is it gives you a briefing on the
7 background, but also in fairness to Mr. Fleener's work, it's
8 copied badly here. His first page is the last page. It starts
9 with the date on the top of January 5th, and then his second
10 page is in there on most of them, but you're getting it again.

11
12 I can proceed with summarizing the North Slope one if
13 you want, or whatever. And I don't know if -- I think your
14 intent earlier on was maybe to look at the idea of drafting a
15 response.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. We've got to pull out the
18 papers that we've got in the.....

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: And if it would help the Council we can
21 review the issue again in very short form so everyone's on the
22 same feelings. If it's not necessary that's fine also.
23 Because I know we've come up with a lot of proposals. We've
24 bounced you all over different regions and now we're back to a
25 statewide issue.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Where do you want to start? Do you
28 want to look through the written correspondence?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, and also I didn't mean to ignore
31 that. I apologize. You have a copy -- oh, I hope you have a
32 copy of Jack Reakoff's letter. I'll have to look in my.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, that was handed out. We've
35 got it here.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. So you have several letters there.
38 And I think Angela also wrote a letter, I'm not sure. But,
39 anyway, there's different letters that have been written that
40 maybe people want to share.

41
42 MR. G. SAM: Vince, do you have a fax number?

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Do I have a fax number? Yes, I do. My
45 fax number is -- well, what -- it might be better to fax it to
46 the Regional Office. Reason being is that would be better.
47 It'd be quicker to get it to the people that are dealing with
48 this. But if you're more comfortable with mine. But let me
49 give you the Regional Office one first. That is 786-3898. And

50 if you want to fax to me mine is 456-0208. If you're going to

00289

1 fax in comments I would direct them to Tony.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: On this proposal? You're saying fax
4 in comments on this?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I'm getting an indication from Ron
7 and others that they may want to do something as their own or
8 some other entity.

9

10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. But we have no guarantee that
11 that input will be taken. I know what Mitch asked is that they
12 receive late comments from the Councils, and in my letter
13 that's what I asked too. So I hope we will still draft one
14 here. I don't know if they'll still take individual comments.
15 They may not. They may reject them because they had a deadline
16 on the 15th Yes, Ron.

17

18 MR. R. SAM: Yeah. We do have a Alatna Tribal Council
19 Resolution would be passed ahead of the deadline.

20

21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

22

23 MR. R. SAM: It's just a matter of tracing it down and
24 seeing if it got to the right Agency.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Because as I understand it, they're
27 going to be passing it over what, they said the first of March?

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: It wouldn't hurt to try, but I don't
32 know. We don't even know if they'll listen to ours from now,
33 but at least there were letters in asking to take that input.
34 And I would assume that it carried some weight.

35

36 You've got the action of the Eastern Interior, haven't
37 you, that they took at their meeting? They were in time,
38 weren't they? Didn't they -- I thought they reported on that.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And I'm -- wow, they -- I haven't
41 had a chance to work on their actions, but basically they
42 supported the letter that was a draft one of Craig Fleener, and
43 they added a motion and at this moment I cannot remember what
44 their motion was.

45

46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: I can't help you there without my notes
49 here. But they passed a motion concerning trapping on refuges

50 and I don't remember at this moment what it was.

00290

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I would like to hear if there is any
2 reaction to my letter; if you had any comments on what I had
3 written in there too, if we're discussing it? For Jack's I'm
4 sure he.....

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it might be -- if we do
7 have the time, it might be good not to read it, but to go over
8 the high points from each of the authors.

9
10 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: It'll help the record also. And it may
13 help people understand what you and Jack and others were
14 trying.

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I could do that on mine and Jack
17 could do the same on his.

18
19 One of the first points I tried to make in the first
20 paragraph was that this was a -- that trapping has been
21 complementing or part of the subsistence life for a long time.
22 Certainly since the fur trade was introduced in the late 1700s
23 by the Russians. I didn't say it, but even before that people
24 were catching fur in dead vaults (ph) for personal use. So it
25 was a part of subsistence life in that way.

26
27 And then I made the point that when ANILCA was passed
28 creating these parks there was a provision written that insured
29 rural Alaskans would be able to continue the use of the area in
30 a traditional manner, as long as it was compatible with the
31 purposes of the unit. It's my understanding that wildlife
32 units were created to protect habitat and insure continuation
33 of healthy wildlife populations.

34
35 And then I made the point that the current trapping
36 practices in no way endanger those populations. So there's no
37 biological reason for limiting trapping on refuges. And then I
38 talked about the economics, that this ban would seriously
39 hinder trappers and that they had a considerable investment in
40 leghold traps. And with the economics of trapping right now
41 they couldn't afford to go out and replace all of that with
42 something else, it's just too costly. Along with the other
43 costs they have in trapping of maintaining their snow machine
44 and paying for gas and all of that.

45
46 And then in the other one I talked about the
47 continuation of traditional learning at the last. And actually
48 the case I cited in there about was when I was visiting
49 Grayling recently, it was Henry, he had taken his grandchild

50 out. He had come over there specifically during Christmas

00291

1 vacation. I didn't mention names in here. But that struck me
2 as something that is continuing.

3
4 Well, if the grandfather who has trapped and knows how
5 to do that with legholds and so on, had to go learn a new way
6 to trap before they can train their grandchildren and so on it
7 would discontinue it. The same point I made on the next page
8 was that now we have high school students or even junior high
9 students who will often want to start trapping. Well they can
10 find leghold traps in the village, usually there's some
11 relative that has some so they can start that. But if they had
12 to go out and invest in some kind of new technology, again
13 there would be a stopping of that traditional learning.

14
15 And then I asked that the timing of this was really
16 unfortunate in that we hadn't had a chance to meet. So that's
17 kind of the points that I was making in my letter.

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Jack.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: The points that I made was giving my age
24 and my in excess of 30 years of trapping since I was six years
25 old. That I was a sitting member on the Regional Council. And
26 then I went into how important trapping was to many rural
27 residents and citing the high unemployment in the winter. You
28 know, in some villages it's in excess of 50 percent
29 unemployment and trapping is a critical source of income for
30 the critical time of winter when there are no summer jobs
31 around. Many people rely heavily on trapping in the winter for
32 winter income.

33
34 Also that many fur animals are used for food like
35 beavers, muskrats and some animals like that. How the furs are
36 used in the local markets for ruffs and so forth and how fur is
37 superior to fake fair. The fake fur doesn't have any
38 comparison. And how the steel footholds, conibear and snares
39 are the primary means of taking furbearers.

40
41 And then I used an analogy that my father used when he
42 fought a similar bill in Congress back in the '60s. He said it
43 was like a trapper without steel leghold traps is like a
44 carpenter without a hammer; your effectiveness is practically
45 nil.

46
47 And then I went into the passage of ANILCA. Residents
48 were assured under Title VIII that subsistence uses would
49 continue with the least impact to users and the elimination of

50 steel traps in the refuges would be extremely grievous impact

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1 to the residents of Alaska and an abridgement of the ANILCA.

2

3 But I feel that your letter, Ray, is a lot more cleaner
4 and more flowery. So I feel.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, thank you.

7

8 MR. R. SAM: Just because it was typed?

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt your letter and
11 transmit that to the Arlington, Virginia, US Fish and Wildlife
12 Service.

13

14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. For purposes of discussion,
15 is there a second to that?

16

17 MR. R. SAM: Second.

18

19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Any discussion now? Do you
20 feel that my letter covered all the points that you would like
21 to say? Is there anything that I didn't touch on that I should
22 have?

23

24 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes, Henry.

27

28 MR. DEACON: Question. This is just for the
29 (indiscernible) for the future newcomers?

30

31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: What's that? What they're
32 proposing?

33

34 MR. DEACON: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Well, again, what's happened
37 is that when they were appropriating the money in Congress last
38 year for the wildlife refuges, somebody wanted to attach a
39 rider that prohibited the use of legholds. Instead of that it
40 was modified by Congressional action and it said we want a
41 report from the refuges on trapping on the refuge, and asking
42 them to set up a task force.

43

44 As we had heard earlier, they did not set up a task
45 force because they didn't have enough time. They're just
46 taking all these letters and they're sending the whole batch to
47 Congress on March 1st. So all these comments will go to
48 Congress. We don't know what they will do with it. But we're
49 trying to impress them not to change or put any restrictions on

50 trapping on refuges. That's the purpose of this.

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1 We don't know whether they're going to act or not. And
2 the other thing that would have to happen I think is that
3 Village Councils should go back and these groups and meet and
4 write a letter to the Congressional delegation. Because
5 they're in Congress that's going to be appropriating or acting
6 on these comments that come in. It won't be the Wildlife
7 (indiscernible), it'll be in Congress. They're going to look
8 at all this information coming in and they might tell the
9 refuges or put in a restriction that would eliminate it.

10
11 So the way to stop it is in Congress, as well as make
12 sure that this is part of the packet of the comments. That's
13 my understanding of it.

14
15 MR. R. SAM: Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Ron.

18
19 MR. R. SAM: I'm sorry that I don't have our Alafna
20 Tribal Council Resolution, but I think that we addressed it to
21 the Congressional Delegation. And I still urge all our
22 constituent villages and concerned citizens to go ahead and do
23 that through your Tribal Councils, your City Office or whatever
24 you can utilize to get your point of view across, get your
25 opinions heard down in Washington, D.C.

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. The motion before us then is
28 to endorse this letter that I wrote, stating that the Council
29 agrees with the arguments that I was making. And that's
30 basically -- we'd probably put a little cover letter saying
31 that you agree with what I was saying there and urge them to
32 listen to it.

33
34 MR. DEACON: Question.

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Call for the question.

37
38 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, I think that a cover letter stating
39 that we did take formal action 2/20/97 at our regularly held
40 meeting at the Council here.

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Ready to vote? Question is
43 called. All those in favor signify by raising your right hand.
44 Okay. Again yes votes for all members present. Motion
45 carried. Okay.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Ray, if it's all right with you then,
48 I'll just go ahead and take this letter and either copy it or
49 retype it and then add like Ron said a cover, saying that you

50 took action at this one.

00294

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: And I can -- assuming the planes fly and
4 there's electricity in Fairbanks, I could get that done
5 tomorrow.

6

7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Good.

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: Was that also going to the delegation did
10 Ron say or.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. Maybe we should write another
13 letter from us to the delegation, stating that this is what
14 we're including in the comments and we would like for them to
15 seriously consider all of these comments from Alaska, and
16 please, you know, act accordingly or attempt to stop any action
17 to ban leghold traps in Congress.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: So if I understood that correctly, would
20 be a letter to the delegation of all these letters that you
21 have in front of you, and that the delegation needs to take
22 action.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: That's true. Yeah.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS:to stop this?

27

28 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. On the agenda that brings us
33 down then to.....

34

35 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

38

39 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: We have a local person that has a
40 letter. Could we include that also?

41

42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes. If we can see that letter,
43 please. Can we distribute that if we've got it here? Okay.
44 Thank you. Is this our copy now? You've already sent this?

45

46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. What should I do, pass this
49 around so others can look at it? Yeah, you want to take a look

50 at this and see. I have no problem with it. Yes, Bill.

00295

1 MR. DERENDOFF: Would this also help -- are we also
2 backing a lot of the -- like I also wrote a letter, but we're
3 also backing that, personal letters that people wrote out?
4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: We can't unless we've seen them.
6 What we're doing with this -- we're not going to send this
7 again to Congress because that's already going to them if you
8 sent it in. But in the Congressional Delegation we're just
9 including any letters we've got here.

10
11 MR. DERENDOFF: Oh, the ones we've got?
12

13 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.
14

15 MR. DERENDOFF: Okay.
16

17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And you can again write to the
18 delegation yourself and then send a copy of the letter to them
19 directly if you wanted to.
20

21 MR. DERENDOFF: I think that is the way I did it
22 because of the lack of notice.
23

24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Yeah. Thank you for that,
25 Angela. I'll pass that around and if there's no objection
26 we'll just include that in the packet of letters. All right
27 we're down to. What did we have here?
28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we're down to Subsistence
30 Resource Commission appointments and you already dealt with
31 that earlier by appointing Pollock Simon, Sr. to Gates of the
32 Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission.
33

34 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.
35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Unless I have missed something, we had no
37 other new business.
38

39 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right.
40

41 MR. MATHEWS: But it's possible that someone had talked
42 to you, or another Council member.
43

44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: No, I'm not aware of any items
45 before us. So it brings us down to a time and a place. And in
46 your yellow packet there is a calendar. Well actually in your
47 packet there is a calendar.
48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, not to slow you down, Mr.

50 Ulvi may have something to say. And we had to create a new

00296

1 calendar. It's just inherent in the program. So we have a new
2 version of the calendar to pass out to you that incorporates
3 the other Council meetings. Thank you.

4
5 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: yes.

8
9 MR. ULVI: I guess I would ask that the Council
10 consider a letter or something to the National Park Service
11 about the Subsistence Issue Paper. Now it comes before this
12 Council and other Councils for several meetings now. It's a
13 very important document and it involves a lot of things. It's
14 kind of complex. I realize that it's hard to spend the kind of
15 time necessary to really dissect it and perhaps come up with a
16 consensus view, but I would ask that you consider some kind of
17 a response.

18
19 Jack is, you know, fairly familiar with the document
20 and it's been in front of the SRCs. And as you know, the
21 Subsistence Resource Commissions are kind of where the rubber
22 is going to meet the road with the Park Service. And these
23 Councils have more or less deferred to the SRCs. But it's a
24 living document, it's going to go on and the issues will be
25 plucked from it as they become important for a particular park
26 unit. And so I guess I would just ask. I realize it's the end
27 of the second day and you folks have been working hard, but if
28 there's any sense of any kind of a response I know it would be
29 well received and appreciated.

30
31 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, I think Denali is meeting the
32 end of next week, so we'll probably be dealing with it again
33 too. Jack, do you have any comments on that now? You've
34 recently met I think.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: Well, we met -- the Gates of the Arctic
37 met in the end of November and we just started to get into that
38 document and our meeting came to an end. And it's on the top
39 of our list for our next meeting.

40
41 I appreciate the Park Service's willingness to bring
42 this into the Regional Council and SRC arenas, trying to sort
43 of identify issues that are of question or gray areas in the
44 laws. I guess we could transmit -- I feel that the SR -- it's
45 within the parameters of the SRCs to deal with that. But a
46 letter to the National Park Service Regional Office stating
47 that we are at the Regional Council level still interested in
48 what's happening with the SRCs and will be tracking the SRCs'
49 progress and finalization of, and to mediate any contentious

50 areas between the SRCs and the Park Service.

00297

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. If the Council wants to
2 direct me to write a letter to that effect, as I say we'll be
3 meeting next week. You've all got a copy of it. I think it was
4 in here wasn't it, in here? I'd ask you to look at that and
5 then if you have any specific con -- if you'll get them to me
6 within the next couple of weeks, and then I'll draft a letter
7 and we can also circulate that to you. But if you give me the
8 authority now then I can go ahead and do that and send it off
9 on your behalf.

10
11 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to have the Chairman of
12 the Western Interior Regional Council transmit a letter to the
13 National Park Service in response to their continuing
14 identification of issues.

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there a second to that.

17
18 MR. DEACON: Second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Henry. Discussion of
21 that?

22
23 MR. DEACON: Question.

24
25 MR. R. SAM: Yeah, what does the action do and all?

26
27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. It would write -- we would
28 write to the Park Service saying that we -- I don't know how to
29 say this. We appreciate their continued effort to develop
30 hunting plans and regulations and working with those SRCs to do
31 that and we consider this a very serious effort and hope that
32 the Park Service will continue to take it seriously to see that
33 these things as adopted and implemented to meet the needs of
34 subsistence hunters in those parks. Something to that effect.

35
36 And if you look at that plan and then have specific
37 comments that you want to note on or something, if you'll send
38 me that I could try to incorporate some of that. But basically
39 something to that effect, saying that this is serious and we
40 want them to take it serious and we are concerned to see that
41 subsistence uses continue to be met in the park and so on.
42 Yes.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: I think Jack had an additional part of
45 that that the Council still had continuing interest to know of
46 the progress of this report.

47
48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Right. Keep us informed.

49

MR. MATHEWS: And that the Council would assist if

00298

1 needed, mediate any areas of contentious issues or that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: I don't want to put words in Jack's
6 mouth, but that's what I've got on my paper.

7

8 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Good. You were keeping notes.
9 I wasn't. So good. We'll work together to draft the letter,
10 Vince, and we'll get it out to you. So that's the motion
11 before us. Are you ready to vote on that issue? Those in
12 favor signify by raising your right hand. Yes votes for all
13 members present. Motion carried.

14

15 MR. ULVI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us up to future
20 meeting plans.

21

22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Time and place, yeah.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: If you'll look at the calendar in front
25 of you, you'll notice that the window, the time when the
26 meetings can happen open on September 8, Monday, September 8,
27 and closes on October 24th. A couple of things I want to point
28 out to you there. The Eastern Interior selected October 13th,
29 they called it black Monday. The whole week of October 13th
30 through the 17th, and they will select two days or three days
31 in there. So it would be impossible, unless you have
32 compelling reasons, to negotiate with Eastern to meet that week
33 instead of them. So that leaves you with the other weeks
34 opened.

35

36 We would like as a program, but we want your needs to
37 come first, to avoid having more than I think it's three
38 meetings per week. So that's what's in front of you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: So the only one you have to be
41 committed to is to be with Eastern Interior during that block,
42 right? So the whole -- all the other weeks are opened to us?

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I need consultation with others. I
45 don't think we need to worry about overlapping with Y-K, but I
46 need some head nods from others. Usually we try not to overlap
47 with Y-K in case there's an issue that we need to have Staff
48 traveling to and from, or we need information exchanged from.
49 I'm not sure we have any issues, but we'll have to see how

50 these proposals go forward that you addressed in Unit 18 and

00299

1 mainly Unit 18.

2

3 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Well, what if we did the same thing
4 Eastern Interior but took that week before, that October 7
5 through 10 let's say period, and say we'll block out two days
6 there to give a little flexibility for people to have fall
7 calendars or whatever?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we're just looking at some
10 paperwork here. And I think it's a mistake in the paperwork.

11

12 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You mean to the third one?

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. We don't need to.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Three strikes you're out, Vince.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. Well, Eastern Interior said the
19 next time I make a mistake they're going to shoot over my head,
20 and then the next mistake after that they're going to aim
21 lower. So, whatever. The only one you need to worry about
22 overlapping with would be Eastern and Y-K, and I'm not sure Y-K
23 -- the list that's in front of you, a letter page says to avoid
24 Southcentral. There's no overlapping issue with Southcentral
25 that I know of.

26

27 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Or if you feel strongly about
28 -- and then maybe you'd want to go ahead and pick a date. I
29 don't know. Any comments? Anybody know they have conflicts
30 with any of those dates now?

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: I don't like this week of the end of the
33 moose season here. This September 23rd week is in the end of
34 our moose season.

35

36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Somebody is looking at the hunting
37 regs there. They're checking too. Definitely those earlier
38 weeks in September are out for me, there's just too much going
39 with the University starting and a lot of things going on.

40

41 MR. R. SAM: The 7th through the 9th?

42

43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: The 7th through the 9th, or the 7th
44 through 10th, to pick out two days in there we're saying,
45 unless you want to pin down two days now.

46

47 MR. R. SAM: No, no.

48

49 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. We'll do the same. We'll

50 copy Eastern and say -- now, location. And then we can just

00300

1 make one motion.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: McGrath.

4

5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. That's a possibility. I was
6 looking at where we haven't had it yet. You know, we've been
7 two times -- I wrote that down somewhere. We've been twice in
8 Galena, we've been in Huslia and we've been in Aniak, we've
9 been out here. And so we're kind of going around. You haven't
10 been in McGrath in quite a while. And so that's a possibility.
11 Is there any other that we should consider? When we come back
12 to the Yukon we haven't been in the Nulato or anywhere in that
13 area. And we haven't been to Allakaket.

14

15 MR. R. SAM: Yeah. My question on Allakaket was
16 whether we had accommodations or the interest. Vince and I
17 touched on this briefly.

18

19 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You mean with all those millions and
20 the new houses they didn't build any hotels or motels or
21 something?

22

23 MR. R. SAM: It was all cost plus and all that plus
24 went in the contractor's pockets.

25

26 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, I'm sure. Well, I'm open to
27 that if you feel comfortable about coming to McGrath in the
28 fall.

29

30 MR. DEACON: I support McGrath.

31

32 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Do I have a motion to that
33 effect then, creating the window and saying that we'll meet in
34 McGrath.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we
37 have our next meeting in the week of October 7th to the 10th
38 window at McGrath.

39

40 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: For two days, huh?

41

42 MR. REAKOFF: For two days.

43

44 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Is there a second to that?

45

46 MR. DERENDOFF: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Seconded by Bill, moved by Jack.

49

MR. DEACON: Question.

00301

1 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: All those in favor signify by
2 raising your right hand. Okay. Yes votes for all members
3 present. Motion carried. Is that it? Are we down to closing?
4 Closing remarks and elders comments. And in that process we'll
5 go around. And I think we should open it up too if there's any
6 closing remarks by anyone here. So I'll open the floor
7 for.....

8
9 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Excuse me.

10
11 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yes.

12
13 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Where is the next meeting going to
14 be held?

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: It's going to be in McGrath, between
17 October 7 and 10 for two days. But the four days we've
18 designated, we'll pick out two of those days.

19
20 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay.

21
22 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Anyone wish to address any closing
23 remarks to the Board from the audience?

24
25 MR. ULVI: Mr. Chairman, Steve Ulvi with the Park
26 Service. Yes, I -- maybe I speak for several of us from the
27 Agencies here, but first of all, again thank the community for
28 the hospitality, it's been excellent. And we've learned a lot
29 about this area and about this community. Particularly those
30 of us the first time here.

31
32 And I also would like to thank the Council for what I
33 considered to be very thoughtful and excellent questions and
34 deliberation on these proposals. I think from our side, the
35 Agency side, sometimes we feel like we put a lot of work into
36 things and sometimes some of it gets brushed over and because
37 of time considerations or other priorities. And I just think
38 you've done an excellent job and a very balanced and
39 professional approach. And I very much appreciate that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Anyone else wishing to
42 address. Yes.

43
44 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: In the future where do we submit
45 these proposals to be considered here?

46
47 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You can submit them through one of
48 your members if you want, or actually Vince Mathews can give
49 you an address or number. He's our Coordinator.

00302

1 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Because I'm a member of the
2 Grayling Corporation and I didn't see a black bear proposal in
3 here for our unit to hunt. And we'd like to submit one -- a
4 new one. So do you have the address?

5
6 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I think Angela can supply you with
7 that. And that'd be a local contact, who to write to. Okay.
8 Any other questions for us? Yes.

9
10 MS. TURNER: Can we get a copy of the testimonies that
11 were given here these days for our local Fish and Game Boards
12 and Chiefs to use?

13
14 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Yeah. Because I missed that
15 last night I think I'd like to see that too. Vince, do you
16 have a comment on that?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there's two ways we
19 can do that and we'll do both, if needed. I'll capture some of
20 the testimony intent in the minutes, but we also have this
21 transcribed, Dorothy over there. And so I can provide you
22 copies of the transcripts.

23
24 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: You mean the tapes or.....

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Which I think you -- no, they'll be typed
27 up.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Oh, okay.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Even give you computer versions on three
32 and a half inch disks if you want computer disks. And that may
33 be more powerful and more useful for you to have the
34 transcripts because there was a lot of rich comments last night
35 that may be helpful in other activities and groups here. So if
36 you would like that I just need an address to do that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. Yeah, would you make Debbie
39 one and give your address to Vince.

40
41 MS. TURNER: Oh, okay. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Anyone else? Taylor.

44
45 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, I hope I'm not out of
46 turn in adding on to Steve Ulvi's comments. I too think the
47 generosity that we share in an evening meal together like that
48 is really one of the memorable occasions in working in the
49 Federal Subsistence Board program. A lot of us spend a lot of

50 time reading the fine print in the Federal Register, pushing

00303

1 the papers around and none of us went into it in order to do
2 that.

3
4 I think, you know, our conviction, our hope in working
5 with the subsistence issue was to see those traditions of
6 generosity and the communities of kids who are active on the
7 land, those things. That's really what it's very much about.
8 And along the same lines I wanted to comment and express
9 appreciation to the school district folks here. And I think
10 Freida's still here and -- Judi, excuse me. The opportunity to
11 -- and Ken, actually, to meet with the kids in a couple of
12 different capacities, to involve them with us like that, I
13 think that too is part of the very best in this.

14
15 And I think sometimes when we go to the bigger
16 communities we're one of many meetings that kind of come and go
17 throughout the year, but when we come to the smaller
18 communities I think there's really quite a big difference in
19 the interests and the kind of involvement and participation.
20 And I really appreciate the folks who've made an effort to help
21 that happen.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. Okay. Coming down to
24 Council members, we started at this end last time, we'll start
25 down there first. Ron, do you have any closing comments?

26
27 MR. R. SAM: I would like to also express my gratitude
28 for the hospitality shown us by the residents of Holy Cross.
29 And as you all know, coming from a small village, your extended
30 families of Grayling, Shageluk and Anvik, you know people from
31 all four villages and we were made very welcome here by all the
32 people that attended and shook hands with us.

33
34 Again I would like to thank you for your hospitality.
35 And to tell the truth, I really enjoyed participating in the
36 testimony given by the high school kids. That is something
37 that we've been trying to incorporate in a lot of the meetings
38 that are held in Allakaket or any other one of our villages; to
39 try to get some of our future leadership involved. Again I'd
40 like to say thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Go ahead, Bill.

43
44 MR. DERENDOFF: I would also like to thank the people
45 here at Holy Cross for the hospitality, especially where I'm
46 staying at, Pete Walker. And also for the couple of days we
47 had. And even though it was a long, lengthy meeting for me, it
48 is kind of difficult because I'm kind of new here, but I'm
49 always willing to learn and listen. And other than that I had

50 a good time. And also I want to thank all the Board members

00304

1 here in learning from them and the Staff, the State and the
2 Federal BLM and all.

3
4 And there was a little problem here for me -- oh, maybe
5 I shouldn't even say it, but I had a little problem because I
6 didn't have too much time to read this. And maybe in the
7 future we might be able to get these meeting materials earlier.
8 And with that, thank you.

9
10 MS. A. DEMIENTIEFF: My closing remarks are I extend a
11 big thank you to the City of Holy Cross for letting us use the
12 City Hall here to hold our meetings. And also the Bingo
13 Committee for raising the money for all the food that was
14 brought in last evening. And a special thanks to Vince
15 Mathews. He provided the apples, the pears and the candy and
16 the salad last night for our dinner. Thank you, Vince.

17
18 And I also would like to thank the students who showed
19 up and showed an interest in what we were doing here. I really
20 appreciate seeing the young people come in. And I was really
21 glad we chose Holy Cross last year to hold our meeting. This
22 is the second time we tried and this time we made it. Thank
23 you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: I guess I'll take this time to say
26 ditto in terms of thanks. I really appreciate the effort that
27 the community put out in organizing things and helping us set
28 up in here and so on. I'm really sorry I missed the meal last
29 night but somebody was nice enough to save me a plate. I had
30 to go teach a course on bi-audio conference. So that's why I
31 wasn't at the meal.

32
33 And also I'd like to compliment the Board members. I
34 appreciate the way you've worked together. I think you've made
35 an effort to be here on time and really worked together. I
36 appreciate that as a Chair of the session and look forward to
37 continuing to work with you. I think with that I'll pass it on
38 to the next. Henry.

39
40 MR. DEACON: I'd like to thank the people of Holy Cross
41 for how they treat us so good here. And also I'd like to
42 really thank them for the testimony that they gave yesterday.
43 That really made me feel good. When I go on a meeting I know
44 now that people are really concerned in our area. And that
45 really encouraged me yesterday to have testimony. Of all the
46 meetings that I go to I always request people to talk. And
47 there's very few that show up all the time and last night was
48 two hours and then this afternoon. So that show there is a
49 problem in this area.

00305

1 Like I said again yesterday, that showed there is a
2 problem and as a community we need to work together on that.
3 So I thank you for that.

4
5 MR. REAKOFF: I want to thank the people of Holy Cross
6 for the fine hospitality that we've been provided while here.
7 There's an elder, an Inupiat lady who lives up in our area and
8 she was raised here at this Mission when she was a little kid
9 and showed me pictures of being around here. So I see that
10 your village has changed, and they're sitting on the fields and
11 stuff. So I was real happy to come here. And I forgot my
12 camera. She wanted me to take pictures.

13
14 But I wanted to say that I appreciated the hospitality
15 and the comments were very good. And, like Henry says, we
16 rarely see that kind of turnout for comment. And I thank the
17 Staff of the US Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service and
18 BLM for their support. Without their logistical support we'd
19 be in pretty tough shape. So thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. At this time, Gabe, yes, I'll
22 recognize you.

23
24 MR. G. SAM: On behalf of Tanana Chiefs I would like to
25 thank Holy Cross for their hospitality and their overall
26 support and how the process is going. One of the things I
27 failed to say last night was the -- you know, I hate to say
28 this, but if we don't work on the problems that are coming down
29 the river and up the river now, you're going to be facing the
30 same problems that we're facing up on the Koyukuk River, you
31 know.

32
33 Huslia is in a position where we're going to be
34 fighting for our subsistence rights. And there's some people
35 on the Koyukuk River that necessarily don't believe that, but
36 that's okay too because Huslia is a strong community and
37 regardless of what side of the river and what side of the
38 villages that we're working on, we're going to survive, you
39 know.

40
41 And Tanana Chiefs Wildlife and Parks is -- the whole
42 organization itself is being structured/restructured. And I
43 heard last night there was a comment we need to hire somebody
44 to give us information, you know. I may be failing at my job
45 because that's basically job, is I'm supposed to inform the
46 villages of what's coming down ahead of time so we don't have
47 to deal with this right when it gets to the table. And, you
48 know, I take my job not too seriously, you know. I like to
49 joke around a lot and that's just my nature.

00306

1 I started out this job pretty wide opened and, you
2 know, pretty bright eyed and rearing to go, and now I find that
3 you have to have a little sense of humor about the whole thing
4 with the State and Federal government, you know.

5
6 Like for example, take today for example, there's a
7 hint of a snow storm coming in. You know, as soon as those
8 planes started coming in, the State and Feds started
9 scrambling, you know, like mice coming out of the buckets. And
10 but, you know, I'm glad to see Vince is still here to brave it
11 out. You know, as long as we have Vince here we've got a few
12 jokes in line here.

13
14 But our way of life is an interesting way of life, you
15 know. I'm sure Mr. Henry Deacon here will agree with me that
16 it's a good way of life we live. And I lived it all my life.
17 And, you know, my dad taught me how to hunt and trap and that's
18 something I'll probably take to my grave, you know. I'll know
19 that I did that and I enjoyed it and some day I'd like to move
20 back to Huslia and do it again, if it's possible.

21
22 But right now there is factions out there dividing the
23 Native people, you know, and pitting Native people against
24 Native people, fighting for our very existence. And whether we
25 agree with State or Federal, it's going to come down to one
26 thing, as Native people we're going to have to fight for our
27 rights, you know, our very basic human rights, that's what has
28 been brought up at Rural Cap.

29
30 And I think Will Mayo put it best, we're at the very
31 end of our ropes, you know, and we're just hanging on. And I
32 don't -- I think I'm going to have to stand by our President
33 and say, you know, that we're ready to go into -- it's like the
34 Afghanistan's, you know, when they were fighting the Russians,
35 they were clearly out-numbered, out-gunned, out-manned, but
36 they still fought back, you know. And that's something to
37 think about.

38
39 As Native people in the State of Alaska, you know,
40 we're going to have to defend what's rightfully ours. And
41 again I thank Holy Cross for their hospitality. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Inadvertently I overlooked one item
44 there, right after setting time and place. If any of the
45 members want to identify topics they want to see on the agenda
46 next time I'll just pause a minute for that. And then I'd ask
47 for comments from somebody in the community for closing. I
48 know two items we certainly want to follow-up on is the Koyukuk
49 River issue and the issue over here. And I hope the Agencies

50 will take note and the State notify them to see what happens

00307

1 next fall in terms of the Koyukuk River. And I'm hoping by
2 then there'll be a report back from this task force that's
3 going to meet on the issue here to us. Yes, Vince.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: We did forget one thing. And I know
6 it'll go fast. Remember the -- we need to send a
7 representative to the Federal Subsistence Board meeting. And
8 the first day of that meeting is going to be a joint Chairs.
9 It's going to be all the Chairs getting together to look at
10 developing a Native policy or policies. So we need to decide
11 how you want to send representation to that and to the main
12 part of the meeting which is going to go through all the
13 proposals? So I apologize for not bringing that up when it was
14 more of a.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah. As Chair I may not be able to
17 sit through that whole meeting or attend. I'm not sure yet, I
18 might have a conflict. So if there is someone else, and
19 somebody specifically that's concerned with setting those
20 policies that could represent. Is there interest on that on
21 the part of the members? Ron.

22
23 MR. R. SAM: What time frame are you looking at?

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Time frame would be, and I hope I get
26 this right, will be April 6th will be the meeting of all the
27 Chairs, April 7th will be the joint meeting with the Federal
28 Subsistence Board and the Chairs, and then they take off going
29 region by region till the end of the week going through their
30 proposals.

31
32 Ray, correct me on this if I'm wrong, but I think the
33 Chairs were kind of saying that they would like the support of
34 all the Chairs throughout the meeting if at all possible.

35
36 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Yeah, I think so.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Sometimes during the meeting, you know, a
39 Chair is up there and he's kind of -- he or she is kind of all
40 alone and want support of other chairs. So they I think have
41 talked informally that if people can fit it in their schedule
42 to go the full week, because some of the issues in other
43 regions may affect back, but also for support. So it would be
44 the 6th through the.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: And they've been involving us
47 actively. They've had us sit up there while they're acting on
48 proposals that affect our region, and then as each one of those
49 comes up they give us opportunity to speak to that. So is there

50 anyone now that thinks they might be available then?

00308

1 MR. R. SAM: I would like to see Ray attend this time
2 and then if there are any conflicts that we get a hold of each
3 other by phone.

4
5 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay. I can commit to that; I can
6 be contacted. Okay. Anything on topics then -- is there
7 anything specifically you want to see us discussing next time
8 that you know now? Okay. Well we'll be in touch on agenda as
9 it gets developed. There will be a suggested one going out.

10
11 At this time we'd turn to the community. Is there
12 somebody from the community that wanted to have closing
13 remarks. Did you have anybody, do you know? Is there an elder
14 there that wants to speak, close the meeting on behalf of the
15 community?

16
17 MS. S. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say I'd
18 like to see you guys back again for future meetings here in
19 Holy Cross. This is very interesting and informative. And I
20 would like to come to more of these meetings. So consider us
21 in the future when you select places to hold your meetings.

22
23 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Okay.

24
25 MS. WALKER: I'd just like to say that I sat here and
26 listened to all of you. I enjoyed every minute of it. And I
27 think you're great teachers and I thank you for coming here.

28
29 CHAIRMAN COLLINS: Thank you. With that we'll stand
30 adjourned then. Thank you.

31
32 (MEETING ADJOURNED)

33
34 * * * * *

00309

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 166 through 308
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Western
13 Interior Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,
14 Volume II, meeting taken electronically by Dorothy Wenzel on
15 the 20th 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