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**WESTERN INTERIOR REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
TAKUSKO HOUSE
McGRATH, ALASKA
October 28, 1994**

VOLUME II

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- ~~H~~AROLD HUNTINGTON, Chairman
- ~~R~~AYMOND L. COLLINS, Vice Chairman
- ~~A~~NGELA O. DEMIENTIEFF, Secretary
- ~~H~~ENRY DEACON, Member
- ~~S~~HARON GURTLER-STRICK, Member
- ~~V~~ANCE MATHEWS, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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2

3 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Good morning. I'd like to call
4 the meeting back to order. First of all we'd like to have some
5 announcements. Do you have any announcements?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do have an
8 announcement. In front of you you have a map, if Angela would
9 hold it up, and there's also a large version on the wall of that
10 same map. That is a map of Region 6, it's kind of a draft map
11 right now. If you have time during the meeting, take a look at
12 it and look at it for its accuracy and any other additions or
13 corrections you would like.

14

15 You can make the corrections on you smaller version map
16 of up on the large map. If you make it on the large map I would
17 recommend that you get a hold of Terri Edwards, so she notes it
18 on the map somewhere so it's clear. That can include some of
19 the boundaries, river drainages. And lot of the communities
20 that are listed on there no longer exist, so I just wanted to
21 let you know that.

22

23 And then there's a sign up sheet for the public on the
24 counter there and I believe it's not running lavender for today.
25 People need to sign in so we have an accurate record of who's
26 attending and it also assists the Court Reporter or Recorder in
27 knowing the right, correct spelling for the transcript. And
28 that's all the announcements I have.

29

30 We will be getting a update sometime this morning on
31 your request of what transpired with the Subsistence Resource
32 Commission appointments and recommended appointment from your
33 Council and that'll be in sometime this morning. And I have
34 some additional items when we get to new business from agency
35 reports that I'll bring up at that time. And that's it, Mr.
36 Chairman.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I had one because Hollis
39 called me. As you know he turned back to Denali Park. He's
40 going to try it again today, I guess, but he called me this
41 morning 'cause I'm on that Commission and Steve Eluska was
42 appointed by the State, so that letter was dealt with. He said
43 he could find out on the other, but I guess you got a request
44, too.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Sandy with the Park Service is
47 going to be calling their headquarters and getting that
48 information, so we'll have that later this morning, an update on
49 that.

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1
2 MR. COLLINS: Okay.
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: And I don't know if there was any other
5 issues that Hollis had, but I think if he did he would have
6 conveyed it to you.
7
8 MR. COLLINS: I do, I have some other ones. When we
9 get down to reports, if he's not here, then I could mention
10 them. He had four items.
11
12 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Okay, I think we have some people
13 that'll be leaving on the plane this morning that want to make a
14 few statements, so I guess we'll open the floor for that.
15 George.
16
17 MR. YASKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for
18 leaving early. I'm getting the flu and running down pretty
19 hard. And incidently, Mr. Collins, the -- I'm not sure if the
20 flight, they'll be able to fly towards Fairbanks, they had a
21 flight just go to Fairbanks and it turned around.
22
23 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Yeah, he said he would try but he
24 didn't know.
25
26 MR. YASKA: Three issues concerning subsistence within
27 CMU 21(E). Another issue here around the McGrath region towards
28 Big River and the game management unit escapes me for the
29 moment, 19(D). And another issue surrounding fire management
30 and 810 evaluations from the Federal agencies.
31
32 I'll start with Game Management Unit 21(E), Federal
33 public lands within the Innoko Drainage. The numbers have been
34 fairly low for the past couple of years. As you might be aware
35 there was a flood three, four years ago, I don't remember
36 precisely, within the Innoko Drainage. Or very high waters, I'm
37 not really sure if we could call it a flood, but very high
38 waters. And a lot of the game seemed to move around and perhaps
39 out of the region.
40
41 Success rate during the hunting season by local
42 residents has been very low. We've also seem to have seen much
43 more unreported harvest outside of the season. People are
44 simply trying to catch up, they haven't been able to compete
45 well within the local season. And have had to catch up -- play
46 catch up for the subsistence after the season is over. And
47 consequently this goes as unreported harvest.
48
49 I think we need to begin to address that very seriously
50

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here for the next fall moose hunting season. The counts are way down, unreported harvest is way up and it's an issue that I've been hearing a lot more about in the last couple of years. And just in the last month people have been very vocal about it with the Tanana Chiefs, so I think we definitely have to look at those number very hard and begin to talk about a Federal Subsistence only season on Federal public lands within GMU 81(E).

9

10 A similar situation, although probably not as hard, within Game Management 19(D). I understand they have a controlled use area within this region. It's been helping out, although the moose counts are very low. There's currently a proposal in front of the Department of Fish & Game for wolf control as a means to expand the moose population. However, whether that goes forward or not and when it does will probably won't result in anything for nearly 10 years. And that doesn't help the subsistence users in this region within 19(D) this year or next year or the next two or three years. They seem to be going a lot further and a lot longer to hunt.

21

22 I'll just relate a personal experience. When I was making about 10-15,000 a year living on the Kuskokwim at Quathbaluk (ph) I could usually only afford to go out three or four days maximum, maybe five days. I know I could never afford to go out 20 days, I had to go out 20 days twice and to have to hunt for 20 days is a very hard experience, you know, to spend monies that were otherwise dedicated for other purposes. And the economy is quite low around this region, 19(D), and I don't think the subsistence users in this region or rural residents in this region can afford to do that. They appear to be hunting a lot long.

33

34 The success rate, again, is going down. The discussion that I have been hearing from the rural residents within this region, outside of McGrath, and some residents in McGrath are an expansion of the controlled use area. They'd like to talk again, though, about a subsistence only season. I think first they'd like to review what's possible under the expansion of the controlled use area.

41

42 And on the last issue the Fire Management Plans put out the -- rather the fire protection areas proposed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, State of Alaska and the Bureau of Land Management and the village and regional Native corporations. I think you have to go and under much more extensive review for subsistence purposes. The Federal law in ANILCA requires an 810 evaluation. Or very roughly and simply put what are the effects of subsistence of these plans?

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1
2 Depending on the severity of the fire and on what's in
the country a fire could take out a trap line, could reduce the
moose numbers. If there were caribou in the region, lichen
would burn, become not as hospitable for caribou as it was
before. Could lose many trees for logging purposes. Birch for
making sleds and snowshoes. The effects seem to multiply fairly
quickly and again depending on the severity of the fire.

9
10 And it's not very clear how this Council could relate
this to the Federal agencies and the State agencies. But the
Federal agencies currently do not now make an 810 evaluation for
fire protection zones. Much of the lands now are going into
limited protection, what's commonly referred to as Lit Burn, the
Lit Burn Policy.

16
17 There doesn't appear to be a good deal of consideration
given towards the effects on subsistence uses as a result of the
fire protection areas. And, again, I don't have any definite
recommendation because I'm not exactly sure what to do about it.
The Federal agencies haven't considered implementing the 810
evaluations for fire protection areas. I suggest that -- I
recommend that you speak with the Federal agencies here and they
could, perhaps, relate best how they would respond to that.

25
26 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Thank you, George. Is there any
questions from the Board? From the audience? Thanks, George.
Have a good trip back.

31
32 MR. YASKA: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Now, I think the next on our
agenda we'll go down to the annual report to the Federal
Subsistence Board, status of the '93 report.

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's under Tab 6.
But in case we really get into the annual report I'd kind of
like to jump ahead there to B there to make sure I get that
addressed, under 2b, Adequacy of geographical representation on
Council. The Federal Subsistence Board needs kind of input from
the Councils -- their feeling about the geographical
representation.

45 What's precipitating this is two Councils, one is
Southeast, I can't remember the other one, are asking for
additional seats and they're requesting additional seats because
they feel certain areas in their region are not getting
represented. The Board didn't want to act on those requests

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until they had talked to all the Councils about their feelings about adequacy of representation in their Council, so I need some kind of direction from the Council. If you feel the present makeup of the Council, i.e., nine members is adequate and that the region is being adequately represented. And then we'll get into the annual report. That could be part of the annual report.

8

9 Based on past records I'm not sure where the Council stands on an annual report. So first if you could give me some input on the geographical representation and we could incorporate that into doing an annual report. If you're not going to do an annual report then I'll carry that information to the Board separately of the report.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: There was a couple of Councils that wanted more Council members on their Council or

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Southeast was one and maybe somebody else remembers, I don't remember what other region.

21

22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Kodiak/Aleutian.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: What?

25

26 MS. EDWARDS: Kodiak/Aleutian.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Kodiak/Aleutians at their last meeting is requesting that they be split into to regions, so -- if you're comfortable with the way it is now, then there's really no action to take, but if you feel that representation is not to the level that you would desire to perform your task this would be a time to discuss that.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me in our discussion last spring we touched on this somewhat. We were talking about Aniak not being represented. We were a little bit reluctant to have somebody brought in from there. We saw the need for that area, but we felt it would diminish the other areas. And I know there was a question raised could we increase members. And I don't know what others thought about that, but I thought we had expressed, at that time, that maybe one way to do that would be to increase the number. You'd probably have to do it by twos to keep the odd number.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: And you do have a member now that is from Aniak.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Right, but we had to take -- give up one

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of the other areas that was represented in order to do that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, the makeup of the Council
regions right now, it seems like it's pretty good right now,
except maybe -- well, Southeast has 13 members already and
Kodiak has seven members and maybe they should just add a couple
more seats to the region.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: The real question is not numbers, it's
adequacy of information getting into the Council to perform its
duties. If it can be done with seven then it's fine, if they --
Southeast, I worked in Southeast, as you know, they're more
isolated because of the water systems and et cetera, so -- but,
you know, it's your chance to ask on it. I don't know exactly
how well additional members will be received by the Board, but
it's your chance to let them know if you desire more members or
if you desire some other way of addressing representation.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I don't have any problem with
this right now.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: I'll just move back, then, to the annual
report directly, then, if there's no more discussion about that.

24

25 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I have a question, Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.

28

29 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Is there going to come a time in the
future where we could appoint two alternates, besides the nine
members? Like, for instance, say Aniak is not represented, had
they had an alternate in Aniak we could have gotten someone else
here. Like one from the north and one from the -- farthest
north and farthest south in the region. Alternate people to
take part in the meetings so they will get representation. Is
there a time that'll happen?

37

38 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I've never heard anything on it,
but that sounds like a good idea 'cause most committees and
Council members usually have an alternate and I don't think that
there's been much discussion on that yet, but it sounds like a
good idea.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't -- and I'll hope
someone else in the crowd can verify this, I don't think there's
an option for alternates within the system as it stands now.
You're mirroring the Local Advisory Committee system where you
could have an alternate for X community. You are representing a
region. Excuse me, representing an area within a region, so you

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could make a recommendation to have alternates available, that is someone is ill or whatever and could not attend that the alternate would attend. But I don't know, I haven't dug into this enough to know if that option even exists. That doesn't mean you don't have to take action if there's no option.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Is there anyway that we can maybe get the Federal Board know our wish or intention?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you could draft a resolution or a recommendation under this adequacy of geographical representation that you would want an alternate system established. And then give us some direction if you have ideas on how to establish that. I'm just not sure that mechanism exists right now, but let's -- my philosophy is with any advisory group is go ahead and do your action, we'll find out later if it falls within your purview or is available. Not to restrict at this juncture because I don't have all the data.

19

20 So it's up to you. It would make -- if I could say that, it would make my life a lot easier, too, if we had alternates because at times people's schedules change so rapidly it would be easier to be tracking an additional person in case that one falls out and then the alternate and the standing member would have to communicate quite well so they would know what each other would have said at the meeting.

27

28 So you have the option of a resolution or recommendation if you'd like to take that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: What do you think on that? Write up a resolution later on or

33

34 MR. COLLINS: I can see some merit in that. I guess one way it could work is if you had two that were kind of at large, but that they would be chosen for geographic spread so that they would not be backing up an individual member, but they would come from an area that was kind of the weakest in ours and then when members cannot come, at that meeting they would be brought in. It would help establish quorum and -- like now, there's five of us here and we're talking about this whole huge area, trying to decide on annual report. And if we had people come in, even though it wasn't, let's say, another person from Akiak because then that would -- suppose he's here, but there's another area that's not represented, but if they came from areas that were not represented then, at least, we would be getting better of the area.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: And I need to note that those alternates,

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I would assume, would have to go through the nomination/appointment process, so it would have to go through that and they would go through that panel review and et cetera.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: I would guess that they would be able to attend or have the options of attending most meeting because at most meetings somebody's going to have an absence that they can't make it, so that would mean that we would keep in seven -- you see what I mean? They're not representing one person, but they would be called in if somebody else can't make it and would give us a chance of having seven instead of five at this meeting, let's say, if there had been two alternates who could come.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: But they would be pretty much assigned to 16 to make it simple for discussion, they would be assigned to, like, half the region, per se, and the second one would be another half of the region, something like that?

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Right.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: It's up to the Council, Mr. Chair, to decide if you want to

24

25 MR. COLLINS: It's just an idea.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: I'm heavily influenced by the State's system since that's where my experience comes from, but is -- 28 alternates make life a lot easier for the administration and it 29 appears to be they work quite well for maintaining the flow of 30 information.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: I could see it as also a training experience for somebody who would become a full-fledged member when there's an opening then, something like that. If they've been an alternate, maybe they've only attended one meeting, something like that, but then when openings come up they might be given a regular appoint, there would be some other alternates that would be brought in and be gaining some experience or connection. Well, it's an idea.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'll take the opportunity, 45's just a very new idea that's in my mind that has not gone beyond that, but I've been exploring with the State, when I worked for the State, and now I'm exploring with the Federal system of having an apprenticeship program. That Council members that so desired would have a young adult be apprentice

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to them through a school system and incorporate within the school because I see that we need to start expanding our pool of potential people.

4

5 In my experience with the different bureaucracies we tend to get more paper oriented as we proceed and so we need to bring the youth along with that 'cause they'll be the future leaders. So I'm just bringing that up as something that hopefully I'll be able to get some level of approval and come back to you about. But that, again, addresses the need for training additional people to fill in during a term and then also developing people for future filling in -- future seats.

13

14 So I'm kind of getting an indication you're close to maybe drafting a resolution or why don't we call it a recommendation on this adequacy. Is that a fair assessment that you're wanting to recommend to the Board to have alternates?

18

19 MR. COLLINS: What do you think? I don't want to put words in your mouth.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, that sounds like a good idea. I don't know what would hold more water, recommendation or a resolution.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think since the Board was asking about adequacy of representation, I think we'll just call it a recommendation. Whatever it is called it's still going to have the same impact, you're telling the decision makers on this that you would like alternates and then we need to flush that out some more. It would be cleaner for the record if we went through the, you know, motion and second it, so it's clear to everybody that the Council, as a body, discussed this and supported the idea.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think a motion is in order.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: I'd like to hear from the other members how they feel. I'm willing to make a motion, do you think it's a good idea to have alternates?

41

42 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think it's a good idea.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: I was just looking now and we have one at Alakaket and Wiseman and then Koyukuk, but the whole Koyukuk River, Hughes/Huslia, which is a huge area in there there's nobody from that area now and won't be for another year. And then we go from Koyukuk all the way down to Grayling and because the Kaltag seat was not filled that's quite a long area there,

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too, so there are areas that we don't hear from.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Also, Mr. Chairman, it needs to be noted
 4 that, you know, it's based on nominations and I would encourage
 5 the Council members to, you know, if you know of people in that
 6 area that are interested to apply 'cause then they'll -- if this
 7 becomes a positive action through the Board then there would be
 8 a pool of candidates to pull from and represent those areas.
 9 I'd have to defer to David James to know how many applications
 10 we had, if we need it, but I'm not sure it's needed at this
 11 time.

12

13 But this is a new process, I'm not sure how many people
 14 really know about getting nominated and all of that. And so we
 15 will need to work more on that to make sure that those that are
 16 interested nominate (sic), not that they're elected by the
 17 Tribal Council or appointed by the Village Council.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Let me make a motion, then we can discuss
 20 the motion. I move that we draft a resolution recommending a
 21 system where there would be two alternates appointed in addition
 22 to our nine members, who would fill in in the absence of some
 23 of the regular members.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motion on the floor to assess
 26 some set up for alternate Council members.

27

28 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Second. Questions? It's been
 31 moved and second to set up a system where we can have alternate
 32 members. All in favor signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign.

37

38 (No opposing responses)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motion passed.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I'll go back to the
 43 annual report section and that's under Tab 6 of your book. And
 44 I'm leaning or looking for a direction from you on how to
 45 proceed, but essentially I'll go over the section there so it's
 46 clear to everybody what the annual report is set up to do and
 47 then we'll get into your status of your last report and then
 48 where you'd like to go from there.

49

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1 This section here, under Tab 6, I put together and it
 2 basically gives you Section 805 that deals with the preparation
 3 of an annual report to the Secretary. And the annual report
 4 shall contain:

- 5
 6 (i) an identification of current and anticipated subsistence
 7 uses of fish and wildlife populations within the
 8 region;
 9 (ii) an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs
 10 for fish and wildlife populations within the region;
 11 (iii) a recommended strategy for the management of fish and
 12 wildlife populations within the region to accommodate
 13 such subsistence uses and needs; and
 14 (iv) recommendations concerning policies, standards guidelines,
 15 and regulations to implement the strategy."
 16

17 I just kind of summarized the key points of the annual
 18 report and that's identification of uses; evaluation of needs;
 19 recommendation of strategy or design for management; and then
 20 recommendation on guidelines. I also pointed out important
 21 points to remember. The audience of the annual report is the
 22 Federal Subsistence Board and in general the entire Federal
 23 Subsistence Management Program.
 24

25 In my opinion that annual report may be reviewed as a
 26 report card on subsistence programming, including Regional
 27 Advisory Council system. The annual is a means outside Subpart
 28 process to document existing conditions, needs and concerns.
 29 The annual report can provide directions and guidelines for
 30 future Council members.
 31

32 And then your copy of your annual report for 1993 is
 33 within that tabbed area. My understanding the annual report,
 34 you have not received a reply from the Federal Subsistence Board
 35 on your annual report and I'm not sure where that reply -- the
 36 date or the timing of that reply. So right now your '93 report,
 37 which is there, has not received a reply from the Federal
 38 Subsistence Program.
 39

40 For the new member and others you may want to turn back
 41 to Tab 3, sorry to keep you bouncing around here, but I want to
 42 make sure I get across what you had done in the past. In Tab 3
 43 here's that letter we talked about that was a summary of your
 44 teleconference on May 19th. I can read it into the record, the
 45 paragraph that I want you to note, but it's the last paragraph
 46 on that page there that gives me indications that you have some
 47 concerns about the use of the annual report or its need. So I
 48 would encourage you to read that last paragraph on the letter
 49 dated May 31st, if everyone has it or else I can read it into
 50

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the record.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we have any
 4 estimate on how long it'll take us to go through the rest of our
 5 business today. The reason I say that is it looks like we could
 6 schedule at this meeting a block of time of a couple of hours,
 7 say we finish the regular business, where we could -- a report
 8 as written better in a kind of a workshop atmosphere and we
 9 would have, then, the discussion of all of the business we're
 10 dealing with there and have a little better ideal maybe what
 11 issues come up or what things that we could put in. Like,
 12 flagging things where needs are not being met or where
 13 anticipated needs are. If we try to generate a report right
 14 now, I don't know that I'm ready to do that myself, but there
 15 may be some things come up throughout the meeting that we feel
 16 should go down into this. That's one thought.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Also another option, you can have a
 19 subcommittee that I could work closely with at this meeting or
 20 by phone or something like that and then run it by the full
 21 Council via mail and, if my memory serves me correctly, with
 22 Eastern Interior, I hope I got it right, it's in my notes
 23 though, that the agreement was that I'll draft a, jokingly, a
 24 four volume report and ship it to them and if I hear nothing
 25 within seven days, I'm taking that as approval. Otherwise we
 26 end up dragging this on.

27

28 They're used to be a deadline, and I'm not sure how
 29 firm that is, of November 15th on the annual report. Don't look
 30 at that because that -- I'm not concerned about that because if
 31 that's the case then we'll have to make adjustments elsewhere.
 32 The main thing that I think is before you is do you want an
 33 annual report and the second phase of that is how do you want to
 34 come to some idea of what you want in that annual report.

35

36 And then you'll, hopefully, be getting some direction.
 37 I wish I could say you will be getting direction on your last
 38 report, but I have conflicting information on that, so I'm just
 39 going to say I don't know what's going to happen on your last
 40 report.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, I think Ray had a good
 43 commendation for, maybe, a short discussion on it after we get
 44 through with most of this other stuff. We can come back to it
 45 and

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Is that the wishes of the Council that
 48 we'll put it as the last item before you set the meeting
 49 location for the next meeting?

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: If there are no objections.
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Is that the wishes?
5
6 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Sounds good.
7
8 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, that sounds okay.
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I can proceed then.
I'm kind of your show for today for a while. We can move on to
E2 which is status of navigable waters and fisheries management,
13 if you'd like.
14
15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, that sounds okay.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman. Now, first off I'm
not a lawyer, so I'm going to go over this in my interpretation
of the situation. There's the -- I don't know where to begin
with it, there's quite a -- there's several lawsuits that are
out there and I think I'll just kind of review them to give you
an idea and that will trigger any type of questions, I hope.
And then I'll try to answer those questions.
24
25 Okay, there's the case called the Katie John case,
which is consolidated with another case concerning Secretary
Babbitt and in the case and the consolidation there are a couple
of issues there. There is the who issue and the where issue.
29
30 The who issue -- well, okay, with that court case the
who issue the court ruled the Federal Government has authority
for day-to-day management of subsistence uses. The State has
argued that Title VIII does not grant that authority for day-
to-day management activity, such as setting seasons, harvest
limits, methods and means.
36
37 There are two where issues and hopefully I'll get these
correct. The where 1 issues is whether Title VIII subsistence
priority applies to subsistence fishing in navigable waters.
The judge ruled on that that for the purposes of Title VIII
navigable waters are public lands, thus subsistence priorities
apply. However, the court's decision has been stayed while it's
appealed in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. To my knowledge
the Ninth Circuit Court may take action some time by the end of
this year, but that's not for sure.
46
47 Let me see what else we have here on that. Okay, that
pretty much covers the where 1 and the where 2 and the who
question. Then we have a lawsuit, the Quinhagak litigation
50

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Which has the -- I'm not doing this well, I've lost my notes, but essentially the Quinhagak case has to deal with subsistence fishing for rainbow trout in navigable waters and the court has denied the request. The villages have appealed to the District Court and the Ninth Circuit Court has reversed the District Court's decision and the issue has returned to District Court, so that's again dealing with navigable waters.

8

9 The other Council asked, and I believe it's on the agenda later, I'm almost positive it is, so I could cover it now, if you'd like, which is an update on the NARC Petition, which stands for the Northwest Arctic Regional Council Petition and others involved in the petition. If you'd like me to kind of cover the NARC Petition.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, go ahead.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Let me see if I gave you. I apologize, I'm still -- I now -- when you put together two of these for two regions it's hard to remember which one has what. Under Tab 7 you have -- yes, you have the last page under Tab 7 letter concerning the NARC Petition and essentially:

23

24 "The NARC Petition requests the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to promulgate an interpretive regulation to the effect that:

27

28 the Federal Government has the authority to regulate hunting
29 and fishing on non-public lands if such uses
30 interfere with subsistence uses on public
31 lands, and

32

33 selected but not yet conveyed lands are within the purview of
34 the subsistence priority."

35

36 Essentially what's going to happen with the two issues that are contained within that petition is there's going to be a Federal Register, no date has been set, that will go out asking for comments on those two areas and there's no date, that I know of, for when the Federal Register will come out dealing with the NARC Petition.

42

43 Now, the NARC Petition ends up asking the question of where 3 issues because it addresses Native selected lands, but not conveyed. You have the who question the where 1, where 2 and where 3. The reason I bring up these terms is because these proceed and are covered in the media and that, there'll probably be using this where 1, where 2, where 3 terminology.

49

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1 And with that and not being an attorney that's pretty
 2 much the fisheries management litigation. And you have the
 3 letter in front of you that covers a bit more of it. As far as
 4 the planning aspect, the Board charged the Office of Subsistence
 5 Management to come up with a contingency plan for managing
 6 fisheries. That plan is in the process of being reviewed and so
 7 we have a plan in draft form of how we would proceed in case the
 8 fisheries did become underneath Federal jurisdiction.

9

10 And if there's any questions on that I'll try to answer
 11 them with assistance from members of my team and others.
 12 Essentially everyone is waiting to see what the Ninth Circuit
 13 Court does.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: So by the end of the year we
 16 might have some kind of an answer on that, huh?

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: When the Ninth Circuit Court does its
 19 decision it should be front page and then we'll probably have
 20 information distributed if it activates that the Federal
 21 Government has jurisdiction, if it agrees to that. Then, I
 22 would assume that we would have some kind of a document
 23 explaining what the Court did. And then I would think down the
 24 road, I'm just guessing here, but I think the Council system
 25 would have to be restructured. Something would have to be done,
 26 at least, as far as number of meetings, if not as far as
 27 representations. And I'm guessing on that, but I would assume
 28 there would be some restructuring of that because you would be
 29 dealing with all the fisheries issues.

30

31 MR. COLLINS: Question, Mr. Chairman. If the issue is
 32 resolved on the navigable waters that would clear up this
 33 boundary line dispute we were having before, is that right?
 34 Right now the State is considered to have jurisdiction on
 35 navigable, so on Federal lands you have to hunt above the high
 36 water mark and so on?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, correct.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Now, if the court upholds this that this
 41 does fall under Federal then that issue would be resolved then
 42 that they could hunt on the shore as well as above the high
 43 water mark, is that true? Plus the fact that, then, on State
 44 lands, I guess the whole corridor up to high water mark would
 45 now become Federal?

46

47 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Under Federal.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Under Federal management, but what would

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happen in terms of seasons? I'm trying to figure out what the impact is going to be on the actual subsistence hunters. As well as fish, I'm thinking how this is going to apply on game or does it?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: I know that you, at your last meeting, discussed quite a bit on the ordinary high water mark. I'm going to defer to someone else on that because I've mainly focused on the navigable water issues and the high tide issues, because of my experience in Southeast, so the ordinary high water mark I can barely pronounce, so I'd have to defer to someone else on staff to see, but I would guess that if it went through positive in Ninth Circuit Court that would -- there would not be this sliver of season, but maybe the State would want to comment on that, there would not be this sliver of land that would have a different season if there was a different one on State regs for that area, but maybe the State would want to discuss that or someone else that's present.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, we have someone in the audience.

24

25 MR. MORRISON: No, Mr. Chairman, I have no comment on that. I would have to defer to the Attorney General's office to come up with their interpretation on that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Okay.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: It'll obviously be brought up if it goes to the positive. I think the State would make a strong stand on that that they would still have jurisdiction on the ordinary high water mark area. The water would be cleared up.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: So the focus has been mainly on the fisheries questions, the management fisheries in the navigable waters, is that right?

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: No, there's been two focuses and that's why I kind of stumbled around. There's been two focuses, one obviously been fisheries because the fish that are a strong underpinning of a subsistence economy is threatened by other uses. So there's been strong push for that, but there's also attention of in the relationship to migratory caribou that the

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affect of outside Federal lands affects what opportunity or exposure to those populations within Federal lands.

3

4 And then the Native selected but not conveyed lands is also addressing that concern there. Because as you know the convey -- but not conveyed -- what's in somewhat of a limbo state, once it's conveyed it's considered private lands then it's underneath State jurisdiction. So there -- basically there's movement by user groups, subsistence users, to expand the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Program beyond the boundaries of Federal lands.

12

13 And if I could speak freely, a manager would rather manage based on the resources and what the resources need for their development, habitat, harvest, et cetera, so essentially people are reflecting management prerogatives that you can't -- I don't know of any moose that knows when they're on Federal land or when they're on State land. And the caribou I'm pretty sure don't know either, so for the management of the herds and populations it's best to have a united management. So essentially the subsistence users are saying the Federal system should expand out beyond land jurisdictions.

23

24 Anything else, Mr. Chairman? Those are fairly important issues there, but we're still waiting to have final decisions on those by the courts.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think we'll just have to wait a little longer on that. So we'll just have to get on with -- you want to start on the next one down, Operations Manual?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I've passed out -- no, I didn't, I'm sorry, I didn't. You received this earlier, at your last meeting, it's a green covered one. We do have extra copies if you do need to look at them.

36

37 At your last meeting my understanding was that you tabled it for later in the meeting and I'm not sure you brought it up again. This is -- if we take the charter as defining who you are and what you can do, this tells you how you can do what you can do. And you may want to take a look at it and see. Pretty much, most of the Councils have already reviewed it and have adopted it. Or -- yes, at their last meeting, meaning other meeting in February and March of last year.

45

46 So I don't know where you stand. We've already discussed the one issue of removal of members and in that clarified that it would be two meetings instead of three consecutive meetings. You may want to look at this -- I don't

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know how much you looked at it at your last meeting, Mr. Chair,
So -- but essentially it is near, if not at a final stage.

3

4 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Is the organizational chart the
Same?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: No, the new organizational chart is under
Tab 3. We have gone through a flattening of the organization,
Per say, so you have under Tab 2 this organizational chart. The
effect the it has for you is essentially the regional
Coordinator used to report to branch chief, that branch chief
position has been eliminated and the coordinator reports
directly to the division chief. Other than that there's been
some moving around of positions and throughout the
organizational chart there are no longer branch chiefs. So the
different areas, like Fish & Wildlife, Social Sciences, Data
Processing report directly to the division chief.

18

19 I don't envision any of this affecting you directly,
But I just wanted to point out those are the major changes in
that and the following page gives you the phone numbers. We
have moved, we have all new phone numbers, the 800 still exists,
which is 800-478-1456, but if you wanted to get a hold of your
staff person, Conrad, on the biological issues, his number is
listed there. George Sherrod is up in Fairbanks now, and his
number is listed there, so you can give them a call. But the
organizational chart has changed in the Operations Manual.

28

29 And, for instances, like on Page 33 and 34, it gives
you a kind of schedule of showing you how things transpire and
gives you an idea of events that are coming up as far as
activities. And then on 34 is other activities. And I've
provided you under the last tab, Tab 10, the nomination process,
and of an organizational chart on that.

35

36 Mr. Chairman, on your -- I just got an update on the
phone numbers and it is critical because if you have questions
about biology or that it would best to bet a hold of Conrad
because essentially if you ask me and I'm not real clear I'll
turn to him, so his is under Conrad Guenther in the first column
and his number is 786-3883, so you need to cross off that 2.
And you can still reach him through the 800 number, but if for
some reason you are calling the direct line to him.

44

45 And our office location has moved, if you're looking
for it in Anchorage. We are now over at the regional office for
Region 7, Fish & Wildlife Service, which is on Tudor Road. And
we encourage you if you're in town to stop by. But we have a
new office there, we're no longer on C Street.

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1
2 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Does it have a different phone
number or the same phone number?

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: The 800 number is the same, but all the
few ones are here, they're all 786's.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, okay.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: For that office, excuse me. The other
numbers that give you the other regional coordinators are at
their location. For instance, John Andrew for YK Delta his
number is listed there. And I should mention that your numbers
in Fairbanks are still -- still exist, George Sherrod is using
that office for now and once the coordinator is selected and
that, those numbers will go directly to that coordinator.

17
18 We have not eliminated those numbers, so -- just right
now, if you can remember, instead of calling the 800 number in
Fairbanks which maybe the message will be recorded and then
transferred to me Anchorage would be to call the Anchorage
number directly until this position is filled as -- your
coordinator position is filled. But if you forget to do that
and call the Fairbanks number George will answer it and field
your question to me or directly answer the question.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: What's the status on the
coordinator right now?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: My understanding when I left the office
is that the announcement for the position will go out next
month, hopefully early in the month. And the way it's been
explained to me, from the date of announcement, in general, you
look at 12 weeks before someone is selected and then you add on
to that as to -- you know, they may have other commitments that
don't allow them to start, you know, two weeks or a month or
something like that. So I'm envisioning February, but it could
be possible January, but it's unlikely.

39
40 And I would encourage you to mention it to any
candidates that you know of that would be interested to look for
that announcement. It will be under a general announcement of
Office of Personnel Management, which means you don't have to be
an in-service employee to apply for it, and encourage them to
apply. And you can get the information, once it's available,
from our office through that 800 number. And I don't have
Office of Personnel's number, but you can obtain it that way.
Thus I believe there'll be quite a bit of work on getting that
information out throughout your region and the state for
50

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candidates that may not be in the, you know, the large metropolitan areas.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum. Is there any questions
5 on the Operations Manual? Well, I guess that pretty well wraps
6 it up, huh?

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: I'll take that to mean that you kind of
9 approve the Operations Manual and I'll kind of look to Dave or
10 someone else -- does this come up again; does this have a life
11 span, does anyone know on the Operation Manual?

12

13 MR. JAMES: I don't.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I just wanted to ask, 'cause
16 something was telling me that it's up again in two years or
17 three years, so we'll see, but I think as you progress in your
18 activities the issues that are not addressed in this manual will
19 have to be resolved and so I think it will be addressed through
20 other means and then eventually they'll be incorporated in the
21 Operations Manual.

22

23 Okay, let's see where we are. We've just completed the
24 Operations Manual and we didn't have any other old business.
25 Mr. Chairman, it's either deal with Proposal 54 and 58 with
26 those regulations in Units 19(A) and 21(E), which I would kind
27 recommend since it's possible that Hollis might get in,
28 Hollis Twitchell. It's up to the Council to where they want to
29 proceed, if they want to get into those two proposals.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Didn't we have someone that
32 wanted to comment on it?

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, yes and no. I mean, last
35 night you mentioned, and maybe you need to reiterate for the
36 record that if there's public present that want to testify at
37 anytime all they need to do is get your attention and come
38 forward and can testify. Staff is ready, I see the State area
39 biologist here and your biologist and everyone else that's here,
40 if you would like to proceed with 54 and 58.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, we might as well go ahead
43 and proceed with 54.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I'm going to turn it over to Conrad
46 Genter, then, to handle that. And obviously you can call up
47 anyone else if you want to deal with that. The only thing I
48 need to point out to you and maybe I should just pass it out and
49 then drop out of this is that Herman Morgan did send in comments

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on Proposal 54 and I'll pass them out, but I'll read them into the record, so that those in the crowd that are involved with working through these proposals that they have the same information.

5

6 This are comments that were faxed to me -- well, it doesn't matter when, I can't make out the date that clearly. His comments are: Having two winter moose season might put too much strain on the moose population. We need to think of the future, for future generations. Should change winter season for those (both State and Federal and have only moose season in January) for Russian Christmas. We need to a moose census in order to make rational decisions.

14

15 So you have his comment in front of you and that's all I have to add. Oh, Mr. Chairman, there'll be a map that Conrad will be speaking from that I'll pass around.

18

19 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair, Council members, just to give you the history on this for the new Council member. This proposal was brought up last year in the proposal process, it was presented to this Council, and we're talking about Proposal 24, was presented to this Council. The Council passed the proposal with a modification. I'll get into specifics on that at a moment. When it went to the Federal Subsistence Board there was a realization made that it affected people who had c&t in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Council area also, but it had not been presented to that Council. The Federal Board, at that time, deferred action until the Yukon-Kuskokwim Council could meet and make a decision on that.

31

32 Now, let me back up and I'll present the proposal and then give you the additional history from when the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council met at that time. This proposal was a request to change the moose season and the bag limit for Unit 19(A) moose. The proposal would have changed the bag limit from one moose, however antlerless moose may be taken from January 1 through January 10th and February 1 through February 10th, to one bull. So the change would be from the season that now exists in Federal regs, which was January and February, any those, to one bull during that period of time.

42

43 It would also have changed to open season dates from September 5 through 25 to September 1 to 20. And the January 1 through 10 season would have been eliminated. There is currently now not a November season under current Federal regulations and it would have added a November season of November 20th to 30 and it would have changed the current Federal season of February 1 to February 5 to February 1 to

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February 10.

2

3 Basically the proposal would have aligned Federal and
 4 State seasons. When you met last fall or last spring regarding
 5 this proposal you adopted the proposal with the modification
 6 that antlerless moose could only be taken during the February 1
 7 through February 10 season in that portion of Unit 19(A)
 8 upstream from, but not including the drainages of the Kolmakoff
 9 River and the Holakuk River. And, of course, that excluded the
 10 Lome Village area, which is under its own special management
 11 regime.

12

13 Now, when the Federal Board met and realized that there
 14 had been a mistake in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Council not acting on
 15 this proposal since it affected people that lived on the Lower
 16 Kuskokwim River also. They requested that Yukon Council meet on
 17 this. The Yukon Council met and they basically, at that time,
 18 rejected the proposal and said, no, we want to have a cow season
 19 on the lower river, that's where our people hunt. We also want
 20 to continue to have a January 1 through 10 season. That season
 21 was originally established by the Federal Board to accommodate
 22 being able to harvest a moose during Russian Orthodox holidays.

23

24 So then the Board, in its summer's meeting, said since
 25 there was not a concurrence between the two Councils, they
 26 directed the two Councils to try to have some kind of a joint
 27 meeting and make a decision on this. Well, unfortunately that
 28 meeting did not occur. At this last Council meeting on the YK
 29 Delta Council, the Council revisited this particular issue and
 30 what they adopted is this -- I have the regulation here or the
 31 proposed regulation that they are passing on at this time.

32

33 They have accepted the change in season dates, the
 34 September seasons dates, they've also accepted the November
 35 season. They accepted the February season dates and they
 36 accepted your proposed amendment to eliminate cow harvest on
 37 that lower section of the Kuskokwim. The only thing now that is
 38 not in concurrence between your proposed regulation with the
 39 amendment and the Yukon Delta Council's recommendation is they
 40 want to retain that January 1 through 10 season. They felt it
 41 was important to retain that season to provide an opportunity
 42 for people to harvest a moose for the Russian Orthodox holidays.

43

44 From a biological perspective, I can reiterate some of
 45 the information I presented last year, just to update you on it.
 46 I've gone through and collected a lot more information on
 47 potential harvest. And, again, I primarily just have reported
 48 harvest data and only speculation on non-reported harvest data.
 49 So we do have a bias in the data because it is only reported.

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It's been estimated that, at least, during the September season that as high as 65 percent of the harvest is not reported harvest of the local harvest through that area.

4

5 So, generally, in my estimates of what's going on, I usually use about a -- I double the number of reported harvest animals to give me some sort of a realistic figure of what the real harvest is. The information I'll be giving you is actually the reported harvest, though, so you may want to speculate that that number is possibly twice as big or a little bit more of the actual harvest.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, real quickly for those that need to know, it's under Tab 8, the analysis that he's dealing with. And also the YK proposal is at the end of Tab 8.

16

17 MR. GUENTHER: Thank you.

18

19 The map that I gave you gives you an idea, also, of what we are dealing with because we are only dealing with Federal land again. There is no Federal land that touches the river, the Kuskokwim River in that lower sections where there is a desire to restrict cow harvest during the winter season. It would appear that the Federal lands that are north of the river because of their location are more difficult to get to and there's very little or almost no harvest, reported harvest or probably other harvest in the Federal lands north of the Kuskokwim River.

29

30 On the Federal lands south of the Kuskokwim River, that major block of land on the left hand side of the page, right as you get into Unit 19, that's -- most of that land is Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta National Wildlife Refuge. There is -- from what I can find out during winter access there's a lake system into there and people do get into there and there's some harvest coming off of there.

37

38 You really do not have good information as to specifically what amount of the harvest occurs on those Federal lands and what does not. That's about the only area within all of 19 where there's substantial harvest off of Federal lands for those. Also there's caribou come up through that area and so there's caribou hunting down there, which may have some impact on the take of moose, but we're not certain of that.

45

46 By the way, the numbers on your map are related to -- the State has broken up all of the management units into the subunits that they have numbered and so when reported harvest come in, by the location, they are written the reported harvest

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form, they put them into those units. There's somewhat helpful and I have 10 years of reported harvest data relative to those units, if you're interested in it. Unless you have a particular interest, though, I'll try to just summarize it and go from there.

6

7 So that's what those number refer to and we have specific harvest data for a period of 10 years related to each one of those numbers. Most of the harvest during the winter that occurs by people located in Unit 18 on the Kuskokwim River down in Unit 18 occurs in the first unit to the south side of the river. A majority of the reported harvest for the winter season that occurs by residents of Unit 19 occurs on the -- up past that area and probably very little of it occurs, if any, on Federal land.

16

17 It appears there have not been specific moose survey conducted in that area. The State biologist may have some additional information to add to this when I'm finished, but there haven't been specific moose surveys conducted on this area we're talking about on the Lower Kuskokwim that are comparable from one year to the next. So most of the information we have is incidental or casual observation type of data. It would appear that the moose population is moderate in that area and that there may be a slight growth occurring in the moose populations in that area.

27

28 Winter harvest over that area is relatively small, it's probably not significant to the overall harvest. The overall harvest, the total harvest for all of that area generally, reported harvest again, is somewhere in the vicinity of 150 to 200 animals with the low harvest in the last five years being 108 animals. And, again, this is reported harvest. And this is total harvest for the fall and the winter season. The winter harvest is a percentage of that and it's been variable, but generally we're talking about a small number of animals, possibly as many as 20 animals or so during the winter harvest.

38

39 In that first area where the majority of Federal land occurs on the left hand side of your map, on the National Wildlife Refuge land, 10 years of reported harvest data would indicate that we have a reported harvest of approximately 24 moose in 10 years. So even if we double that number we're talking about 50 moose in 10 years, so we're talking about five moose a year in that subunit, that minor unit, on Federal lands, possibly, if all the harvest occurred on Federal lands.

47

48 And, again, at this point the only deviation we have between what the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta has passed and your
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proposals is that January 1 through 10 season. Now, as far as reported harvest during that January 1 through 10 season, that regulation for the January season has been in effect, I believe, this is the third year. We've got a reported harvest of one moose, I have some indication there may be one other moose that was harvested that's non-reported. There could be significantly more moose harvested that are not reported during that period and I do not have that information. But it would appear that the harvest is fairly small during that period of time.

10

11 I can answer questions if you have questions. I have lots and lots of information, but most of it is not directly pertinent to, I think, the decision you're making now.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I've got a question. If we went with their recommendations they would end up with three winter seasons? November, January and February 1 through 10.

18

19 MR. GUENTHER: Yes.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Did they discuss at their meeting at all regarding that January for either of the other winter seasons?

23

24 MR. GUENTHER: No, not really. Earlier the discussion had been that the November season was not a season that they felt was viable option. And the reason they felt for that is because the snow conditions and ice conditions were not safe for winter travel. In fact, at their earlier meeting they brought up the safety factor for the November season for the major reason they rejected it initially. They said, the people that do travel, it's a risk to them because there's lots of open water and thin ice. And, of course, the river is frozen up at that point and so you -- boat travel is out of the questions for most years, at least. So they felt that basically a November season was a moot point as far as they were concerned.

36

37 Looking at harvest data, and I have actually villages of -- this is again reported harvest and I have villages of residents for where people lived when they took moose in November. The November harvest is nearly exclusively, with one or two exceptions, a harvest by the residents of Unit 19, basically Aniak and some from Kalskag. It would appear that probably people are getting out in the more immediate vicinity around their village at that time because of travel conditions and occasionally taking a moose. The reported harvest, at least, is very small. For a 10 year harvest it's very, very small. Like half a page, I think there was something like maybe 48 moose. And I could go back and tell you exactly, but it was a very small number over 10 years during a November season.

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1
2 That's about -- I have -- again, you know, I can answer
more questions relative to that if you want, but that's it in a
 nutshell.

5
6 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I have a question. How long has
the November season been in effect?

8
9 MR. GUENTHER: I really can't answer that specifically.
10 We eliminated the November season two or three years ago when
11 the Board acted on setting up that January season. The
12 individual that came in and testified was a resident, and I
13 can't remember which community, came in and testified requesting
14 a January season. At that time the Federal Board basically was
15 opposed to it, but with continued discussion from the individual
16 the individual said that he felt that local people would be
17 willing to give up the November season for the January season.
18 And so the Board agreed that that was a viable option.

19
20 The State did have a November season at that time and I
21 really don't know how long it was prior to that. Possibly Jack
22 could tell you that specifically.

23
24 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, that was November
25th through November 30 on

26
27 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, please.

28
29 MR. WHITMAN: Just to answer that question, Mr.
30 Chairman. For the record, I'm Jack Whitman with Alaska
31 Department of Fish & Game, it was November 20th through November
32 30th, so an 11 day season in 1980.

33
34 MR. COLLINS: Has that been eliminated? Is that still
35 on? So that two State seasons then?

36
37 MR. WHITMAN: Yes.

38
39 MR. COLLINS: November and February.

40
41 MR. WHITMAN: The remainder of 19(A), this area in
42 discussion has a September 1 through 20 fall season, November
43 20th through November 30th and February 1 through 10.

44
45 MR. GUENTHER: So, Mr. Chair, in reality ever since the
46 January season was put into place, several years ago in the
47 Federal Board, there has really been three winter seasons in
48 place and there is right now.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Seems like too many season.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, that's interesting. I wish that
4 Morgan was here, but again for the record, if this hasn't been
5 read in, he said that having two winter moose season might put
6 too much strain on moose. We need to think of the future for
7 future generations. Should change the winter season for moose
8 (both State and Federal and have only moose season in January).
9 So the representative from that area, and I assume he's been
10 involved in discussion down there, would have recommended
11 reducing of those, but I don't know what his position is
12 relative to these issues. I don't know who he's speaking for.

13

14 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Henry.

17

18 MR. DEACON: I got two questions on this time table,
19 amount of moose taking and cow moose taking, but there's not that
20 says there's that many moose in that area, in Unit 19. And it's
21 hard for me to say it's okay to hunt this year without those
22 numbers. To make decisions on how much moose should be taken in
23 those areas without that number, because we're looking at
24 something that's for about -- you know, moose population. So
25 those are the questions I have. And if we do have a moose
26 season in that Kuskokwim area, I cannot speak for, but cow
27 season in winter that's not too wise to me.

28

29 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair, and, Mr. Deacon, I guess the
30 answer I would have to give to that is we don't really have any
31 really good data on what the population is in that area. The
32 information -- it would appear that the population is a moderate
33 population for the available habitat, probably could be a higher
34 population. It also appears that the population probably is
35 slightly growing.

36

37 Looking at harvest data, the actual number of hunters
38 in the area, people coming into the area to hunt has declined
39 slightly during the last 10 year period, where the harvest has
40 remained relatively constant. We could infer from that that
41 fewer hunters are still taking the same number of moose, so that
42 would also tend to indicate that the moose population is, at
43 least, stable or growing slight. Again, this is an inference
44 and it's not an absolute relative to that.

45

46 Again, Jack may have something that he would like to
47 add to that, but I think probably that's a fairly good picture
48 of what we understand about the biology there.

49

50

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1 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I think Conrad has
 2 done a good job of describing the situation down there. I think
 3 his point that there's very little Federal land that's generally
 4 hunted, especially during the winter seasons, there's very
 5 little winter hunting anyway, or at least winter harvest.
 6 Reported harvests are considerably lower than suspected total
 7 harvests. The moose populations down there below the Kolmakoff
 8 and Holakuk Drainages is quite a bit reduced over what is above
 9 those drainages. The habitat is not quite as good and moose
 10 populations are near as healthy.

11

12 As Conrad mention, too, I don't have a annual trend
 13 count that I do down in that area, I do one farther up in the
 14 Holitna where the hunting pressure is quite bit higher. Most of
 15 the harvest out of Subunit 19(A) comes out of the Holitna. But
 16 down there in that lower area moose populations are quite a bit
 17 lower. I think they are relatively low in comparison to the
 18 available habitat. In other words, the habitat isn't as good as
 19 upstream areas, but it can handle much more moose than is
 20 currently there.

21

22 With increased cow harvests, if this does lead to
 23 increased cow harvests, I think Herman Morgan has reiterated
 24 also that that's probably not a good idea down there, there's a
 25 potential for higher moose populations. Increased taking of
 26 cows during the winter would probably negate the possibilities
 27 of that population increasing to its capacity.

28

29 One other point. You had a question earlier on Herman
 30 Morgan's -- whether he was representing -- or who he was
 31 representing, if he has discussed these things. We had a
 32 meeting, Fish & Game Advisory Council meeting in Sleetmute about
 33 days ago and this was discussed. Herman is the chairman of
 34 that Fish & Game Advisory Committee and this issue was
 35 discussed. One of the points that they brought up at that
 36 meeting, and I don't have the notes in front of me, but I do
 37 remember distinctly that they discussed the importance of no
 38 increases in cow moose harvests with the distinction of that
 39 Kolmakoff and Holakuk Drainage being cut off. They didn't want
 40 to see harvests of cow moose below that, downstream of that.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: And the Federal proposal that they
 43 approved, they were going to eliminate the cow harvest, is that
 44 right? So they went along with

45

46 MR. GUENTHER: Yes, that's correct. They agreed to go
 47 along with eliminating cow harvest on that lower section of the
 48 river.

49

50

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1 MR. COLLINS: But the State still allows it? There
 2 would have to be a proposal to change the State cow moose in the
 3 winter?

4
 5 MR. WHITMAN: Let me check. The State regulation in
 6 Unit 19(A) says: that portion of the Kuskokwim River upstream
 7 from, but not including the Kolmakoff and south of the Kuskokwim
 8 River upstream, but not including the Holakuk. So the State
 9 does make a distinction. One moose, however, antlerless moose
 10 may only be taken during February 1 through February 10th season
 11 in that upstream area.

12
 13 MR. COLLINS: Okay. So the early winter season they
 14 can harv- -- it's a bulls only and the February one you're
 15 allowed to harvest cows. And the boundaries sounds like they're
 16 in line with the way we proposed at our last meeting, which
 17 would be in line with the State using the Kolmakoff and those
 18 other rivers.

19
 20 MR. WHITMAN: Yes. And the current State regulations
 21 below the Kolmakoff and Holakuk there is no legal cow harvest
 22 under State regulations.

23
 24 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, to get this moving let me
 25 make and motion and then we can discuss that to see. I would
 26 move that we recommend for the Federal season that the November
 27 season be eliminated and that that January 1 to 10 be instituted
 28 and it be bulls only. And then they keep the February 1 to 10
 29 on Federal, too, but it would be a bulls only. I guess I would
 30 say we would keep the January 'cause that's on the books now for
 31 Federal, but that we would eliminate the November one and it
 32 would be bulls only.

33
 34 MR. DEACON: I second the motion.

35
 36 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's been moved and seconded.
 37 The change is to eliminated the November season on Federal lands
 38 to bulls only?

39
 40 MR. COLLINS: Eliminate that and retains the January
 41 and February, but bulls only.

42
 43 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Okay. It's a little bit
 44 confusing, but

45
 46 MR. WHITMAN: Mr. Chairman, may I make a comment?

47
 48 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

49
 50

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1 MR. WHITMAN: The November seasons were implemented by
 2 the State in response to requests by people. It's not used very
 3 much, there's very little harvest during the November season.
 4 And as Conrad pointed out, travel conditions are very poor. The
 5 Season was not implemented for -- to encourage people to travel
 6 in the area to hunt moose. It was enacted to allow some of the
 7 trappers that were already on site, up at their trapping cabins,
 8 to be able to take a moose earlier in the trapping season. And
 9 it wasn't designed to encourage people to travel long distances
 10 to come up and hunt moose. If I remember right, that's why the
 11 State seasons have that short November season. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's been moved and seconded to
 14 eliminate the November season and to keep the

15

16 MR. COLLINS: I guess I would say, would that impact
 17 trappers? Are there trappers on that Federal land there that
 18 elimination of the November would impact then?

19

20 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

23

24 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair, if I could comment. Even if
 25 the Federal -- as there is no Federal season now during the
 26 November season, there is still a State season in place. And so
 27 anybody can hunt under the State season on or off Federal land
 28 at this time within that area. And so even though the Federal
 29 season is not on the books, there is still a season available
 30 during that period for local residents.

31

32 To give you an idea of the take during the November
 33 season, this is 10 years of reported harvest taken in all of
 34 (A) for the November season. Even if you double that number
 35 it's a very small number of moose, it's just 27 moose in 10
 36 years as reported. So even if you double that number, triple
 37 it, we're talking about small numbers of moose being taken
 38 during that particular part of the season.

39

40 Also if I -- let me read exactly what the season dates
 41 are in the current Federal regulations. We have the September
 42 season, which is September 5 to 25; we have the January season,
 43 through 10; and we have a February season, 1 through 5, just
 44 to clarify.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Oh, then my motion is out of order
 47 because we don't have -- there's no November Federal season to
 48 eliminate. So I guess the motion would be to just retain the
 49 Federal season. Unless what this recommendation was from Herman

50

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was to be, to retain the January and close the February. Is that what the people want down there? I don't know.

3

4 I'm having a little trouble with it without knowing what the facts are. I know up here in the winter season there's very little hunting in the winter season. The harvest people just don't get out and so really often in that February 1 to 5, I mean, it might be 40 below at that time, so that's -- and the same with the January one up there, so it's probably not going to impact hunting. There's a chance that somebody's going to go out and get one for Russian Christmas, but it's probably not going to have any impact on the moose. Any noticeable, that's what I'm thinking. But I don't know the conditions down there, maybe they're different, maybe there would be more travel, but I just

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it might be worthwhile to look at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta proposal and remind you that this issue has been deferred twice by the Federal Subsistence Board to allow the two Councils to come to some kind of a compromise on this. And unless I missed something here, you're pretty darn close to a compromise with the two regions. So I would be very careful with the motion on the floor.

24

25 And that YK proposal is on the last page, under Tab 8.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: So what did the Yukon Delta Council propose?

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it's the very last page of Tab 8 that lists the actual proposal they adopted at their last meeting this October and they're submitting that to the Federal Subsistence Board. And I haven't been paying total close attention, so I apologize for covering the ground again, but essentially they are agreeing to adopt in the Federal regulation existing State regulation and add in the January 1 to 10th season. So your original proposal as amended last time was to adopt State regulations into Federal regulations, so we're at a compromise. Unless I'm missing something.

40

41 The only thing that is there is Herman Morgan's concerns and I caution you, the fact that there is a subsistence priority that is available, that's there, that exists and you're asking -- or Herman is asking to eliminate a season and I'm not sure there's a biological reason to eliminate that season. Again, I'm not a biologist, you have two here to ask on that. So I caution you on restricting a subsistence use without a biological justification. You still could go ahead and do that, but

50

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1
2 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair, a comment on that. Really
whether you propose to have a November Federal season or not
have a November Federal season, again, as I said before, it
really a moot point, since there is a November State season,
that season exists. And the only advantage to having a Federal
season during that time is a consistency between State and
Federal regulations. So, as Vince said, at this point the only
difference between the proposal with the amendment that you had
agreed upon as a Council last year and the YK Delta proposal is
this January 1 through 10 season.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll withdraw my motion
with concurrence of the second.

15
16 MR. DEACON: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

17
18 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motion withdrawn?

19
20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. And move that we accept the Yukon
Delta's proposal as stated here.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: So they would still have three
winter seasons?

25
26 MR. COLLINS: There would be three, but they would
conform with the State, except for that January 1 to 10 and I
don't think that January 1 to 10 is going to make much
difference. If it does, I think that that information can be
brought to us in the future and we can recommend elimination or
closure, if they don't do it.

32
33 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

34
35 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: That's bull only.

36
37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Huh? Bull only?

38
39 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: That's bull only on these.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: January 10th?

42
43 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: All of these is bull only. And
only -- and then a cow for (indiscernible - interrupted)

45
46 MR. COLLINS: The bulls only in the February one, five
days in February is the only cow season.

48
49 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh.

50

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1
2 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Ten days in February. They
3 increased it five.
4
5 MR. COLLINS: Oh, 1 to 10, okay, yeah, that's right,
6 it's an increase of five days in February.
7
8 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Antlerless only. Ten days for
9 antlerless.
10
11 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: What about January? Antlerless?
12
13 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: No, that's bull.
14
15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Bull only?
16
17 MR. COLLINS: January is bull only. February 1 to 10
18 yeah.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you're right, in the
21 Federal regs it's February 1 through the 5th. And the proposal
22 that the YK Delta has submitted it's February 1 through 10.
23
24 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: And that's antlerless?
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Right.
27
28 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yes.
29
30 MR. GUENTHER: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. Sharon, their
31 proposal would be antlerless only above those two drainages, the
32 Kolmakoff and the Holakuk Drainages, and so it would be bulls
33 only below that.
34
35 MR. COLLINS: Oh, so the lower would be bulls only.
36
37 MR. GUENTHER: Right, it would be the same regulation
38 as the State has at this time.
39
40 MR. COLLINS: Except the State is February 1 to 5 and
41 this is proposing February 1 to 10, right?
42
43 MR. GUENTHER: No.
44
45 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: No?
46
47 MR. COLLINS: Oh?
48
49 MR. GUENTHER: I'm sorry, you have a copy of the
50

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Federal regulations as they now exists.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Oh, I see, okay, okay. So adopting this
4 proposal brings us in line with the State, except for the
5 January 1 to 10?

6

7 MR. WHITMAN: Yes.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: And that would be a bulls only? So I
10 guess I'll let my motion stand.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: We have a motion on the floor to
13 adopt the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Advisory Proposal.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Has there been a second to that?

16

17 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: That's just a motion just now.
18 Is there a second?

19

20 MR. DEACON: I second it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's been moved and seconded to
23 adopt YK Delta Advisory Council proposal. Questions?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I need to make sure I
26 understand that you're asking us to submit a proposal exactly
27 the same as the YK Delta?

28

29 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.

32

33 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman, discussion.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Henry.

36

37 MR. DEACON: It says here one antlerless from February
38 10th and down below it's one moose, so there's two moose can be
39 taken there, huh?

40

41 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah. Cows only above this
42 Kolmakoff River.

43

44 MR. DEACON: Oh, I see.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: The bag limit is still one.

47

48 MR. DEACON: I sure question that cow harvest (ph).

49

50

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1 MR. COLLINS: Is that up in the Lime Village area where
the cow would be then, is that -- I mean, those rivers up --
it's only up

4

5 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, it's

6

7 MR. COLLINS: where there's a healthier
population of moose in the area that remains open, is that
right?

10

11 MR. WHITMAN: These regulations -- by State regulations
this takes out the Lime Village management area, so it doesn't
include that, but it's everything from -- maybe I could show you
on this map over here a little bit easier. The area in
question, 19(A) goes from Kalskag on up the river all the way up
to the mouth of the Swift, the confluence of the Swift and the
Kuskokwim. The Holakuk and the Kolmakoff are in this area right
in here. So everything up above, all of this area, would
include legal harvest of cow moose during the winter seasons.
Everything below the Holakuk and Kolmakoff, down here, would not
allow harvest of cows.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: During all the winter season or just
during the February 1 to 10?

25

26 MR. WHITMAN: No, just during the February season, the
way I understand it.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

30

31 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair, in addition to that, the back
page of -- in your book, and I don't know what page it is, has a
map that shows the area that would be affected by that cow
versus bull season.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any more discussion.

37

38 MR. DEACON: Call for the question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: The question has been called for.
All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign.

46

47 (No opposing responses)

48

49 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motions carries.

50

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1
2 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that brings us up to
3 Proposal 58.

4
5 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Could we have a 10 minute recess,
6 break?

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Sure.

9
10 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Okay, 10 minute recess.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Okay, I'll guess we'll get
17 started with our meeting again, so if everybody want to take
18 their seats, we'll get started with the meeting. We're on
19 Proposal 58.

20
21 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair, Proposal 58 was a proposal
22 that was presented last year. I'll read the proposal. The
23 proposal said: to prohibit moose hunting within half mile of
24 the river corridor in Unit 21(E) during the February 1 through
25 26 season. So only dealing with the February season in 21(E)
26 within a half mile of the river corridor.

27
28 When your Council met last spring you had voted to
29 accept this proposal. This proposal had been originally
30 proposed to the State by local people, the State had adopted
31 this proposal, it's in State regulation, and then the State
32 proposed it to the Federal Board that we adopt a half mile
33 regulation to have a consistency between State and Federal
34 regulations.

35
36 Now, again, this is one of those proposals that when
37 the Federal Board looked at it they realized there was a c&t
38 determination for one village in Unit 18, that's Russian
39 Mission. And that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Council had not reviewed
40 this proposal, so they felt that it was imperative that that
41 Council, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Council, also have an opportunity
42 to review this before they acted on it. So last spring the
43 Federal Board deferred action on this until the Yukon Council
44 could meet -- the Yukon-Kuskokwim Council could meet.

45
46 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council met and their
47 commendation to the Board on this proposal was that they would
48 not accept the proposal, that the half mile restriction imposed
49 too much restriction on people coming up in Unit 18 to hunt.
50

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And that most of the moose were along the corridor and that was access was available to them. And so we had a conflict between your Council and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Council at that point.

4

5 The Board, then, met again in their summer session and took the same action that it had taken with the previous proposal we discussed, that the two Councils get together and come up with a concurrence. Again, unfortunately, that did not happen. At the last meeting that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta had they did not take action on this specific proposal, their debate ended up a discussion of the previous proposal we talked about and they took no additional action on this.

13

14 From a biological perspective, and again I have lots of data, but just to give you this very briefly. The proposal that's in your booklet and again I don't know exactly where it's located, that one has a couple of maps in it so you know what we're talking about. There's this map that basically shows the communities involved along the river and then on the back side of 20 there's a map that just shows that section of the river corridor and approximate locations of Federal land. Now, again, this is not exactly accurate, but it's fairly close, to give you an indication.

24

25 Somewhere between six and 10 percent of the land along the river corridor falls within Federal land. In reality, the moose -- the major moose concentration along the river falls in an area, and I'm sorry this map is inaccurate. This map shows the Innoko River coming in the Yukon River down by Paimuit, in reality it comes into the Yukon River down by Holy Cross. Up near Holy Cross the Innoko River actually does come into the Yukon River there's a high moose concentration area and large numbers of moose have been counted there on a regular basis.

34

35 We can make the assumption that a large percentage of the harvest probably occurs through that large concentration area. To give you an idea of what kind of a harvest we're talking about I pulled up five years of harvest data and actually since that time I pulled up 10 additional years of harvest data. But during the last five years, and it's representative of the full 10 year period. And there's a chart in the proposal that breaks this out. February harvest have ranged from zero to 10 animals, and again, this is reported harvest. We can probably, at least, double this number as the actual harvest. The highest reported harvest was in 1988-89 season, actually in February of 1989 and that was 10 animals and the lowest was the next year, which was zero, again, reported.

48

49 Also I want to make one additional comment. Basically
50

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all of the harvest data we have is based on State harvest data. In other words, the State collects the information and I'm just pulling it together into a central point and also population data, for the most part, all of the population data I've presented so far is all State data. And even though I failed to mention in the past, it's just an oversight on my part. On other proposals I'll try to indicate if it's State harvest data specifically or if it's combined State/Federal data, but for the most part all of the data that's available on big game is State data. And so even though I'm presenting it to you and I've consolidated it and done some analysis of this data, I'm working primarily with State data.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I didn't get a chance to brief Conrad on the action of what the YK Delta did, but they did take up 58 at their October meeting, so I don't know if you want that now.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

20

21 MR. GUENTHER: Go ahead.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. On October 4th they took it up and they maintained their Council's earlier opposition to defer Proposal 58. Their justification, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Advisory Council opposed the proposal to prohibit moose hunting within one half mile of the Yukon River during the February season in Unit 21(E) because it would be difficult to determine in the field where the one half mile distance from the Yukon is. This would result in confusion amongst subsistence users, resulting in potential citation for subsistence users hunting in their traditional ways.

33

34 The Council also believes their tradition of respecting wildlife and their cultural beliefs will protect the moose population present along the Yukon River during the February season. And in addition the Council could find no biological reason to restrict subsistence use of moose along the Yukon River. That passed with the majority vote.

40

41 MR. GUENTHER: Thank you, Vince. I'm sorry that I did not have that information when I made my presentation.

43

44 In addition for biological information I pulled up the residents of reported harvest and during the February season of reported harvest there was not one reported harvest from Russian Mission. Now, there may be an error to this in actually reported harvest because as you can see this is a residency of harvest and, by the way, this is 10 years of reported harvest

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data for the area that encompasses that half mile corridor. This is actually a much larger area than just a half mile corridor, but this is the Yukon River corridor and this area actually extends back up as much as 10 miles or more from the river. So this includes more harvest area than that.

6

7 There were approximately 70 moose harvested over a 10
8 year period that were reported. A majority of the moose that
9 are harvested during that February season are harvested by
10 residents of Unit 21(E) and there's very little outside harvest.
11 There is some harvest of Unit 18. And as I mentioned there
12 were no harvest reports of Russian Mission, but there are a
13 number of places where either the person did not put down the
14 place of residence or the person that was keying it into the
15 computer file could not read it and so deleted it. So we have a
16 number of blanks and those could be Russian Mission reports that
17 just haven't been put into it.

18

19 From a biological perspective, the moose population is
20 during the February season there's a fairly large number of
21 moose in the area. The area has an overall moderate moose
22 concentration. Probably the harvest that occurs during February
23 is not significant to have any significant impact on holding the
24 population down or causing the population not to be able to
25 increase. Of course, any harvest has some significance on
26 populations, but this is probably not of a statistical
27 significance on the population.

28

29 If the State has anything else to contribute to that or
30 if you have any questions I'll be glad to answer those.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Jack.

33

34 MR. WHITMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, again, agree
35 with just about everything Conrad mentioned on this again. One
36 point I would like to make as far as the November moose surveys
37 that I conduct over there. Conrad mentioned that it is moderate
38 moose populations and I think that's probably an accurate
39 depiction for the broad area. However, the river corridor,
40 itself, from -- basically from the area up around Deer Hunting
41 Slough and Paradise on down to the 21-18 border, along that
42 riparian corridor does have moose densities -- some of the
43 highest moose densities in the state in November. It's in
44 the magnitude of what is seen at Three Days Slough. Moose densities
45 wintering moose densities or November moose densities right
46 along the river in the neighborhood of 15 moose per square mile.
47 It's pretty dense moose population.

48

49 Deer Hunting Slough on this map is about -- oh, I think

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it's about half way between what's marked on this map between Paradise and Holy Cross, it's on the west side of the river here. So there are relatively high densities of moose right along the river corridor, wintering densities. Other than that I have no comments -- no further comments on what Conrad gave you.

7

8

CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Thank you.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I notice in the statement from before it says: Alaska Department of Fish & Game stated that incidental observations along the Yukon River corridor indicated that the population of moose is declining. If adopted this regulation would help keep the moose season consistent in 25(E) and 21(D). I don't know what the source of that was, maybe it was the Galena meeting that was from someone further up river.

18

MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, it's only hearsay where that information comes from. That was presented during the year that I was absent from here. And in my estimation, based on the composition and trend count areas that have been conducted four times between -- basically, every other year, 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1992, and hopefully here within the next three weeks I'll be over there again to get a little better update. But from those indications -- well, to put it succinctly, out of the 12 composition trend count areas that I do in this area every year, this is the highest moose per hour and highest density of moose that I count. There's been no real trend indication that there's a downward trend at all.

30

31

The data are kind of tough to interpret. From the table here that Conrad here put together you see the 1987, 89 and 90 data looks like a tremendous increase in total moose observed. It goes from 570 in 1987 up to 583 in '89, which is not much of an increase, but up in 1990 up to 658 moose. The 1992 data, there were a total of 483 moose, so if you just look at total moose observed it looks like we saw a dramatic decline between 1990 and 1992. However, those have to be tempered with the amount of count time, moose per hour figures, bounce around considerably and these trend counts, again, I should reiterate, are dependent quite a bit on levels of snow. If the snow is heavy, there's going to be a tremendous concentration of moose there.

44

45

A better thing to look at is trends in some of the ratios, bull/cow ratios and calf/cow ratios, and those have not dramatically dropped showing any definite trends. Again, it'll be real important to get in there this year and look at those trends. And I do plan on being over there sometime in the next

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three weeks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any more discussion on 58?

4

5 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Henry.

8

9 MR. DEACON: Why is it it's only the Innoko River, I
mean, the Yukon River is half mile from the river bank not the
Innoko River?

12

13 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman and Henry. I'm not
sure why that was only -- under State regulation it was only
along the Yukon. I do remember discussions that came out of the
CASH Fish & Game Advisory Committee, the Grayling, Anvik,
Shageluk, Holy Cross Fish & Game Advisory Committee, that there
were tremendous numbers of snowmachines coming up from down
river during the winter seasons and shooting moose right along
the river and they were pushing a lot of the moose off of those
good food areas that are ice scoured on an annual basis,
providing good moose habitat.

23

So they wanted to, at least, right along the Yukon have
that half mile corridor to try to keep massive numbers of snow
machines from pushing the moose out the real good habitats into
marginal habitats. I think that originally why that proposal
was put in. I'm not sure why the Innoko -- the Lower Innoko
River wasn't included in that.

29

30 MR. DEACON: Well, the moose, you know, they're along
the river for -- that's where they live, eat the willows, that's
where the willows are.

33

34 MR. WHITMAN: Sure.

35

36 MR. DEACON: So that's the reason, I guess. But I'd
like to see -- include the Innoko River on that too. And I have
questions -- I don't know, it might be off, but this is only for
February, but I see them on the Federal land, you know, there's
all seasons, it should be shorten, those seasons, because a lot
of high power boats are going in those rivers and, you know, who
knows how much moose they take and what kind of moose they take.

43

44 That's been going on for the last four or five years in
Shageluk area and going up the Innoko River, the coast people
with high powered boats. And so I'd like to see this Board here
recommend some regulation control on boats and how they should
hunt. Because it's very -- it's not a very good way, you know,
the local people are complaining about that stuff. So I'd like

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to see, if it's not too wrong here to recommend that fall season be shortened from August 20th to September 5th maybe. Because if they want to get moose, those local people, they know how to get it.

5

6 See in the fall time when moose always trying to run around and then outsiders come in and take those moose. Especially those boats, those high powered boats that's going in there, I'd like to see that changed. I was told by Anvik before I came there that they wanted meeting next week in Anvik about this boat going fishing -- I mean, moose hunting in those areas.

12

13 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair. Henry, the only response I can make to your statements at this point is for the most part we really don't have the kind of data we would have to make -- to make a decision about those change of the season, we'd have to look at that, but I think that you bring up a good point. It's extremely important that people report harvest and I think you know, you, as a Council, are making recommendations to the Board on changing the season.

21

22 And the best that we can do is present the best harvest data we have and that the State has and that's primarily based on people reporting harvest. When people don't report harvest we really don't know what's being taken. If everybody was reporting harvest it would be much easier for you to make decisions on these things and we could present much better information to you.

29 So I think it's important that each one of you try to promote more and better reporting of harvest, so that there is better information available for you to make decisions.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Also, Mr. Chairman, if I understand Henry's discussion there, he's talking about changing a season to 21(E), correct?

36

37 MR. DEACON: (Nods head affirmative)

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: This meeting is set up to draft proposals, if this Council so desires, to take that action, so don't lose sight of that option. And that would kick into what he was saying that when the proposal goes into the process they have to do a full analysis on what data exists on that. So you have the option, Henry, to either -- probably now or later in the agenda, to ask for the Council support to draft a proposal to change the season, or whatever you were trying to do.

47

48 I would have to consult with quite a few staff if we're going to deal with boat or horse motor restriction, I would have

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to huddle with quite a few people on that one if we're going to attempt that, but we could still do that. But I just want to make it clear to Henry you have the option of soliciting the Council to draft a proposal. You also have the options as an individual to submit a proposal. Thank you.

6

7 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Angela.

10

11 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: On the Innoko River they're getting a higher amount of hunters going up the Innoko. Holy Cross Corporation is Deloicheet. Deloicheet has closed all their lands to all non-share holders, That means the down river people, those with big, fancy, high powered boats have to go further up. Now, Zho-tse, which is a Shageluk corporation has joined in with Deloicheet in closing their lands to outside, non-members to hunt in their lands. So now the hunters are going further up off of Zho-tse land.

20

21 And when we have the big, high powered boats coming up they do disturb the waters. Always over on the Innoko I know. When I first started going up the Innoko you could go drifting down the river, you know, taking your time, taking a break. You would look down into the water and you could a long ways in the water. Now you don't. The water is dirty. When you used to go into the Innoko, when you got to the point called Railroad City the water was clean, not no more. You got to go further in, another five or eight miles in, the water changes color now. There's been a lot of disturbance in the Innoko by the high powered boats and some of it might be the mining coming out of that, we're not sure, but the waters are changing there.

33

34 MR. WHITMAN: My observations on that is what comes down the Iditarod seems to be clean, so I imagine your point on the disturbance -- wake disturbance by boats has probably increased. Just increased number of boats increases back erosion, silting in the river more.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, from what I've heard so far I think would have to stay with our original position of supporting this proposal. The reason being the data indicates based on the data that the major users of this for subsistence purposes are the residents of that area, Holy Cross, and that. That only showed one harvest from Russian Mission. I don't think they've established that they've had a long term traditional or at least that their's is in proportion of the ones up above.

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1 And it's the local subsistence users that are asking
 2 for the closure to protect the resource and I think we should go
 3 along with that. And I would guess that those local people
 4 aren't confused about what a half mile is, they know that
 5 country better and would know what was closed and opened. And
 6 unless the lower river people can establish they've got a
 7 traditional winter subsistence use of that area and show by their
 8 harvest data that they had harvested up there that we should go
 9 with the recommendation of the local people. That's all I can
 10 do at this point.

11

12 I think this is an example where hunting habits are
 13 changing and we're now calling customary and traditional
 14 something that was not customary and traditional. The fact that
 15 there weren't any winter season, the fall season is an open
 16 season and they're going up there now, but now that the winter
 17 seasons are established they're extending their hunting to new
 18 areas with snowmachines. And I think that's going to lead to
 19 just more conflict in the future. And since this is meant to
 20 protect the resource asked for by local people, I'd have to go
 21 along with that. That's my comment.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you may want to share,
 24 what's up to you, that you had a conversation with the Chair of
 25 the Advisory Committee of Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy
 26 Cross, the conversation this morning, you may want to share that
 27 information with the Council. And I don't know what, I'm
 28 assuming he was speaking as the Chair of Committee and not as an
 29 individual, but I thought they -- what was their feelings on
 30 Proposal 58?

31

32 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I talked to Ken Chase, the Chair
 33 of the GASH Committee and they were more or less confused about what
 34 the proposal was all about. And I told him it was to prohibit
 35 the taking of moose within one half mile of the Yukon River
 36 during the February hunt. And I told him that there's some
 37 reasons from further down river that were opposed to it and I
 38 thought that the majority of residents up river weren't very
 39 much in favor of it for the protection of the future of moose
 40 population.

41

42 Because the same situation occurs in my area right now
 43 where we have moose is off limits within a half mile of the
 44 Yukon River and it works pretty well. You know, everybody in
 45 that area knows what a half a mile is and they pretty much have
 46 no problem with it, so I think it would just be probably a
 47 matter of time before they figure out what a half a mile is.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: So you're saying that

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1
2 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: So Ken didn't have any opposition
3 to it, you know.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: So you're saying the GASH Chair,
6 Mr. Chase was in support of 58, then?

7
8 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: He said he didn't mind either
9 way, you know.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.

12
13 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Conrad.

16
17 MR. GUENTHER: Just for to insure clarification. My
18 analysis of it, from purely a biological perspective, it does
19 not appear that harvest during February on the corridor, within
20 the half mile corridor, has a significant biological impact on
21 the moose population. I just wanted to make that clear that
22 that's my analysis on it.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: So you're saying it doesn't
25 impact moose population?

26
27 MR. GUENTHER: Not significantly from all of the
28 information that we have at this time. That would be my
29 analysis on it. I guess I can't speak for Jack.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, as far as I'm aware it has
32 an impact because a few years ago before the law was on the book
33 prohibiting hunting within a half a mile, you know, there was a
34 lot less moose. But now there's seems to be a pretty heavy
35 population right now in the wintertime, so I think it helps.

36
37 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, if I could. I think
38 in terms of number of moose harvested, I agree with Conrad,
39 probably doesn't affect the moose population taking a few
40 more bulls. The February harvest is relatively low. In terms
41 of other impacts on the moose population, things are a little
42 bit more difficult to measure. I think it does impact.

43
44 Again, going back to the original reason for this half
45 mile -- one of the original reasons for the half mile
46 restriction is when there's an awful lot of traffic, and not
47 just snowmachines running back and forth, but if there is
48 traffic as well as shooting and killing moose right along the
49 corridor, the moose are going to step off that corridor into
50

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marginal habitats and it's probably not healthy to push them back into habitats that are not quite as good. Let them be out there where the ice has scoured the banks every year and it's a good productive habitat.

5

6 And so in that respect I think it probably does impact the moose if there's -- the more activity right along the river in the winter, the more those moose are going to back off the river. If the hunting is a half mile off the river that may encourage moose to get back on the river, which I think is good.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: You have a question back there?

13

14 MR. DENTON: I'd like to make a comment. My name is Jeff Denton, I'm with the BLM. In support of what Jack said there's been several studies done in Alaska, but in the Lower 48 relative to snowmachine traffic and moose response. And most of those studies indicate, even without shooting, snowmachine traffic even on highly controlled traffic lane of snowmachines, moose will abandon areas.

21

22 This is well document by Brocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the study went on there for several years. It was very well documented, the moose had moved, in some cases, several miles to get away from the disturbance. And there are other studies in Montana and other studies, I believe, in Wyoming as well that indicate the same thing. Animals will tolerate certain levels of traffic for a certain amount of time and then they back out of it. They do go to marginal habitats, it does potentially affect the calf crop the next year. The females are on a substandard diets, they may have only have one surviving calf instead of two. Or maybe even none or the calves will be born too light to survive.

34

35 So those are kind of indirect impacts, but you need to be aware of those things because snowmachine traffic, I feel, in Alaska is potentially one of the biggest impacts we're going to have on game animals up here. And it's not really well recognized yet, but these animals are going to behave similar to the same critters elsewhere.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43

44 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Henry.

47

48 MR. DEACON: I don't know, I question, I mean, I don't really agree with that, that snow traveling will move the moose

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back further because of snow travel. They want to stay where there's willows on the river, that's common sense. The moose will live around where they can eat better. They're not going to go back into where the trees are, ain't nothing to eat there. So this one half mile stuff is -- I think that's a good idea for winter hunting in that area. So I would stand with that, you know, it's a good idea to me.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Just to elaborate a little bit on this. I travel between Koyukuk and Nulato approximately 40-50 time per winter, snowmachine. I see a lot of moose and the moose seem to know that this is a protected area so they pretty well hang out there quite a bit. A snowmachine doesn't bother them at all. I've had lot of times where, you know, they wouldn't get out of the way, you know. So I doubt if the snowmachines really are that big of a problem.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: Because they're not hunted you think, huh?

20

21 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah. So I feel a lot better when we have some kind of a protective area for them. And they seem to know that too. Yeah.

24

25 MR. MERRITT: Ed Merritt, Innoko Refuge. I just have a question or a clarification. Jack, you said something that confused me a minute ago. Something you said led me to believe that you think the February season is bulls only? As I read it it is either sex. Did you say that or did I misunderstand you?

30

31 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, to answer that question, if I might. Yeah, if I said that that was in error. Hopefully you misunderstood, because it is either sex.

34

35 MR. MERRITT: Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, you have a question, Carl?

38

39 MR. JERUE: Mr. Chairman, after hearing Ray comment on they have not proven to us this is their customary and traditional use, so just by that statement I do have to support this half mile. After traveling in this Unit 21(E) this past fall, in August and September, I went from Anvik, Grayling, Hageluk, Holy Cross and back to Anvik. I counted three moose and something like 10 boats, so there is a lot of traffic.

46

47 I can see the point made by this half mile restriction. From what we see down in Anvik is when you do disturb the moose they are stampeding, they're running. When they do that the

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Young calves get hurt in the process, break their leg. It breaks them apart, too, they stick together for not only the feeding areas, but for safety reasons because of the influence of the number of wolves in the area, which has been increasing.

5

6 So there's a couple of things to consider in this half a mile. As we all know that people, Natives, living all their lives in these areas know what half a mile is, there is no question, they know where they are in a blizzard, so by them stating that it would be difficult to determine half a mile, I think that's a little understated there.

12

13 So I do support the half mile restricted area. And I do -- would like to state from the travel I made this fall, I've been hearing a lot of concerns from local -- from each village about the large number of boats coming up from down river. It is going -- the population of moose is going to decline. It is already declining already in my point of view. I don't think they have an argument on this proposal, legitimate argument. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Thank you. Any further discussion on Proposal 58?

24

25 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Henry.

28

29 MR. DEACON: I don't know if this is the right thing to say, but, you know, talking about hunting. What I'm thinking about now is wolf and bears that kill all the young moose in springtime and during the winter. I know it's not this kind of subject, but I'd like to see that control on Federal land. Fish and Wildlife should have control, you know, the wolf population of the area of Federal lands. And also the bears. You know, they take a lot of animals, those bears.

37

38 There's 50 wolves, that's a moose a week, maybe, or more. So that's something to really consider on those Federal lands to have control over those, whatever, wolves. And bears in springtime. Those are really serious things to think about. I know I'm off the subject with this thing, but I brought it up because that's been concerned with me for many years. I live in that area and I see. In springtime when I went across (ph), I see a lot of moose been killed by wolves, they just lay there and crows come along and eat there. And there's a lot of wolves on the Yukon and they're on Federal land.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Thank you, Henry.

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1
2 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a motion that we
3 go on record as continuing to support Proposal 58 for the reason
4 stated in this session here.

5
6 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: There's a motion on the floor to
7 adopt or to continue supporting Proposal 58 as it is.

8
9 MR. DEACON: I second the motion.

10
11 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's been moved and seconded to
12 continue supporting Proposal 58 to prohibit moose hunting within
13 one half mile of the Yukon River during the February 1 through
14 season in Unit 21(E). Questions?

15
16 MR. DEACON: Discussion on that. I still question that
17 half mile in that Federal land area and when there's only on the
18 Yukon. I'd like to see that on the Innoko River too.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: The way to deal with that, then, would be
21 to come in with a proposal to extend it. See, what we're doing
22 we're discussing proposals. If somebody would just draw up a
23 proposal and we would propose that. Then it would be published
24 and then it would be discussed at the next meeting.

25
26 MR. DEACON: Okay, that's good.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any more discussion on the
29 proposal 58? Hearing none. All in favor of the motion signify
30 saying aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign.

35
36 (No opposing responses)

37
38 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motion passes.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us back to --
41 we can either go ahead into new business or if we have an update
42 on the Subsistence Recourse Commission appointments, and I'm not
43 sure we do yet. We can go on into new business and proceed.
44 And I've been noting that Henry Deacon may have a couple of
45 proposals to present. So it's up to you which way you want to
46 go. We may have an update on the SRC appointments, if not,
47 we'll go on to the new business which has agency reports.

48
49 MR. RABINOWITCH: I have a partial.

50

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1
2 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we have a partial update on the SRC
3 or Subsistence Resource Commission appointment, if you want to
4 cover that now.

5
6 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, we can do that.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That would be

9
10 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with the
11 National Park Service. The partial update I have, and I'll work
12 to get the rest for you, is the following. That the charter,
13 your charter provides for you to make an appointment to the
14 Gates of the Arctic Committee, but not the other two, not Lake
15 Clark and Denali. And on those other two, the charter does
16 allow you to make recommendations, so that's the distinction.
17 Appointment versus recommendation.

18
19 The one appointment, I think you already heard this
20 morning, was made. And the part that I don't know, and will
21 work to follow up on, is that is a response to the
22 recommendations, to those other recommendations that you've
23 made. So I'll keep trying to get the answer to that and we'll
24 get it to you, one way or another.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Because, Mr. Chairman, your
27 recommendations were to the Governor to appoint certain
28 individuals or a representative from the community to that. And
29 you know, the Governor appoints, the Regional Councils
30 appoint, and the Federal Government appoint people to the
31 commissions.

32
33 I think that covers as much as we can on that and we
34 can proceed into agency reports, if you want, or what's your
35 wishes?

36
37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Okay, yeah, we can do that.
38 Federal and State agency reports. National Park Service first.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, we do have a person
41 who just kind of arrived late or on time depending on the
42 weather, I do have some other information that maybe Hollis can
43 clarify, but I received from Gates of the Arctic, and I
44 discussed it with your former coordinator, David James, and it
45 seems to be a new issue, so let me review that. It is a Park
46 Service issue that was brought up. The Gates of the Arctic --
47 May, are you on the Gates of the Arctic?

48
49 MR. COLLINS: No, Denali.

50

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1
 2 MR. MATHEWS: You're on Denali. Okay. Anyway, it's
 Pollock, I apologize. Anyway, the Gates of the Arctic
 Subsistence Resource Commission requests for Region 6 and 10, 6
 is your region, the Western Interior, 10 is the North Slope.
 6 The boundary adjustment in the vicinity of Anaktuvuk
 Pass in an effort to keep the entire traditional use area of the
 Community in the North Slope region.

9
 10 Let's see. The way I understand it now is that the
 Park Service has met with the residents or elders of Anaktuvuk
 Pass and active trappers to mark a map. One copy was lost to
 that, but another map was generated and was passed on to the
 Subsistence office in Anchorage. They're hoping to have that
 map presented to the Federal Subsistence Board on November 14th.

16
 17
 18 That's the full information that I know, but
 essentially, if you look at your map, either your small one or
 the large one on the wall, there would some adjustment on the
 northern boarder of Region 6 that goes east and west to move
 that south to cover the traditional use area of the Anaktuvuk
 Pass community. I was informed, and maybe you can verify this,
 that Region 6, your region, Region 8, which is Northwest and
 Region 10, North Slope, were informed and in agreement on making
 this change.

27
 28 I couldn't find any information to that effect. I
 think there may be some confusion when you were talking about a
 Proposal Number 59. Last year you were talking about some
 regulations that needed to change boundaries of where people
 could hunt, but not the boundaries of the region or boundaries
 of the game management unit. So we may need to -- if you want
 further discussion, may need to get a few more people up here.

35
 36 And that's the issue there and they wanted to inform
 you that Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
 will be trying to meet again in early December in Shungnak or
 Fairbanks. And the last thing we already confirmed is Pollock
 Simon is serving as your appointment to the Gates of the Arctic
 and it's too bad that Pollock isn't here because I think he
 would know more about this request from the SRC to change that
 regional boundary.

44
 45 That's it that I can share with you. There is a letter
 here from Raymond Paneak of Anaktuvuk Pass to Debra Williams,
 Chairperson of the Federal Subsistence Board, asking for the
 boundary change. And there's a letter from Ron McCoy, Interim
 Chair for the Federal Subsistence Board, that they have received
 50

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the letter and that they were forwarding it to the Office of Subsistence Management for analysis and comment. To be honest with you, I'm at a lost to tell where you plug into this, but

5

6 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I have a question on that. You mentioned the Chairs of the Federal Board. I think Willie Hensley is the Chair of that Board.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, these are earlier letters.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, okay.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: This was a letter of April 8th, 1994 and that's why it was sent to Debra Williams, I think that was a mistake to send it to Debra at that time, I don't think she was I don't think she's ever been the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board. And then the April 27th letter to the Chairperson of the Subsistence Resource Commission was from Ron McCoy and was Interim Chair. Right now, that's correct that Mr. Willie Hensley is the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board.

23 And I think David may have some more to talk about.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Dave.

26

27 MR. JAMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair, just to clarify a few points, but not solve your problem. First of all there's also another member of your Council that's on that SRC and the Jack and I think he's either the Governor or Secretary appointee, I don't know which. So you have two people that are on that SRC.

32

33 Second of all, don't get confused, there are two separate issues. What you all dealt with last year at the last meeting had to do with the division of authority to make appointments to the SRC, as you recall. And what they're talking about now appears to be a completely -- not a new, a different issue. Okay? So what I suspect is what's going to happen is you'll probably be dealing with this at the spring meeting. There may be a formal proposal, perhaps, by then or something. But I'm not clear on that.

42

43 But I just wanted to reemphasize two different things. You all did not deal with the boundary issue last year. It was just that SRC appointment thing. This boundary issue, you could consider that to be a new issue for your business.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: There was a boundary issue in one of the proposals, was there not? Was it on some hunt or something?

50

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And we did adjust. I remember we were looking at the map and finding out where that would be.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: What was that?

7

8 MR. JAMES: Yeah, that was a proposal that had to do with moose, moose seasons, moose hunting.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Okay, so it's a completely different -- well, it's not the same boundary as their proposing -- I mean, it's not

16

17 MR. JAMES: What they're talking about here is a regional boundary.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Right, right.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Also, I think, maybe there was some indication they wanted to discuss. If not -- I'd have to investigate if this is part of Subpart A or B area and those aren't open now, so I'm at a lost with this one what's going on and what process this is running under to have this change. Most likely -- the on the street assessment is that the boundary would not change because the boundaries are based on harvest units, so under the State system of game management units, I don't know what we would do with the change.

31

32 MR. JAMES: Well, excuse me. Mr. Chair, I'm sure at some point what's going to happen if the SRC wants to pursue this is they will be looking for approval from this body at some point. I mean, that's what you can expect coming down, you know, in the future here, near future. So at some point they're going to want to lay out the justification and what their arguments are. But that's all I have to add to that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Thank you, Dave.

41

42 MR. RABINOWITCH: I can't solve the problem either, but here bit of information that might help a little bit. Debra Williams is a Special Assistant to the Secretary of Interior. As probably most of you know, Ron McCoy is an assistant to Debra Williams. To help put the pieces together a little bit.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Thank you.

49

50

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1 MR. YOKEL: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

4

5 MR. YOKEL: My name is Dave Yokel, BLM Arctic district
6 and I'm completely a bystander in this, but I was present at the
7 North Slope Regional Advisory Council meeting earlier this month
8 where this same question came up. And the people of Anaktuvuk
9 Pass live on the boundary between your region and the North
10 Slope region and that has presented some problems to them since
11 the beginning of the Federal Regional Advisory Council system.

12

13 They originally asked to be -- the Federal system
14 originally placed them in Region 6, whereas they felt they had
15 closer ties, of course, with the culture of the North Slope.
16 And so now if they have a representative on a Regional Advisory
17 Council it would be with the North Slope. Anyway, they would
18 like to have all of their traditional use lands represented by
19 the North Slope region. So if this were to come to pass then
20 basically Region 6, the Western Interior, would lose some of its
21 jurisdiction.

22

23 The North Slope Regional Advisory Council, I believe,
24 passed a motion on this issue to support the boundary change, so
25 that the North Slope region would include all of Anaktuvuk
26 Pass's traditional use areas. The Park Service, represented by
27 Steve Ulvi from Gates of the Arctic National Park -- Steve's
28 position was that the needs of Anaktuvuk Pass could be met
29 without a boundary change. He felt that with all the boundaries
30 we have now between GMUs, subsistence regions and this and that,
31 to add on new boundary or boundary change would just add more
32 confusion to the issue than anything else. And it also might
33 set a precedent for the rest of the state because Anaktuvuk Pass
34 is certainly not the only community in the state that is on or
35 very near to a regional boundary.

36

37 But despite Steve Ulvi's comment, the Regional Advisory
38 Council did side with Anaktuvuk Pass on that issue. And I
39 guess they voted to make a recommendation to the Board for this
40 change. So it's possible that the Board may come to you for
41 some similar recommendation, one way or the other, at some time.

42

43 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, there is a map that they
44 propose, could that be circulated to, at least, the members in
45 Atkasook and up in Wiseman, up in that area, so they could see
46 what -- how it might change. In a way this could resolve a
47 situation that we have right now between Russian Mission and
48 Holy Cross. There is concurrence by the residents of an area of
49 where their traditional areas are, where they usually hunt and

50

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Seasons are set.

2

3 So instead of saying Unit 18 residents have rights in
49, the whole unit, this might actually resolve potential future
5 conflict or issues, if there is agreement in the area about
6 where their respective groups hunted traditionally.

7

8 MR. YOKELE: The current regional boundaries are set up
9 through the EIS process for the development under Federal
10 management and I think what you're suggesting might be a
11 complete redrawing of all those boundaries based on traditional
12 use areas as opposed to -- right now they're set up to follow
13 CU boundaries to prevent some confusion on that side of the
14 issue. You're right, you might solve one problem, but create
15 another.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I would kind of advise, if
18 you want to, you could make a recommendation that you request
19 from the Park Service that you be informed of what has
20 transpired on this and copy of this map provided to you. And if
21 you so desire to have it to the individual communities do that
22 also. I'm not sure where this is going, I just know it's going
23 to the Federal Subsistence Board on November 14th. But I think
24 if you would put in that recommendation, we can get it to the
25 Board and say you want to be involved with it.

26

27 MR. YOKELE: I think, Mr. Chairman, that the people of
28 Allakaket and Wiseman out of your region would be the ones that
29 most likely would want to be involved. I think they have
30 already seen this map, although it certainly appropriate to take
31 the move that Vince suggested. I'm a little bit hesitant to
32 draw on my memory this much more, even though it's only been
33 three weeks. But I don't believe they had an objection with the
34 change, but I would certainly not act until conferring with
35 Bollock and Jack on that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, what would be the impact on
38 Bollock and Jack's position on the Gates of the Arctic? Would
39 their position be eliminated; their seat?

40

41 MR. YOKELE: No.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: No?

44

45 MR. YOKELE: No, they're still -- again, I'm not with
46 the Park Service. I'm sure that Wiseman is a resident zone
47 community inside Gates of the Arctic Park and I think Allakaket
48 also.

49

50

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1 MR. WHITMAN: Yes, I think so.

2

3 MR. YOKEL: So they would still have their seat or be
4 eligible for a seat on that SRC.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, if there's no other
7 discussion, I think we'll take Vince's recommendation on that.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: So you're saying that I should draft a
10 letter to the National Park Service that this Council be
11 informed of what's transpired up to this date on this boundary
12 issue and that the map be distributed to the communities, if it
13 has not already?

14

15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.

18

19 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that was my little part of the
24 National Park Service Report. They may have some other items
25 that I'm not aware of. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.

28

29 MR. TWITCHELL: Mr. Chair, and Council members. My
30 name is Hollis Twitchell, I'm with Denali National Park as a
31 subsistence coordinator. I apologize for coming in late today.
32 I tried to get here yesterday, but wasn't able to because of
33 weather. I'm happy to be here today. I just have four issues,
34 four items that I'd like to discuss with you. Three of them
35 involve action that occurred with Denali Subsistence Resource
36 Commission at their last meeting, which was June 8th.

37

38 The Denali Subsistence Resource Commission made a
39 hunting plan proposal to the Park and subsequently was submitted
40 to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Alaska,
41 which requested a alternate winter for moose in Unit 20(C).
42 Which is on the north side of the Alaska Range in the Denali
43 Area. They were addressing a concern of subsistence users who
44 utilized the Park and Preserve areas for trapping, typically
45 from November on and off through January to February. Trappers
46 utilizing that area traveled, at times, very long distances to
47 the area from Tanana and Nenana and some individuals out of
48 Mnchumina and subsequently stayed for extended periods of time
49 at that north sector.

50

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1
2 They had requested that an alternate period be made
3 available to them to harvest their moose during the times that
4 they're in the Park area. The existing fall hunt was September
5 1st to September 30th, in which case they were not in the Denali
6 area, they would need to harvest their moose in these outlying
7 areas and then, in turn, transport quite of their resources and
8 meat to the park for their extended trapping period.

9
10 Their recommendation was to create a second hunt in
11 20(C) from November 15th to December 15th. That proposal was
12 sent down to a variety of advisory groups. Four local Fish &
13 Game advisory committees as well as at the time this proposal
14 was submitted to the State Regional Councils. This proposal
15 being originating before the Federal Councils were formed. It
16 was also sent to several of the State subsistence coordinators
17 in the Interior and into the south.

18
19 After this submittal to the Secretary, he responded
20 back to the commission identifying that two things had to be met
21 before the hunt could be established. One, there was the
22 biological ability of the moose population to sustain any
23 increased harvest that might result from this hunt. As well, as
24 that there be a customary and traditional history of utilizing
25 moose at that time of year.

26
27 The Secretary directed the Park Service to make the
28 analysis and in which case we completed it last year and found
29 that there is, indeed, what we consider a natural and healthy
30 population of moose in this region. We also looked at the
31 regulatory history and found that there was a 15 year record of
32 hunts during that November and early December period. So those
33 two conditions, indeed, were met.

34
35 One of the concerns the Park had was that there was
36 very low density of moose in the eastern side of the Park area.
37 And subsequently the Park made a recommendation to the
38 Subsistence Resource Commission that the additional hunt begin
39 in an area of the Kantishna Hills and extend westward, which
40 would exclude this area of really fairly low density of moose
41 population. The Subsistence Resource Commission considered this
42 and made a second recommendation that the boundary be
43 established at the Toklat River, which lies just to the east
44 side of the Kantishna Hills. That would be a much more
45 identifiable boundary for subsistence users, rather than using
46 just a general top of the Kantishna Hills boundary as proposed.

47
48 That proposal was then carried forth to the Federal
49 Subsistence Board in mid summer and the Federal Subsistence
50

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Board passed the proposal unanimously, which established this alternative hunt in 20(C). And the boundaries for that now is from the Toklat River westward within Denali National Park and Preserve.

5

6 Are there any questions regarding that action? I'll go on then.

8

9 Last summer I traveled to two villages in your region, the villages of Nikolai and Telida, both of which are subsistence resident zone for Denali National Park. That being anyone residing in those communities are eligible to utilize the Park for subsistence purposes. I went to discuss with the Village Council members and the elders of those communities a request to have them identify where the boundaries for the resident zone community should be.

17

18 The recommendations from the Nikolai Village Council was that the boundaries could be established at a one mile radius from around the eastern end of the airstrip. As such, it would encompass all of the existing Nikolai houses, as well as the additional new housing units that are being built there. And in doing so would encompass the users in that area.

24

25 I met with the Telida Village Council, which is a pretty small group, there's only 11 people residing in that community. We met with several of those members, all the people who were present in the community and asked them the same question. They recommended that from the airstrip over to the Swift fork of the river would encompass all the existing housing areas where people live in Telida at this time.

32

33 Those two recommendations were carried back to the Subsistence Resource Commission and presented to them in June. And the Subsistence Resource Commission agreed that those boundaries would be appropriate. So those two boundaries now will have those resident zone boundaries established.

38

39 There are two other communities in Denali that have resident zone, that being Cantwell and Lake Minchumina. Those boundaries had been established prior, in about 1985 or '86 the Subsistence Resource Commission recommended the boundary for Minchumina of one and a half miles from the lakeshore. And that was another hunting plan proposal that was submitted and that was approved. The community of Cantwell has a boundary of three miles from the Community Center. That was established in '81 and later confirmed by the Denali Subsistence Commission when they became functional in the early '80s.

49

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1 The third issue I wanted to mention was the
 2 appointments to Denali Subsistence Resource Commission. As you
 3 recall this Council made a recommendation that they be allocated
 4 one appointing source to Denali Subsistence Resource Commission.
 5 In the meeting before this summer the Denali Subsistence
 6 Resource Commission considered your recommendation and passed a
 7 motion that when the charter comes up for renewal in 1995 that
 8 the charter be changed to allow Western Interior Region to have
 9 one appointing source to Denali; the Eastern Interior to have
 10 one appointing source to Denali; and Southcentral having one.
 11 That motion was passed.

12

13 I subsequently sent a letter to this Commission
 14 suggesting that it might be very difficult, if not impossible,
 15 for this Council to find someone from the villages of Nikolai
 16 and Telida who traveled all the way over to the Park area within
 17 Denali National Park and engaged in subsistence activities on
 18 Park lands. As you are aware, that is a requirement of the
 19 Regional Council appointees to the SRCs. And it appeared that
 20 there might not be anyone who could meet that requirement. I
 21 suggested that the Council may want to pursue two of the other
 22 appointing sources, the State of Alaska or the Secretary of
 23 Interior to insure that these villages have representation on
 24 Denali's SRC.

25

26 I believe this Council, then, forwarded a letter to the
 27 State recommending an individual, Steve Eluska, from Telida as a
 28 possible candidate for them to consider. Sometime right after
 29 the June 8th meeting the State did appoint Steve Eluska to sit
 30 on Denali's SRC, so he currently has standing as a State
 31 appointee and in doing so insures that these villages have
 32 representation.

33 I think we have pretty good representation on the north side.
 34 We have, of course, Ray Collins on the SRC and Steve Eluska from
 35 Telida. And we have two Collins from Lake Minchumina who reside
 36 in that community who are on the SRC, that being Mickey and
 37 Florence Collins. And also Percy Dike (ph) from Nenana. So I
 38 believe that this particular northern side of the region has
 39 very strong representation and feel very comfortable with that.

40

41 Any questions?

42

43 The last issue I wanted to bring up is a new one and it
 44 involves Kantishna Hills, which is located in 20(C). I'll give
 45 you a general reference off of this map where it is. On this
 46 map Kantishna Hills is located pretty much at the end of the
 47 Park road that goes into Denali, just to the north of Wonder
 48 Lake.

49

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1 Beginning this summer one of the -- several of the
 2 community members from the resident zone community of Cantwell
 3 contacted the Park and indicated that they were going to begin
 4 hunting in the Kantishna Hills. That cause a fair amount of
 5 controversy as the lodges and the media and other people became
 6 aware that these individuals would be traveling to the Kantishna
 7 Hills to hunt. Unfortunately the media spread some
 8 misinformation that these people were going to be hunting within
 9 the old Mount McKinley Park boundary, which is not open to
 10 subsistence. And that caused a significant amount of comments
 11 and phone calls and letters and other actions.

12

13 We didn't know what the final effort was going to be
 14 out of Cantwell. Cantwell is a community of about 147 people
 15 and we had no way of knowing whether there would be just a few
 16 or a very large number of people coming to the Kantishna Area.
 17 As it turned out we had about six individuals who traveled to
 18 Kantishna and engaged in subsistence hunting in the hills. For
 19 the most part upon request from the lodges the subsistence
 20 hunters contacted them and let them know when they were coming
 21 to the area and inquired about visitor activities that might be
 22 present. This was a very important thing to do since the
 23 Kantishna area has grown significantly as a visitor destination
 24 and there is over 200 people a day that utilize this valley
 25 bottom of Kantishna. That's how many beds and how many visitors
 26 that the four lodges and the private campground can accommodate.
 27 In addition to that there's a variety of other back country
 28 users and people involved in the valley bottom.

29

30 That raised quite a bit a concerns about visitor safety
 31 since many of these lodges provided guide hikes though the
 32 valley bottom, some provide recreational gold panning along the
 33 creeks in the bottom. There's guided horse pack trips and
 34 nature walks and a fairly intensive level of activity.

35

36 What the Park is proposing, and you will see it come
 37 forth in the proposals for Federal regulations for 1995 and '96,
 38 that a proposal for a closure to subsistence in the valley
 39 bottom of the Kantishna community which would extend from the
 40 Kantishna airstrip along the Kantishna Road along the old Mount
 41 McKinley boundary. A distance of four and a half miles in
 42 length. We're proposing that the closure be for one mile on
 43 either side of the road, this would involve a total closure of
 44 about 10 square miles. And this closure is only to be in effect
 45 during the time that the lodges are functioning and there is a
 46 high level of visitor activity. That being from June 1st to
 47 September 30th. The remainder of the year the area would be
 48 open to all of the authorized subsistence uses.

49

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1 We feel that there is a situation in Kantishna where we
2 have fairly large number of visitors and fairly concentrated
3 area utilizing the valley bottom, primarily, which happens to be
4 the same habitat that is available for moose. The Kantishna
5 area timber, sparse timber, primarily just shrubs, in the valley
6 bottom, which give way very quickly to tundra slopes as you move
7 off the valley bottom itself. So the moose habitat is primarily
8 located in this valley bottom. In addition with the lodges and
9 other activities going on there, there's a reasonably high
10 potential that there could be -- either a confrontation between
11 a subsistence user and a non-subsistence recreational user. And
12 there's also a potential for someone being injured if a bullet
13 is fired and ricochets or passes through and animal or continues
14 on.

15

16 We feel that this is only a visitor safety concern,
17 there's no biological grounds for this closure. And we'd like
18 to just let you know that something the Park is concerned about.
19 Even greater is the concern that you're closing off a
20 subsistence use activity in the Kantishna Hills area and we
21 should approach this with caution. I say this because you'll
22 probably see a whole range of proposals being put forth by
23 people asking for different extents and different closures in
24 the Kantishna Hills area by different interest groups.

25

26 And I want to just let you know what the Park Service
27 position was on it. And, again, it's limited closure, June 1st
28 September 30th, it would only apply in this valley bottom
29 where we have lodge facilities, private campgrounds and fairly
30 intensive recreational use. And it would extend for one mile
31 either side of the road from the airstrip to the Park boundary,
32 about 10 square miles.

33

34 If you have any questions I'll try to answer them.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any questions from the audience
37 on what Hollis just said? You made it pretty clear, thanks.

38

39 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I talked with the staff
42 here and they're ready for lunch.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I'm ready for lunch, too.
45 call for recess. I guess we'll have one hour off. Come back
46 one hour.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50

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1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I'd like to get started again, I
4 all the meeting back to order. Can everybody take their seats.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, some logistical stuff we
7 need to go over. Those that are planning to leave on the flight
8 later this afternoon or this evening, that are staying here,
9 need to let Cindy know if they're going to be staying for dinner
10 or not. So we need to coordinate that. Possibly during break
11 look at how to arrange that. So those that are planning to
12 leave at the 7:00 o'clock or later flight need to talk to the
13 management here about if you're staying for dinner. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Maybe on our break later on this
16 afternoon we'll have a better idea. We're still under new
17 business and next is Fish & Wildlife Service Report.

18

19 MR. MERRITT: For the record, I'm Ed Merritt, Manager
20 of the Innoko Wildlife Refuge. And, Mr. Chairman, I need to
21 begin by conveying a message to you and the other committee
22 members from Tom Ely at Koyukuk-Nowitna Refuge, he and Pete
23 DeMatteo were unable to get out of there because of the weather,
24 they send their regrets in not being able to make it. For the
25 record, he wanted me to let all of you know that he didn't have
26 any concerns relative to subsistence at the present time to
27 report.

28

29 I essentially came into the meeting this morning with
30 that same feeling, however, I do feel compelled to respond to a
31 couple of, I guess, issues that were raised earlier this
32 morning. One has to do with perceived resource allocation
33 problem relative to moose in 21(E). And the other has to do
34 with the relationship between 810 evaluations and the fire
35 management and planning process. And I think I'll begin with
36 the fire management relationship with 810 evaluations.

37

38 Innoko, and as far as I know the other Interior
39 refuges, all operate under, as you probably know, an interagency
40 fire management plan. In our case it's Kuskokwim/Illiamna Fire
41 Management Plan. And if or to what extent that particular plan
42 addresses subsistence concerns I'm not in a position to say.
43 However, I would like to point out to you all that refuges that
44 have an active fire management program are required to have step
45 down station specific fire management plan. And in that plan
46 we're required, you know, under ANILCA to conduct an 810
47 evaluation as part of that process.

48

49 Innoko is currently working on their plan, including an

50

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10 evaluation. And our plan is due to be -- the draft is due to be finished early next year. And I would be very surprised if any refuge in the Interior that has a significant fire management program and has a plan in place has not addressed subsistence concerns. So that's my response to that one.

6

7 Regarding what I'm going to call a perceived resource allocation problem in Unit 21(E), we don't have any data for the south half of the Refuge, but we do have moose population and critical winter habitat data for the north half of the Refuge. And I think it would be useful relative to a number of different issues and concerns that have been discussed here if maybe I go through the results of that survey work that we did real briefly, if that's okay with you guys?

15

16 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, go ahead.

17

18 MR. MERRITT: Okay. We conducted a moose population survey last March, again, on the north half of the Refuge. And we came up with a total population of approximately 1,200 moose in that area. And for those of you interested in statistics that shook out at plus or minus 20 percent at 90 percent confidence interval. So the range is between 900 and 1,400 moose on the north half of the Refuge.

25

26 So if you take a look at that and consider it in terms of density per square mile, then, what we're coming up with is, in critical winter habitat we're averaging four to six moose per square mile. And that's primarily in the Innoko corridor and on the Yukon above Blackburn Island. As Jack indicated earlier, relative to further south on the Yukon, you know, at times we see densities as high as 15 per square mile in these areas where they really congregate.

34

35 In the low strata or the poorest winter habitat we averaged point one per square mile or another way of looking at that is that it takes about 10 square miles to support on moose. So if you average it all out for the entire survey area, we come up with approximately three moose per square mile, which I think is kind of typical for the Interior, isn't it, Jack?

41

42 MR. WHITMAN: That's pretty good.

43

44 MR. MERRITT: Okay. Feel free to jump in here if you have any comments.

46

47 We're defining critical winter habitat as relatively large and sufficiently dense stands of willows and it's primarily the species Salix Alexesensis, which are the willows

50

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that grow on the river bars. In close proximity to timber stands, commonly white spruce, and these areas again tend to occur primarily within the river corridors. This data that I've just given you reflects moose use during a relatively mild winter all over. It was about average in terms of snow fall, but it was quite mild in terms of temperatures.

7

8 And during this survey period, given those climatic and snow conditions parameters, during this period approximately three quarters of the moose observed in the survey area at large were found right on the river bars, right down on these large willow stands in the river corridor. Seventy-five percent of the moose were in the river corridor. Again, not in a tough or severe winter.

15

16 So we believe that in a severe winter essentially 100 percent of the moose would be in these areas and that they would be in there for a longer period of time and that a die off from starvation is likely. And this is something that we have observed during severe winters in the past on the Innoko Refuge.

21

22 So our results from a combination of the population work and the assessment of the feed availability on these critical winter range areas, we're concluding that the population on the north half of the Refuge is at or very near the carrying capacity of that winter range. Now, with regard to the south half of the Refuge, which includes the Lower Innoko River and the Yukon River from Blackburn Island Down, essentially 21(E). That portion of the Refuge that falls within 20(E). We don't have recent data of this quality. You've already heard what Conrad Guenther and Jack had to say about moose population down in that area. We believe that, if anything, the moose population is healthier in the south half of the Refuge in 21(E), than it is up north. Because we believe there's better -- there's more high quality moose habitat down in the neck of the woods.

37

38 I'm going to pass around a map here that delineates critical winter moose range that comes from pretty exhaustive work over the last four or five years with using satellite imagery and on the ground investigations and ground truthing (ph) and it's based on a combination of vegetation studies and actual observations of moose locations during the most severe part of winter. And as you look at this map if you take a look at the areas that sort of have a rusty dark red color those are the areas where we consistently find the most moose in the wintertime. Unfortunately I only have one copy of this, I need to have it back, but I'll be glad to provide copies to everyone later.

50

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1
2 I'll pass another map around just for general interest
and it's sort of outside the scope of this meeting to really
4 interpret this map now, but this is a basically a veg cover map
5 from satellite imagery work as well that relates to that.

6
7 A couple of other comments. With regard to
8 non-subsistence use within the Refuge boundary, there's
9 relatively little non-subsistence use in Unit 21(E) within the
10 Refuge boundary. We sort of have a situation on the Innoko
11 Refuge where recreational or sport hunters and subsistence
12 hunters sort themselves out, generally, because of the
13 controlled use area and the lack of aircraft access below the
14 mouth of the Iditarod. Most of our use of non-subsistence
15 hunters occurs upstream from the Iditarod. We do recognize an
16 increase in activity from people boating the area -- accessing
17 the area by boat. Primarily people from further down the Yukon.

18
19 I was going to mention a little bit about water fowl.
20 We don't have our figures back yet from the Division of
21 Migratory Birds, but we had a good production year, the flood
22 waters in the Innoko and the Iditarod flood plane didn't persist
23 long enough to displace nesting and nesting was also good in the
24 Upper Innoko Corridor. We had good numbers of molting and
25 staging geese. And we also discovered this year that we have
26 Tule geese, which we've suspected for a long time. That's a
27 subspecies of the white-fronted goose that's a small population
28 that winters in Northern California and Oregon. It's in decline
29 and it's a species of special concern. They put radio collars
30 on 90 of them down there last winter and five of them turned up
31 on the Innoko River, so we think we have a possibility of some
32 significant Tule white-fronted goose presence there, so we're
33 pretty interested in that and that's something we'll be looking
34 at in the future.

35
36 We're planning a wolf survey this winter or spring. As
37 Jack mentioned, he's planning on some moose trend work down in
38 the area of 21(E) of concern, around Holy Cross there. We'll
39 also be doing an intensive grouse survey on the critical winter
40 range down there, the same thing we did with this map that I'm
41 showing you. And we're going to do a full blown population
42 survey a year from March on the south half of the Refuge, so
43 we'll have some pretty good information.

44
45 But, again, bottom line from my perspective is we don't
46 really have a shortage of moose, we have a healthy population.
47 There's not a resource allocation problem there. And until we
48 have some pretty sound data to support a closure to
49 non-subsistence use on the Refuge, I don't think I could come
50

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but in support of it.

2

3 The only other thing I wanted to mention is that we've
 been doing quite a bit of work over the last few years with the
 Iditarod Area School District in trying to develop a program
 where rural area youth interested in wildlife careers can
 somehow find a way to step (ph) through a process that will end
 up encouraging them to go on to the university. And we've had
 some success with that and I just wanted to mention that we
 currently have two Native Alaskan students up at the university
 both interested in careers in wildlife.

12

13 One, Patrick Snow, from here in McGrath is currently in
 our cooperative education program, he's a junior now. And he's
 in a program that will insure that he has a career position with
 Service in wildlife management when he graduates. And the other
 is Darrin Walker from Holy Cross. Darrin has gone through our
 youth employment program and he's now up at the university and
 so we're kind of keeping our fingers crossed and hoping that
 that works out too. And we're going to continue those efforts.

21

22 And I guess that's about it from Innoko. If you have
 any questions I'll be glad to try to answer them.

24

25 MR. COLLINS: In looking at that one vegetation map or
 identifying it there, it looks like the area from Shageluk up to
 the mouth of the Iditarod and so on, there isn't as much of that
 prime habitat there as there is further down and below, is that
 true for that stretch in there?

30

31 MR. MERRITT: That's correct, there's quite a reach of
 the middle Innoko Corridor that's not good critical winter
 habitat for moose.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: The reason I note that is because that's
 the area where there's the greatest potential for conflict
 because people from down river that are having to go up --
 further up the Innoko, that's the area they're likely to reach,
 that's say the boats, plus you got Shageluk and other hunters in
 there so you got hunters in the area where there may be fewer
 moose than in some of the other areas that (indiscernible -
 interrupted)

43

44 MR. MERRITT: Well, bear in mind that's a snapshot.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Right.

47

48 MR. MERRITT: That's only meaningful in the context
 that we flew those transects and summer and fall it's a

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different story.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: In other words, that was the actual moose
4 population, that red mark (ph), wasn't the (indiscernible --
5 interrupted)

6

7 MR. MERRITT: That map is based on the moose telling us
8 by virtue of where they're located where the critical winter range
9 is. It works both ways. The Iditarod flood plane is loaded
10 with moose all summer long, but in the winter, if you look at
11 that map, you'll see that there aren't any moose out there. The
12 seasonal shifts.

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Okay, yeah.

15

16 MR. MERRITT: There's no timber out there. We
17 discovered the correlation between these large willow bars in
18 the river corridors and some sort of timber stands adjacent --
19 we don't know if it's thermal cover or predator avoidance or
20 easier to get around in in the trees or what, but there's
21 something going on there, there's definitely a correlation. We
22 think.

23

24 MR. COLLINS: It doesn't surprise me, what I heard from
25 the people at Nikolai who used to hunt at the foothills out
26 there. When we go out in the fall the moose move up into those
27 willow bars, it's open country in the willow. As soon as a
28 storm or something comes in they're back in the timber, so even
29 in the fall you see some of that movement depending on what the
30 weather is doing. They'll use the timber up there for shelter,
31 but they'll stay up and feed on those willow when the weather is
32 mild and not storm or something.

33

34 MR. MERRITT: Yeah. There again, you know, at the risk
35 of being a little redundant, this was all based on what the
36 moose are telling us by virtue of where they are. We're not
37 speculating here.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, right.

40

41 MR. MERRITT: So we think we have lots of moose.

42

43 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Henry.

46

47 MR. DEACON: I'm still on this wolf business. You
48 studying how many moose have been killed by wolves in that area?

49

50

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1 MR. MERRITT: We have not data on wolves.

2

3 MR. DEACON: I'd like to see that studied because
 that's a critical point of view. In our area -- when we go to
 5 convention that's a stress (ph) by -- pretty well they want to
 know how much moose been killed in the Innoko Refuge and I think
 that should be studied.

8

9 MR. MERRITT: One thing that can give you a lot of
 insight in terms of wolf predation is this winter food
 utilization study on the winter range. If you know that the
 winter range is being fully utilized and that if you had a
 larger population of moose then you would probably have
 starvation. Then that leads you to assume that you probably
 don't have a predation problem.

16

17 You know, if we were seeing, maybe, 50 percent of the
 feed utilized instead of 70 or 80 percent, you know, we might
 assume one possibility or one answer for that could be that the
 wolves are taking too many. We don't feel like that's the case
 right now because we don't feel that the land can support a
 higher moose population than what we've got. We have 80 percent
 utilization of all winter feed on the -- available to the moose
 on the Yukon -- on the Innoko River and right at 70 percent on
 the Yukon River. And this was a year in which 25 percent of the
 moose were not down in the river corridors. If this had been a
 very severe winter and the moose had been all down in the river
 corridor for a longer period of time, we think moose would have
 been starving.

30

31 Does that make sense in relation to wolves?

32

33 MR. DEACON: (Shakes his head negatively)

34

35 MR. MERRITT: No?

36

37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, one statement you said that
 kind of find it hard to believe is there's not enough land to
 feed the moose.

40

41 MR. MERRITT: There's what?

42

43 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: There's not enough land to feed
 the moose you stated and I never heard that in my life.

45

46 MR. MERRITT: Well, if you look at the Innoko Refuge
 you'll find that there is feed all over the Refuge. In fact,
 the Iditarod flood plane is loaded with willows, but the moose
 aren't there in the winter because there's something else they

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need in conjunction with the feed in order to survive. For some reason, even though there's feed out there, they can't survive out there. There's no shelter, thermal cover or something, we don't know what the relationship is for sure. Se even though you have feed available to them, it isn't really because they can't get to it and make use of it.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Because of the shelter, huh?

9

10 MR. MERRITT: Well, that would be -- we think it's got something to do with shelter and thermal cover. I don't know, Jack, do you?

13

14 MR. WHITMAN: Yes, we suspect it has something to do with thermal cover and predator as well.

16

17 MR. MERRITT: Predator avoidance and that type of thing? We don't really have any good sound scientific data to interpret or explain that. We just know from where we see the moose that that's what they're doing and not doing. But it's easy to understand how, if you were out in your Cub flying around over the Innoko Refuge in the summertime and looking at all those willows out there it would be easy to conclude that the land could support many more moose than it does.

25

26 MR. DEACON: You mean the summertime?

27

28 MR. MERRITT: Yeah.

29

30 MR. DEACON: No, they got a lot of vegetation on those lakes and all areas, that's what they feed on, on that lake vegetation. During the winter, I think, they graze on willow, you know, they eat grass and all that freshly grown stuff in the lakes and around the lakes.

35

36 MR. MERRITT: Right. What I'm saying is that a lot of the willows are fed on in the winter simply because the moose can't access them and survive. It's just like you were saying earlier this morning, in the wintertime they congregate right down in the river corridors, that's where they live. So the fact that 10 miles out in the middle of the flats there in the Katarod country there's a bunch of willows, it doesn't matter because the moose are right down there in the river bottoms where they can live, basically.

45

46 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Angela.

49

50

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1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chairman, I have to agree with
Henry. I really think that a wolf study should be done in our
area, you know. Holy Cross, where I live, we never used to see
wolves so close to our community as we have been for the last
couple of years. They're coming closer and we're starting to
see more moose kills in that area. And when we travel to
Shageluk we notice there's more wolf tracks as we're going
through the cross country parts, not the river, itself, and not
on the Innoko, itself, but when we have to cross country to get
to Shageluk we're starting to notice more wolves up that way
too.

12

13 So I really agree with Henry that a wolf study should
be done 'cause we're getting a lot of them in that area. And
not only that, one of the dogs in Holy Cross has half wolf pups.
160 that's how close they're getting.

17

18 MR. MERRITT: I think if there's a lot of interest
across this region in seeing a wolf study done in that country,
20 should be proposed and I certainly wouldn't be opposed to
that. I'd like to see it myself. We are going to try to get
some information on wolf numbers and come up with some sort of
an actual trend index beginning this winter. But if the
interest is there for something that's more involved than that,
then I certainly would support that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I know in my area they have a
wolf study going on, on the Koyukuk Wildlife Refuge and Pete and
Paul Liedburg have been doing a lot of that stuff.

30

31 MR. MERRITT: Yeah. And I would welcome that, I think
that would be fine.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any more questions on the Innoko
Refuge? You're area covers the Kaiyuh Flats too?

36

37 MR. MERRITT: No, that used to be part of the Innoko
Refuge, but it's been transferred to Galena, it's now under the
Koyukuk-Nowitna.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, okay.

42

43 MR. MERRITT: Yeah, we just administered the lower unit
44 of McGrath.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Uh-hum. Okay, thanks.

47

48 MR. MERRITT: You're welcome.

49

50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just need clarification
2 where where, were you indicating that you want to give support
3 to a wolf study or not? Did the Council agree to that?

4

5 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, it would make it easier if I had
8 kind of a motion to deal with that, if someone wants to make a
9 motion to the effect that it would like a wolf study done of the
10 area in question or whatever and then it gives me more power to
11 get that in there.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Is there a time that we can do that.
14 I've never seen us taking action in the middle of reports and I
15 thought there would be time after the reports or something.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: We can do it then, I can note it and try
18 doing it up later.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, 'cause there might be information
21 in others that would shape the difference of whatever motion we
22 might make of something.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: That pretty well covers Fish &
25 Wildlife Service Report. I think you're next on the agenda,
26 huh?

27

28 MR. WHITEHILL: Hi, Mr. Chair, and Council, my name is
29 Barry Whitehill, I'm with Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and
30 Mike Ed Merritt, I'd like to share what we've been doing at
31 Kanuti Wildlife Refuges. And if I could, I brought some brief
32 slides that might help illustrate some of the things. We have
33 20 issues that we're aware of, but I thought maybe I'd use that
34 same brief you with our moose study that we just did. So if
35 it's all right I'd like to dim the lights and show you a quick
36 slide show.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

39

40 MR. WHITEHILL: I must confess I have a hidden agenda,
41 there were a number of slide that we just got back, including of
42 Allakaket and Alatna, the flooding that I haven't seen. So I
43 brought them in real quick to help illustrate that. For people
44 who are aware, Kanuti straddles the Arctic Circle, we're south
45 of the Brooks Range and to our west sits Alatna and Allakaket,
46 what's left. And Bettles is on the north.

47

48 So I'll start with Bettles, that's -- we have a
49 sub-headquarters that we do a lot of our work out of there with

50

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the airport facility. And a year ago -- oh, I take that back, I just got these slides back, haven't even seen them myself, from just this fall. Kind of give you a quick overview of some of our habitat, some of our areas on the Kanuti Flats. So that's the type of country that we're dealing with.

6

7 A year ago we did an intensive moose survey, I don't know if you can see that, that's one moose you can count in downtown Bettles. We found -- we did our last survey in '89 and we were pleasantly surprised to see generally an increase in our moose population. We think we have healthy moose population. Throughout the whole area about 2,500 square miles it averages 136 moose per square mile. It might not see a lot compared to some of the figures I heard, but we saw 33 calves per 100 cows, double the number of yearling bulls that we saw in '89. Yes.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Is that a wolves or a moose?

18

19 MR. WHITEHILL: That's actually caribou, but this is what it looked like last year when we were flying the survey. And, again, caribou -- this was actually the spring for -- and there are wolves in the foreground on this shot. We have had in the last few years more caribou down on our Flat area, which I think has taken off some of the pressure of the moose as far as wolves goes. I might add, maybe the folks from the BLM might want to shed some light, but I know that there was 20 collars put on some Ray Mountain caribou just recently. And so were going to be interested to see if some of these caribou aren't Ray Mountain caribou as opposed to Western Arctic or whatnot. Yes.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: What's this on the bottom here; caribou kill?

34

35 MR. WHITEHILL: The dark spot on the bottom there?

36

37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

38

39 MR. WHITEHILL: That's three wolves an a caribou.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, okay.

42

43 MR. WHITEHILL: And there's a line of caribou in the distance there. Just briefly we do trap line surveys and caribou surveys just where the uses are. And we try to do things, we've been looking at carcass so we can get age composition, sex composition, general conditions of the animals and do the wishes of the trappers. Many of you might know Johnson Moses who recently was with our staff, he basically

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retired last December, but Johnson takes the carcasses back and in the traditional fashion places them back in the woods.

3

4 Some of the other activities we've been involved with, quickly, are we're doing more with neo-tropical bird migrants on what bird species we have. We set up different transects, breeding bird surveys. We've been doing an ongoing banding effort for white-fronted geese, just off our area on Bureau of Land Management land on Lake Totatonten. And we find that our birds are central flyward (ph) birds that head to Louisiana, Texas country. And our ecosystem is fire driven. It seems like we're doing some studies there, small mammal populations and the relationship with after these recent burns. So that's been a lot of our efforts.

15

16 We've been doing some vegetated work as well limnology, looking at the water in relationship to these burns and the water fowl use that corresponds to it. And, you know, we monitor hunting activities, in this case, sport hunting activity, this is on the south fork where we're seeing a few more of these air boat driven hunters coming down that system, the Jim River, the South Fork, just outside of the controlled use area.

24

25 And one thing that we initiated this year in this area, working with the elders, we did a challenge grant to do a wildlife camp for the students of Allakaket and it -- this was our first year trying it, unfortunately it came the week of the great flood, right before, so in this case got the last shot of a lot of structures as they were, including -- this is Johnson's smoke house the day before it went down the river.

32

33 And with that, I think these are shots that I haven't seen up on the wall, but these are the aftermath of Allakaket. For those of you that aren't familiar with the community, the big building up to the right is the school and maybe George Yaska explained to you, but I know water was up to right underneath of it. And in the foreground there it used to be all houses and there's nothing there anymore.

40

41 This was looking down where Johnson Moses's smoke house used to stand. I believe this is the village center that's now down stream a couple of miles. And that shows the siltation along the river after the flood. Oops, and that was it. So maybe I'll back up that one, maybe -- no, I guess that was -- I was trying to think if that was Alatna, but I really can't tell. It had a major effect on those communities. So that's my brief slide show.

49

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1 The only thing I can think real quick is I believe
 2 we're going to be involved with a wolf survey this spring with
 3 Alaska Department of Fish & Game and other folks in that area,
 4 so those are some of the other activities I can think of. If
 5 anybody has any questions I'll be glad to entertain those.
 6 Again, we think our moose population is pretty healthy right
 7 now.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum. If there's no questions,
 10 thank you.

11

12 MR. WHITEHILL: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: And is there any more Fish &
 15 Wildlife Service Reports? Wildlife Refuge Managers?

16

17 MR. MERRITT: I think that's it for refuges.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: That's it for refuge, huh? Go on
 20 the Bureau of Land Management.

21

22 MR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Council. Again,
 23 I'm Dave Yokel with BLM's Arctic District. The Arctic District
 24 only overlaps with your Western Interior region along your very
 25 northeastern edge. The eastern edge of Unit 24 in the Dalton
 26 Highway area. That's the eastern upper watershed of the Koyukuk
 27 Drainage.

28

29 I don't have any issues in the area to report to you
 30 partly because with your help we did solve one of our
 31 subsistence problems last year. We had a problem with a lot of
 32 rural residents of Alaska hunting the area, residents from Delta
 33 Junction, Fort Greeley, Haines and using rifles. And the
 34 Federal Subsistence Board passed my proposal last spring to
 35 limit rifle use within five miles of the highway to local
 36 residents only. Residents of the corridor and residents of the
 37 villages, such as Stevens Village, Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles
 38 and Anaktuvak Pass.

39

40 And so I will not be submitting any proposals to the
 41 Federal Subsistence Board this year for that area and no issues
 42 report to you, so if you have any questions I'd be glad to
 43 entertain them. I might add that we still have problems with
 44 rifle hunters in the Dalton Highway Corridor, however, these
 45 hunters are no longer under the impression that they are
 46 subsistence hunters, they are merely people hunting under State
 47 regulations that are breaking the State law. And that will
 48 probably be an ongoing problem.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Thank you, Dave.

2

3 MR. YOKEL: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: We have Alaska Department of Fish
6 Game Report.

7

8 MR. DENTON: I'm going to give the other one for the
9 Anchorage District BLM, if I could.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Okay, go ahead, Jeff.

12

13 MR. DENTON: My name is Jeff Denton and I'm the
14 district biologist for the Anchorage District of the Bureau of
15 Land Management, which the Anchorage District is probably the
16 major BLM district in your particular region. And I have
17 several things, they're not issues, but I want to update you on
18 the things we've been doing. Also I would like to solicit, at
19 least, some assistance or a proactive role on your part in
20 helping us accomplish some of the goals that are of mutual
21 interest to both parties.

22

23 While people are on the wolf issue, Angela noted that
24 she was interested in a wolf type study of her area there. A
25 lot of those are BLM lands, Federal lands in that particular
26 area, they're not refuge lands. But 60 percent of those lands
27 involved are regional corporation and village corporation lands,
28 not Federal public lands. And I think the corporations have a
29 very large role to play in the subsistence management. To date
30 that has not been a mutually shared interest and I implore the
31 Council to serve as a liaison to try to generate some interest
32 with the regional corporations and village corporations in a
33 cooperative effort to manage these subsistence resources.

34

35 As BLM lands, in particular, in this district, the BLM
36 district of Anchorage becoming extremely fragmented due to
37 regional selection and State selections. And we're all going to
38 have to work together, much closer, because the Federal public
39 lands are becoming very fragmented, much the subsistence
40 resource dependency folks have will not be on Federal lands any
41 more. Most of the high quality lands have been selected. And
42 most of your resources are really coming off of your own lands
43 State lands. And I think it's getting to be a critical time
44 that all the players get involved in this, the management of
45 these resources.

46

47 As far as resolving some of last year's problems. In
48 some Village we do have a harvest reporting system that is being
49 implemented right now. I'd like to take this opportunity to

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compliment the excellent job done by Phil Graham in turning in the reports so far. We've got three months of this year's reports in, they're excellent. They are providing information on specific land ownership as where harvest is taking place, sex, age and date of harvest. It's probably the best harvest data we've got in the State.

7

8 I strongly also recommend to the Council to consider ways to facilitate harvest reporting in all villages. The Lime Village situation is of -- is a particular -- it's a situation where they have a village harvest quota, so they don't fall under the normal report card system for reporting harvest under the State regulations, but the rest of the villages do. And if that's a system that's not going to work, let's work together and find a system that will work to -- it's a chronic problem and everyone that's been up here today says we're sitting here 60 and 70 and 80 percent unreported harvest. And this is not to the subsistence users advantage in the long run because there's a documentation of less harvest than you folks require. And that's going to work against you in the long run.

21

22 And I'm sure you've heard this before. One of these days the stuff that's on paper and the stuff that people report is going to be what is going to be determining when it's allocation of resource time. And if you're only reporting 40 percent you may only get 40 percent when push comes to shove. And the Federal land base is getting smaller and smaller out there. And it's not going to produce -- probably doesn't produce the 40 percent now.

30

31 What we're doing, our plans are for this year and what we did in the last year in terms of moose surveys, we did what I call -- it's a disciplined reconnaissance flight over some areas that have never been even looked at for moose in the past in any type of disciplined fashion. That was the Anvik/Bonasila/Chiroskey Drainages. Some things that we saw there rather alarmed us that related to fire planning. But the work we're doing is basically kind of a stratification flight to figure out relative abundance and distribution of moose. What habitats they're in, what they're using, where they're not. And I'll talk to the fire planning here in a minute.

42

43 This year we're looking at doing the Innoko-Yukon Bottom up to the Iditarod-Innoko divide, that eastern part of (E). And if the weather is willing we'll get that done. We'll be, hopefully, done in a little bit of conjunction with Jack's intensive classification counts around Holy Cross and the Mouth of the Innoko. So we'll have two types of data, one is a very generalized type inventory and one that's real intensive,

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So we'll have some comparable data there.

2

3 Last year we placed 15 radios on Lime Village caribou,
 4 a portion of what we considered, I guess, to be the Mulchatna
 5 herd that winters around Lime Village. Because before this no
 6 radios of the Mulchatna here, of which there are a lot on the
 7 Mulchatna herd, of ever showing up around Lime Village and so we
 8 are following those particular animals to see what their
 9 distribution is. Some have shown up with the main Mulchatna, a
 10 large number of them for the summer time period have been over
 11 there in the foothills of Revelations Mountains. So we'll
 12 continue to follow those probably for several years.

13

14 Right now we're entertaining the thought of revisiting
 15 the existing fire plans for the Anchorage District. The State
 16 of Alaska takes care all of the fire suppression work in
 17 Southern Alaska, but we coordinate with them very closely. The
 18 original plans when they were written were designed to save
 19 suppression costs, that was the major objective for doing the
 20 plans at that time. The management of natural resources was not
 21 a major contributor to those plans. We're reaching a point in
 22 time where we've got to be considering habitats and the effect
 23 of fire suppression activities and fire management on
 24 subsistence resources as well as all the wildlife resources.

25

26 I mentioned when we did the Anvik country and Bonasila
 27 that we were fairly alarmed with what we're seeing there. The
 28 long term suppression activities have created what, I guess what
 29 would term, as spruce desert in a lot of that country.
 30 Extremely low moose densities except where you find an old burn
 31 or except along the river bottoms. Much of that country is
 32 essentially empty. And this impact even more Yukon folks where
 33 moose could possibly be moving out of some other habitats in
 34 that higher country, in the Chirokey and go down to the Lower
 35 Yukon country to winter. They don't have a source of moose to
 36 move out there, there's no moose in that country. And so there
 37 are some impacts that involve subsistence and potential for
 38 better subsistence resources being available to folks.

39

40 What we proposed doing is with game and fish and
 41 villages and the State is to sit down and integrate wildlife
 42 habitat needs into fire management. We've got areas that
 43 probably get too much fire, we got large areas that don't have
 44 enough fire. Fire suppression for 80 years is having a very
 45 intensive long term impact, accumulative impact, on wildlife
 46 habitats in Western Alaska. And we need to get a handle on it.
 47 I know this is a little bit contrary to what George had said,
 48 but we feel there are problem areas because of lack of fire, not
 49 because of too much. And there some long term field build ups

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that are going to create catastrophic fires that are going to do a lot of damage. So we got to get into real management of our fire situation. This includes prescribed fire as well.

4

5 I haven't heard, as I did last year, there were
6 conflicts on the Kuskokwim River with access and people moving
7 up river trying to camp and being denied campsites and so on.
8 Actually, some lives were threatened and gun shots have fired
9 and so on, I haven't heard a lot of that this year. However,
10 the BLM has in the past and I'll make this offer again, the BLM
11 is more than willing and more than eager to work with the
12 corporations to help mark the 17(B) easements, of which there
13 are a great many along that stretch of the river that access
14 public lands and allow for places to pull out and stay over
15 night. We were willing to work and share the cost of marking,
16 identifying these trails and these sites, but we're not going to
17 do it ourselves because we have to cooperate with the
18 corporation folks who own those lands. But there are easement
19 reservations all along that country. If this is going to become
20 an issue and people really want to resolve it, let's resolve it.
21 So far we're not seeing a willingness to resolve it.

22

23 I guess all of you are aware of the State's selections
24 have finished up in the last year. There's considerable
25 overselection still that the State has, some of those lands will
26 be relinquished back to the BLM, but we don't know what those
27 lands are. And until they're relinquished back they're still
28 under State management, they don't fall under the definition of
29 Federal public lands. And that's why you see the fragmented
30 public lands, BLM lands, they way you do. We don't know the
31 date at which lands will be relinquished back, it may be 20
32 years, it's hard to say. Two days ago we had 350,000 acres come
33 back to us, and that surprised us that it even came back.

34

35 So the land status, you can expect it to be more
36 complex down the road, we're going to have to deal with
37 fragmented lands, you're going to have to know whose land you're
38 on. It comes up and goes through my mind time and time again in
39 these meetings, we're passing a lot of regulations here and in
40 some cases it affects so little public lands that it's almost a
41 moot point. These river corridors are primarily corporation
42 lands. There's Federal lands -- there's very little acreage of
43 Federal lands in these river corridors and that's where the
44 majority of some of the harvest goes on, especially for moose.

45

46 It's not the same for caribou, but you've got to put
47 things in perspective, folks. We've got to get the perspective
48 of what Federal lands are really and truly contributing to the
49 subsistence need of folks out here. Put it in perspective and

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get the right players that are providing for the majority of your subsistence use, and that may be your own corporations. They're a major player and they've, so far, refused to play.

4

5 That's all the preaching I have for today. If you have any questions I'll be glad to answer them.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: In looking at the Chirokey, how far up you're looking up towards the Unalakleet Portage, that whole area up through there? I guess what I wanted to ask you, you say spruce is growing up, I heard caribou are starting to come back, how is it in terms of caribou habitat, is it become more prime out there because the fires were suppressed or -- and will that (indiscernible - interrupted)

15

16 MR. DENTON: Okay, I'm not sure which area you're -- on the way to the south, okay, the south end of that Bonasila/Anvik block of country, it's kind of the next drainage up from the main Yukon as it goes east and west there.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay.

22

23 MR. DENTON: And my answer to your questions is that it's pretty sorry caribou habitat at the moment because it's all black spruce and very little lichen come into that, now the high country on the upper end of the Anvik is what I would term excellent caribou habitat and they are using it to a high degree and have been for several years. They were up to 5,000 caribou using that country all last winter. Up to 50,000 caribou from the Western Arctic came down through there and moved clear on to the YK Delta Refuge last winter and then back up again. So we don't know if that an aberrant caribou movement or if we can expect that more to increase in years to come. We'll just have to see what happens there. But the head of the Old Woman and head of the Anvik have been pretty consistently used for several years now by a few thousand head of animals in there.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: So the fire plan will address that then, as well as looking at the black spruce for the moose habitat (indiscernible - interrupted)

41

42 MR. DENTON: Right, most of the fire stuff that we're looking at is more the old mature birch forest and the heavy heavy black spruce forest that's there. And most of it provides very, very little moose habitat, there's time, I'm sure, we flew minutes between moose observations, it was terrible. Until you hit an old burn and there's not a lot of them in that country, but when you hit the old burns you picked up moose or along the river bottoms. And even the river bottoms weren't

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that good. So it was pretty disappointing and fairly alarming when we took a look at that.

3

4 MR. COLLINS: One other one, is there current maps in this area of land status? I know it's mostly State now and other, I guess there were more selections up in the upper

7

8 MR. DENTON: We have -- you know, we're constantly in the state of updating maps because it's -- you know, there's lands being conveyed all the time, there's -- the State's selections are pretty much solidified now and there's no maps just available for the public. The map you have there is fairly reasonably accurate for the general lay of the countryside there now in terms of ownership.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: That's all I had, thanks.

17

18 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Sharon.

21

22 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Jeff, I just wanted to address a situation. You said that we have to improve or work on our ways to facilitate the reporting system, that the lack of figures that we have will come back to haunt us. And I have tried to work with the State for years now pointing out that because of our traditional way of life of sharing that when we harvest an animal that animal is shared, maybe two or three parties are involved. And if one person claims that animal then that person really can't go hunting and get another one -- or, you know, it just might happen that that person might harvest an animal with another party.

33

34 And I'm not saying one person would harvest more than 35 needed, I'm saying one person would be involved with two hunts or two kills, say, and that one person would still only get one moose, but over a period of three weeks. And because of the reporting system you're supposed to claim it right now. Well, you claim that moose and then you're not allowed, really, you can go hunting, but you can't harvest anything.

41

42 I tried to work with our area biologist on that and he wasn't -- well, first he'd have to go the State and change the form and all of that. So one year I attempted to make it work for us and on mine I put point five. My hunting partner, when he turned in his, he put point five, total one moose. We're being honest about it, we're hunting. And yet my partner got a notice in the mail later in the year that he had turned his in when, in fact, he had, they just threw it away. They must have

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counted mine because I didn't get a report that I didn't turn mine in, we both did.

3

4 MR. DENTON: Which half did you kill?

5

6 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: I think it's -- the form, itself,
7s part of the problem for people who are hunting in a
8subsistence sense.

9

10 MR. DENTON: Yeah, and that's the State form and,

11

12 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: That's the only one we have.

13

14 MR. DENTON: you know, the biggest interest that
15 we have in terms of biologists is not an enforcement oriented
16 one, it's when a moose is dead we want to know where, its sex,
17 relative age and when it was killed. Those are basic items we
18 really need to know and that's all I'm requiring the people from
19 Nome Village to report. I really don't care who kills it. Now,
20 where people have tags and a report card associated with that
21 tag it's just like anyone else, one or the other of you have got
22 to decide to put your tag on it. I mean, that's nothing
23 uncommon to Alaska subsistence users. Every state I've ever
24 wanted in people have to make those decisions about, well, who's
25 going to tag this one, we both plugged it. You understand what
26 I'm saying?

27

28 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Sure.

29

30 MR. DENTON: And when you go out again, the two of you
31 go out again and you kill another one you put that other tag on
32 it. You know, there's got to be some reasonableness about it, I
33 mean, you can't report have an animal, you don't shoot half an
34 animal, you know, animal dies, it dies here, it was a bull and
35 was killed on this day and that's the real information we're
36 interested in. And, of course, that's the State's system, maybe
37 Jack can enlighten you a little more. And I don't know if they
38 use these heavy duty for enforcement or not, but I know the
39 basic information that Jack uses is the same stuff that we're
40 interested in, is basically the locations -- we don't really, in
41 most cases, don't care who does it.

42

43 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Right. We weren't working with
44 Jack at this time, I was in Ruby, but I see that as part of the
45 problem in reporting and when -- and in my dealings with the
46 people around Ruby I would just ask that when the season is over
47 that they do send in their harvest tickets and that it is
48 important for future use of the land the way they're
49 additionally used to using it that it does get turned in. Some

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body claims, it doesn't matter who, but it's just awkward the way it is now, you know, we have to do it.

3

4 MR. DENTON: But if somebody -- if people don't want to turn them in, have somebody within the villages collect when people kill one, just go collect cards and send them in in a big envelope or whatever it takes to report. Because in the long run you'll be the losers it won't be everybody else, it'll be you. That's an unfortunate way that it works, but really that's going to be the situation.

11

12 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Yeah.

13

14 MR. DENTON: Anything else.

15

16 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Henry.

19

20 MR. DEACON: You said you done moose study harvest in Anvik area?

22

23 MR. DENTON: No, we just did a general survey for distribution and relative abundance of moose, relative to the habitats available there. What it actually is, is, as you've discussed before with some of the other folks here, it's basically what we call a stratification flight over the entire area so we can make a determination on smaller units within that, which ones have high, medium and low density of moose. And that's the extent of what we did in terms of dollars and weather and what have you because that area had never been looked at before with even that kind of an intensity.

33

34 We really didn't know distribution of moose, relative densities, that sort of thing in there. We did not do an intensive survey for population count in there, we just had need to get a generalized idea if there's habitat problems, if there's distribution problems, if there's some opportunities to improve those within that area. And so when can, at least -- when issues come up in there we have, at least, some rudimentary baseline information about moose in that area. And from a BLM standpoint, budget wise, manpower wise and the fact that all of these are located in Anchorage, you know, we don't have a infrastructure of people out here in Western Alaska to do this kind of work, so that makes these things pretty inefficient to do, so we try to pick off a little bit of country every year that we've never even seen before so that we can, at least, have some idea of what we have there. And when issues come up we have to depend, to a great deal, on what you folks know about

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the country.

2

3 MR. DEACON: I know the moose don't stay among the
Hills. I know that's common sense, nothing to eat around there.

5

6 MR. DENTON: I agree.

7

8 MR. DEACON: So even if you had fire on there, a bunch
of spruce trees going to grow back up. That's -- like I said
before, those moose stays in the lakes, you know, in the
summertime, that's where they like to be.

12

13 MR. DENTON: Right, but a lot of the Upper Anvik
doesn't have any lakes.

15

16 MR. DEACON: There's a lot of brown bears and bears.

17

18 MR. DENTON: Right, and there are some old burns, but
when we get burns we find moose. We find moose that they're
absolutely untouched by hunters up there. They never come down
to the rivers, they stay on those burns. One of the little burn
areas we found up there, you know, was almost 50 percent bulls,
which indicates we're not harvesting too heavy in there.

24

25 MR. DEACON: You know the moose are migrating down to
the coast for the last five or ten years now. They never did
see a moose in that -- around there, that area, I was told by
people down there.

29

30 MR. DENTON: Yeah, we had radioed animals that

31

32 MR. DEACON: St. Michael's area, they say they never
see moose, but they start seeing them. So they're migrating
down the coast, I think.

35

36 MR. DENTON: Yeah, and a lot of those -- some of those
animals are coming out of the Unalakleet area, which has fairly
good moose numbers along the Unalakleet River. And we have also
had in the past radioed animals gone from, like, Horseshoe
Sough or Horseshoe Bend there, right out of Holy Cross that
ended up clear out by Marshall in the summertime. They winter
on the Yukon River, they go all the way through the Anvik
country, through the Andrafsky and go clear on out to -- way
out on the delta.

45

46 It's not real good habitat right now because it hasn't
had really much in the way of -- fires have been suppressed in
here to a large degree for many, many years. There's a few
percent fires been in there, but they're not distributed very

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Well and there's a large acreage in the '50s that was fairly good moose habitat and fairly open because it had burned in the 340s that is now pure dense stands of black spruce. Like I say, it's basically a spruce desert, it's not producing much.

5
6 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any more questions for Jeff?
Thank you, Jeff.

8
9 MR. DENTON: Okay.

10
11 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any more BLM reports? Alaska
Department of Fish & Game Report.

13
14 MR. WHITMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'll try to go
through this fairly quick. And if any of these points, if you
have questions on them at the end or during the presentation,
certainly speak up.

18
19 First of all, I guess, I should explain I'm the area
management biologist here in McGrath and the area that I'm
responsible for goes from -- basically it's all of Unit 19 and
21(A) and 21(E), so it includes everything almost to Unalakleet
23 Minchumina and part of the Nowitna, the Innoko all the way
down south to the head waters of the Holitna and so forth. It's
an area of about 60,000 square miles.

26
27 About half of that area doesn't have high subsistence
uses in terms of most species. It's upland area, mountainous,
either in the Alaska Range or toward the head waters of the
Innoko and the Nowitna it does have -- certainly has some
subsistence uses, but access to those areas by subsistence
hunters is usually quite a bit less. The other half of the area
is the lowland areas, along the Yukon, the middle and lower
Innoko and, of course, the lowland levels of the Kuskokwim
River.

36
37 As far as moose are concerned, I'll just run through a
list of things that have been conducted relatively recently.
Harvest monitoring continued, we had a check station set up.
The Department of Fish & Game set a check station up in the --
toward the head waters of the Holitna River or the Hoholitna
River, excuse me, to monitor float boat traffic. We have
additionally had a check station at the mouth of the Holitna
contacting upstream hunters coming up in big boats. The Board
of Game requested additional information on float boaters, so
that's why we set the check station up much higher this year.
There's also a check station over at Paimiut that was set up by
the area biologist out of Bethel.

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1 There was -- in speaking of the mainly subsistence uses
 2 of moose along the Holitna and Hoholitna Drainages there was a
 3 lawsuit -- actually the court date was the day before moose
 4 season opened. Boat Owners United, a group out of Bethel
 5 brought suit against the State trying to -- they asked to
 6 overturn the 40 horsepower restriction on the Holitna Drainage.
 7 The judge granted them -- granted their wishes and overturned
 8 the Board of Game's 40 horsepower restriction in the Holitna.
 9 So there were quite a large number of boats with greater than 40
 10 horsepower that went into the Holitna this year.

11

12 Fifteen days into the season or about 15 days, the
 13 Alaska Supreme Court overturned the judge's decision and it
 14 reverted back to a 40 horse restriction. Well, there were
 15 certainly a lot of hunters up there at the time not monitoring a
 16 radio every hour to see what would happen, so there was -- in
 17 consequence, there was very little enforcement by Fish &
 18 Wildlife Protection of that 40 horsepower limit on the Holitna.
 19 That certainly affects a lot of subsistence users in the lower
 20 and middle Kuskokwim.

21

22 Moose surveys, we'll continue to document trends
 23 throughout the area, like I say, it's a large area and I was
 24 generally spread pretty thin, but I do have 12 traditional trend
 25 hunt areas that I look at. I try to look at on an annual
 26 basis, sometimes that depends on weather patterns. There were
 27 20 trend surveys done last year and so we're a year behind in
 28 looking at trends. There will be additional surveys conducted
 29 this year, moose surveys, in the north fork of the Kuskokwim
 30 where there's been a noticeable decline in moose populations.
 31 And at the same time a noticeable increase in wolf populations.
 32 There have been complaints out of Nikolai and Telida and out of
 33 McGrath here also about the declining moose situation up there
 34 and so we are looking at expanding moose surveys into that area
 35 this year.

36

37 Continuing on with moose, calf surveys this past summer
 38 I should tell you a little bit of the history of the calf
 39 surveys, moose calf surveys in this area. Generally what I've
 40 found over the years has been accumulative calf percentage in
 41 the herd through the summer months up until the 31 of August of
 42 about 20 to 22 percent. That seems to not be highly variable
 43 depending on the previous winter, which is kind of a surprise to
 44 me. We aren't -- following a severe winter we're not seeing
 45 decreased calf production or survival. This year, following a
 46 relatively mild winter, calf production seemed to be very good,
 47 winning percentage was very good. At the end of August for the
 48 accumulative calf percentage in the summer we come up with 11
 49 percent. That's half of what it normally runs. I can't

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statistically point any fingers yet but I assume with good production following a relatively mild winter that there should have been lots of healthy calves not prone to starvation or disease or any of the problems that might occur.

5

6 I think predation is obviously one of the things that's affecting this local -- relatively local moose population. Wolf populations seem to be increasing. Numbers of packs doesn't seem to be increasing tremendously but size of individual packs is based on a little bit of work that I did this spring when I got back, wolf pack sizes seem to be increasing. In conjunction with that, as Henry has mentioned, bears undoubtedly have some impact, especially on calves. Black bear numbers locally here are relatively high. Again, I apologize for not having good clean cut statistical data on black bear populations. But I just -- I don't have that, those numbers. As far as harvest of moose this year, around McGrath and along the Kuskokwim River farther down harvest -- I don't have the information back from the statistics section yet, and won't until next summer until all the moose seasons are over and the harvest tickets have been put in, but my general impressions were the moose season got off to a very slow start this year but it did catch up. I was surprised at the apparent success rate locally. I don't know what it was like over on the Yukon and Innoko at this point.

25

26 One thing I have listed down here, and I hate to get Sharon going here, chronic problem with non-reporting. And I really -- I hadn't heard about your .5 moose. That seems like a good way to go and I might ask you to help me with my taxes this year. But I think to reiterate what Jeff said, I don't know a better way to do it. I wish there was a better way to do it. As a representative of the State and one that's been to the police academy in Sitka, I can't very well go against protection and say just report at the end of the year. But I think either when all the moose seasons are over, after the winter seasons, if you remember to send in your harvest ticket, send it in. If you get the reminder letter, send it in. I think the losers are going to be the local people. We have excellent reporting rates from non-local hunters and from non-residents. Because their reporting rates are so much better than ours. I look at the statistics and I say, gee, well, this area's not used by any of the local people. The Board of Game looks at those things very critically and says, well, you know, if we do have to go on permits or something, so many of those are going to be allotted for non-locals. And I think it's in the -- certainly in the best interest. I hate to keep, as Jeff said, preaching about it but I think that's real critical. And I hate to see the people the local people are going to be the losers if we don't start moving off on some sort of system. And I'm disappointed that I

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Haven't been able to change that around in this country. Still we have chronically low reporting figures. Whether you're successful or not, it's very important that the effort be shown.

4

5 I guess the last thing as far as moose are concerned, I'm sorry I'm taking so much time, is -- I'll echo Jeff Denton again here on the fire effects. I think there is a problem. Over the past 70 or 80 years there's been suppression of fire activities and it has changed the habitat to the detriment of not only moose but I think furbearers. And I'll get down into furbearers pretty soon. But I think fire is a very important ecological tool in this country. And we need to, in some areas, encourage wild fires to burn or even look at potential prescribed burns. I think the best example that we have is the 1965 as well as the 1977 Farewell Burn area. Bull/cow ratios up until three years have been very good. That's an area that gets fairly intense hunting pressure. But following the hunting seasons the bull/cow ratios have been very good. Spruce is now re-invading that burn area. It's growing up some of the brown species. Salix Alexesensis in particular is growing up in a lot of cases out of reach of the moose. It's just becoming a non-productive area compared to what it could be. I think repeated mosaic fires, not big huge fires that burn a tremendous area, but a mosaic of different-age stands in there would benefit everything.

26

27 I'll switch gears and mention a little bit about caribou. This summer's photo census that we conducted on the Mulchatna animals indicated an estimate of about 180,000 animals in that herd. With the herd growing at 17 to 20 percent annually, they're not only increasing in numbers but they're increasing in range. I think a lot of the caribou influx that the McGrath people saw last year were probably offshoots of the Mulchatna animals and not their traditional Big River herd that normally comes up here. I'd certainly like to see these remnant herds, the six little remnant herds that we have in this country, be supplemented by Mulchatna animals. I don't want to say that we should overrun the Mulchatna area and cause major declines but I like seeing the caribou up here. We've done some tremendous increases in season lengths and bag limits for those animals. Also subsistence uses are certainly increasing as that herd moves farther north and becomes available to people along the Kuskokwim River.

44

45 Wolves, the indications are very high populations in some areas. Relatively high populations virtually all over. Predation effects I think are certainly something in some areas that are probably at the point of being critical already and probably will continue to be real problems. As I mentioned in

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discussions of moose, I think the upper north fork or middle north fork of the Kuskokwim already is in -- potentially in a predator pit situation. I do have -- I will do increased moose surveys in the area this fall and I also got a little bit of money to do wolf -- a wolf census up there this spring. So I should be able to give this Board better information on wolf numbers. And we may be able to do something about the ratios of wolves and moose in that area.

9

10 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Excuse me, which area?

11

12 MR. WHITMAN: This is the north fork of the Kuskokwim. Basically it's everything from -- you could almost say from here to the headwaters of the Kuskokwim on the north fork. Traditionally that's been a big hunting area for people from Nikolai in particular. I've heard for several years that they're very disappointed in the number of moose they're seeing. I tried to establish a trend area in there in about 1989 -- '88 and '89 and I couldn't find enough moose to make any of my ratios statistically significant. So hopefully I can find something out this fall, find a pocket of moose or at least do some sort of surveys. This is a little bit anecdotal and I probably shouldn't get into it, last spring I came from -- I had to go to Anchumina to pick up some marten carcasses. I came back and first along the north fork, this was in the first of April, I found 22 moose carcasses, two wolf packs within five miles of each other, consisting of 41 -- at least 41 wolves. So, again, that's anecdotal information, not real scientific but I think it does confirm some of the things that the local people have been telling us for years. And we're pretty hard headed and it takes me quite a bit to get some money to look at wolves and expanded moose surveys also.

33

34 The fourth thing I have here was furbearers. And we've discussed -- we've hardly discussed furbearers at all. It's one thing that with low fur prices recently it seems to have kind of dropped out of everybody's minds. I still look at it. I hear the Native corporations and various entities always talking about things that will increase the employment in this country. Our prices, it looks like we're starting to get a little bit of rebound. And traditionally trapping and taking of furbearers has been an extremely, extremely important, both economic and social -- I guess social may not be the right word, traditional use of the area. And I'm very disappointed to see the low fur prices. I can't do anything about that but the decline in numbers of people out there trapping, I think it's got potential to be one of the highest employers again in this country. And I think it's something that as managers, the federal agencies as well as the State, we ought to start paying as much attention to

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as we can.

2

3 As I said, there seems to be a slight rebound in the
 4 fur market. I don't know how long it's going to last but prices
 5 are increasing. I'm going to continue to devote a lot of effort
 6 - it doesn't take much money but quite a bit of effort, into
 7 some of the fur bearer management problems that we have, marten
 8 in particular in this country. I will continue to collect
 9 carcasses and do the management based on carcasses, also based
 10 on the track survey that I do and based on the trapper
 11 questionnaire. I'd like to ask this Board's help in getting the
 12 word around that I am interested in collecting marten carcasses
 13 in particular to keep on top of trends in young to adult female
 14 ratios. I think it's real important.

15

16 We had a problem when I first came here. Many of the
 17 trappers talked to me about low -- chronically low marten
 18 populations. Again, I don't want to get into it in detail
 19 unless you want to discuss it, but I emergency closed the season
 20 and took a real black eye over the whole thing, took a month and
 21 a half off the end of the season. Well, after that -- I'm not
 22 saying it was exactly, entirely because of that season closure,
 23 but ever since then marten populations have rebounded and look
 24 in a pretty good shape.

25

26 Marten, of course, is the most valuable fur bearer
 27 species here. My estimates in the 1986, '87 -- no, '87, '88
 28 season, excuse me, just for Unit 19, it doesn't count the parts
 29 of 21, was right at half a million dollars direct income to the
 30 trappers. So it is something that is important socially and
 31 economically and we ought to spend as much time as we can, I
 32 think, dealing with fur bearer issues. That's a quick run down
 33 of things coming up and things that have been going on. And I
 34 appreciate the time to be able to mention it. Can we entertain
 35 any questions? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, one question here.

38

39 MR. DEACON: I know this is not related again to the
 40 Fish and Game. You're with the State Fish and Game?

41

42 MR. WHITMAN: Yes, sir.

43

44 MR. DEACON: Yeah. You know I was told by the village
 45 here where I'm from, we driftnet and it's against the law. And
 46 we've been after the State for four or five years to try to get
 47 that in place, pass resolutions on that stuff, by TCC
 48 convention. And we tried as individuals to get that.

49

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1 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah.

2

3 MR. DEACON: And they just kind of say, well, you know,
fish where you have to fish, and I was told to report this by
some elders in the village to this group here. But since you're
on the Fish Board I'd like you to know about it and see what you
can do about it because the people are concerned. And they're
- we're breaking laws because of the State wouldn't act on our
part.

10

11 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, and I'm -- I hate to sound like I'm
pawning this off. I work for a different division. I'm in the
Game Division and not with the common

14

15 MR. DEACON: Yeah.

16

17 MR. WHITMAN: commercial fish or anything. But I
can certainly give you a name of the person with the Department
of Fish and Game that is in commercial fisheries and should be
notified of this. And I think in a situation like this, Henry,
it may be good for the -- for a letter to come not only from you
for the Village Council but from this Board and let them know
that you're real serious in looking at changes in regulations.
But I really -- I'm completely ignorant of almost all the
fisheries' issues. I just haven't time to -- I have to spend
all my time on big game and furbearers. But I can sure give you
that -- the guy's name is Russ Holder I think. Do you know
Russ?

29

30 MR. DEACON: Oh, we do this every summer. It happens to
our village all the time. But it's

32

33 MR. WHITMAN: Yeah, I'm sorry I can't help.

34

35 MR. DEACON: People are concerned and they told me to
report this to this group. I wouldn't feel right I talked to
you and you say we're not on Fish Board. I just had to report
it but I would feel bad if I didn't say something about it and
go home. That's -- now I let it out and so I feel -- I feel I
done my -- what I was told.

41

42 MR. WHITMAN: Well, I think if you continue on and get
hold of Russ because I can't -- I can mention it to him that
you brought it up and I certainly will. But I can't personally
do anything about it. And a lot of times in a lot of meetings
that I go to people mention things and then nothing ever
happens. And I think if the people over there are certainly
concerned about it, then it should go farther than just
mentioning it. I think it's a good point.

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1
2 MR. DEACON: I think that's one of the reasons why the
Native people trust the federal subsistence more than the State
because the State wouldn't listen to our subsistence use where
the federal agency does try to listen to us. So I would be glad
if it turned over water and fish and everything to the
government. I think it would make the State think.

8
9 MR. WHITMAN: Oh, I'm sure it would get their
attention, yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any more questions, Angela?

13
14 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Just a comment.

15
16 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, a comment, yeah, go ahead and
comment.

18
19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: When we were in Huslia last spring
didn't we submit a proposal on the driftnet for Grayling? And I
think it's going to be coming up before the Board of Fisheries
at their next meeting to allow driftnet fishing for Anvik and
Grayling.

24
25 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I don't remember.

26
27 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I remember doing it. I remember
reading it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I don't think we're -- we don't
really have -- I think we have our hands tied on navigable
waters so far until the State comes out

33
34 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: No, I mean just to answer Henry's
question about driftnetting.

36
37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I don't think it was on this
Council because we never hardly dealt with any fishing issues.

39
40 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: But I remember hearing last spring
that they were going to submit a proposal to the Board of Fish
that Anvik and Grayling could drift.

43
44 MR. DEACON: We drift anyway.

45
46 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: We have been.

47
48 MR. DEACON: That's -- you know, that's the way it's
going to go.

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, getting on with the
3 reports, do we have any more of Alaska Department of Fish and
4 Game reports? Any other reports from different agencies, missed
5 anybody? Do you want to go ahead and go on to the next item?

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you may want to take a deep
8 breath before we move on. We're up to B of New Business, which
9 is Migratory Bird Treaty Update. In the minutes of your last
10 meeting I believe you requested an update on that. Under Tab 7
11 is all the material that I was able to obtain from the Migratory
12 Bird Program on the Migratory Bird Treaty Update. If you want,
13 I can summarize that or you can look at the first sheet which
14 kind of covers the issues. It's up to you. I can summarize it
15 if you'd like.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think it's pretty clear.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: It's quite important to subsistence use
20 and I can summarize it. I just would need your direction.

21
22 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: We've been attacking this issue
23 ever since I got on the Subsistence Council and nothing has
24 changed hardly.

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: I'm having a hard time understanding you
27 on that one. It -- you cannot -- it's not part of the Subpart B
28 process or the process of submitting proposals to deal with
29 migratory birds. But under here, charged to look as to be a
30 forum on subsistence issues and to look at subsistence issues,
31 obviously waterfowl plays a component in the subsistence way of
32 life. And that's why it's here to be discussed.

33
34 MR. COLLINS: Has anything changed; is there anything
35 the works or

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: The only thing that's changed, if you'd
38 look at -- I don't want to say it's changed but the -- where it
39 going is on Page 2 of that Tab 7 on the back side. I'll just
40 read it because I would be more comfortable doing that.

41
42 The Service -- the Fish & Wildlife Service prepared an
43 environmental assessment which addresses the alternatives for
44 resolving the migratory subsistence harvest issue. The
45 environmental assessment was finalized and became effective
46 August 8th, 1994. The preferred alternative -- there were
47 several alternatives in there, I don't remember all of them, but
48 the preferred alternative is to amend the 1916 treaty with
49 Canada to accommodate subsistence hunting.

50

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 2 The conditions of that preferred alternative would be
 3 all seasons closed until open by regulations; available to
 4 Alaska Natives and other qualified residents residing in rural
 5 areas; regionally limited; birds used as food for personal and
 6 family use and shared with community; and levels of harvest
 7 based on population status. Formal negotiations between Canada
 8 and the U.S. may begin in early 1995. And it needs to be clear
 9 to everyone that the agreement must be ratified by the U.S.
 10 Senate and so -- and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act will also
 11 need to be amended by Congress so it's a full-blown treaty.

12
 13 And the last thing I'd like to point out is that the
 14 last sentence of that page summarizes the relationship of the
 15 Migratory Bird Treaty to ANILCA, or Alaska National Interest
 16 Lands Conservation Act. And it says, thus the provisions of the
 17 Migratory Bird Treaty, I believe it's amendment or -- and the
 18 Migratory Bird Treaties would govern subsistence hunting of
 19 migratory birds. There is nothing in the MBTA or the treaties
 20 which support a preference. Subsistence users of migratory
 21 birds under Federal regulation would not receive priority either
 22 within or outside of Alaska.

23
 24 Mr. Chairman, in the future if the Council would like
 25 more detailed information on the Migratory Bird Treaty or the
 26 Migratory Bird Program within Fish & Wildlife Service, we can
 27 have staff here for it. But when I reviewed your minutes you
 28 seemed to just want an update. And that's why I didn't pursue
 29 having staff, but there is staff available. And that also
 30 applies to Henry's concern about fisheries. As you know, you
 31 don't have jurisdiction over fisheries, but Eastern Interior
 32 requested commercial fisheries' input and we can have them here.
 33 You can't take -- you know, you can make recommendations, but
 34 you have no jurisdiction over the area. But in the future with
 35 the generation of the agenda, let us know and the commercial
 36 fisheries' staff is more than willing to come to the meeting if
 37 they knew it was on the agenda and they could actively
 38 participate.

39
 40 And then in addition to that migratory and subsistence
 41 bird hunting issue, kind of update some materials that were
 42 generated for the AFN Conference. It gives you a fact sheet
 43 that you may want to read on your own. And then it gives you a
 44 composition of total harvest of geese and ducks, which is
 45 valuable information for you. And that's pretty much the update
 46 on the Migratory Bird Treaty. So it will take awhile and be
 47 negotiated with Canada and then it has to go to the U.S. Senate.

48
 49 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any questions on the Migratory
 50

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Bird Treaty? Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think since -- if it's
4 all right with you, I still have the floor, I would like to just
5 bring up the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council
6 resolution before George covers the Designated Hunter Task
7 Force. If that's okay?

8

9 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, go ahead.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'll pass that out. Why I want to
12 do it now is it follows the lead that Mr. Deacon brought up
13 about fisheries. I thought I had more copies but apparently
14 they have disappeared. Let me read one and then I'll pass it --
15 the few I have. I don't know what happened. I thought I had
16 more of them, but anyway the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
17 Council met in Tok October 19th through the 21st. During their
18 meeting they passed this resolution concerning factory trawlers.
19 And I'll read their resolution.

20

21 WHEREAS the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council
22 is concerned with the health of salmon stocks in the Yukon
23 drainage; and

24

25 WHEREAS it is well documented that factory trawlers
26 presently operating in the Bering Sea for pollack are allowed a
27 by-catch of other species, including salmon;

28

29 WHEREAS it is also documented that a portion of those
30 salmon, chum and chinook, are of western Alaskan origin.

31

32 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council would like to
33 see immediate curtailment of this wasteful practice.

34

35 This resolution will be sent to the Secretary of the
36 Interior and the Secretary of Commerce. The resolution passed
37 with a unanimous vote of eight for and one absence. I only have
38 three copies. I'll gladly share those and I apologize, I
39 thought I had additional copies. They just wanted me to make
40 sure that you were aware of their resolution and thought that
41 you might be interested in whether to add on that. And that --
42 if there's no questions on that, that will lead into Designated
43 Hunter Task Force.

44

45 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman, and are we going to do
46 something about this, supporting it anyway or -- this group
47 doesn't support that?

48

49 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I guess they just want us to be

50

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aware of it, huh?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Made aware of it, you have the option
4 just like they do. If you want to make a motion to support it
5 and the Council adopts it, then I can just send a separate
6 letter or attach your concerns to it. I'm not trying to say
7 that's what you need to do. That is an option you have.
8 Realize that the Federal Advisory Council system does not have
9 jurisdiction over navigable water and does not have jurisdiction
10 over open seas. So I think I covered all the legal points.

11

12 MR. DEACON: It affects subsistence, though. Mr.
13 Chairman, I'd like to support this. It does affect the
14 subsistence.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Is that the wishes of the Council?

17

18 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Personally I'd like to hold off a
19 little longer on it because right now it's -- we don't have no
20 jurisdiction on the waters. But in -- but by the end of
21 December I'm pretty sure we'll come up with a decision. And if
22 we do have jurisdiction then, we could go on this 100 percent,
23 you know, jump on this issue. But it's an issue that's pretty
24 important to us, you know, along the -- people that live along
25 the river. And it's something that we couldn't do anything
26 about until you have this decision. It's about to come out so,
27 don't know, I'd like to hold off on it, you know, until we
28 could do something about it instead of just, you know. I don't
29 know, how about the other Council members?

30

31 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, I agree.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: So you would like to wait until the
34 jurisdiction on the question is clarified?

35

36 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, if that's all right with
37 you?

38

39 MR. DEACON: (Nods affirmative)

40

41 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: How about Ray, do you have any
42 comments on that?

43

44 MR. COLLINS: Well, they're exactly in the same
45 situation we are in terms of jurisdiction.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, yeah.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: And they're really not -- all they're

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doing is saying that they oppose that, going on record as opposing the practice. And I think we could still do that even without jurisdiction because it affects subsistence users. We're not proposing a regulation or something like that. We're just going on record as opposing that wasteful practice.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: I just needed to warn you. I didn't want to mislead you. I'm not deterring you when I say that you don't have jurisdiction. I don't want to give you false information but you could do exactly the same. And it's just going on record that you're concerned about the issue.

12

13 MR. DEACON: I'd like to go on record just supporting this resolution.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: You want to move adoption of a comparable resolution? And we can just write it up.

18

19 MR. DEACON: I don't know. What do you think?

20

21 MR. COLLINS: It ought to be simple. It's just a move resolution, same resolution, if that's what you want.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: How about a motion to adopt this resolution.

26

27 MR. DEACON: I so move.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Okay. It's been moved to adopt Eastern Interior Regional Council's resolution concerning salmon on the Yukon River Drainage. Is there a second?

32

33 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: I'll second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's been seconded and all in -- let's see, questions? All in favor signify by saying aye.

37

38 (Ayes respond)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motion carries.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. If I understand that correctly, then, that you're adopting the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council resolution, and I'll put a letter to that effect that you support that.

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1

2 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. That moves us up to the Designated
 Hunter Task Force report and that, again, follows discussion.
 This is almost pre-planned. The discussion that Sharon had on
 the concerns about reporting requirements that do not reflect
 traditional practices. George will be discussing some other
 options or guidelines. This is a guideline to look at some
 other options. That's this purple -- blue, sorry

11

12 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Excuse me, can we take a five-
 minute recess?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Sure.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Okay. We're going to get started
 on our meeting again. Can everybody take their seats. We're
 running out of daylight. We're going to get started. We still
 have about three more hours of business to take care of here. I
 guess we're going to start with George.

26

27 MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The report that
 you have in front of you is sort of the final product in the
 process. It was stimulated by a number of proposals that came
 before the Board last year, the proposals originating in
 Southeast Alaska and on the Kodiak/Aleutians area. In summary
 these proposals commenced as a way to allow an individual to
 harvest resources on the behalf of another individual unable to
 do so, mirroring in some cases the State's proxy hunting
 provision. However the proposals were modified to be a bit more
 liberal in the species which could be harvested and the
 conditions under which an individual could take resources for
 another person.

39

40 When the Board reviewed these proposals last spring
 they decided that the issue that was brought forth in these
 proposals was not limited to simply Southeast Alaska or Kodiak
 Island and directed the formation of a task force or working
 group to look at this issue and try to develop some sort of
 mechanisms or means by which it could be implemented in a
 broader context than just those two areas. The task force was
 composed of representatives from Alaska Department of Fish &
 Game, the Regional Councils and the staff, the Board staff or
 Subsistence staff, as directed by the Subsistence Board.

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1
 2 During the first meeting it was decided that because of
 3 temporal considerations that the group would limit their
 4 attentions to three species; deer, moose and caribou. It was
 5 also decided in the context of the first meeting that options
 6 would not be not considered or there would not be the use of,
 7 no, we can't do that simply because it has not been done before.
 8 The first meeting then identified four options that would be
 9 further developed by working groups. All four of these options
 10 strove to try to provide a means by which one individual or
 11 numerous individuals could harvest game on behalf of another
 12 individual or harvest resources. It's recognized that the four
 13 options that were put forth were not the only means of
 14 accomplishing this or mirroring more traditional practices. But
 15 these were the four options given the time and the manpower that
 16 would be developed.

17 Two of the options are not available under the Subpart
 18 process, that is the tribal management option and the local
 19 management option. But given the fact that the working group
 20 had decided that they would consider any option initially and
 21 that these two options did accommodate the essence of the
 22 traditional practice of one individual or multiple individuals
 23 taking game for other people, these options were flushed out.

24
 25 Currently these options are undergoing legal review by
 26 the solicitor's body from both the Department of the Interior
 27 and the Department of Agriculture to decide which avenue they
 28 should be best forwarded on through the process, whether they
 29 should go directly to the Secretary, whether they should go to
 30 the Board, how they should be handled. So they weren't set
 31 aside. They haven't been dropped. They just currently are not
 32 available for consideration under Subpart D because basically
 33 they deal with transference of authority, which would be in my
 34 understanding a Subpart A matter.

35
 36 The other -- all of the options were basically flushed
 37 out by working groups. Between the first meeting and the second
 38 meeting they were reviewed, they were modified to accommodate
 39 concerns of individuals at those meetings. And then the essence
 40 you have before you is the final product. During both meetings
 41 there were a number of concerns that continued to resurface.
 42 One was the importance of the resource conservation. All of the
 43 members recognized that the -- to perpetuate subsistence uses,
 44 that the resources had to be considered.

45
 46 Another theme that came -- reoccurred was the
 47 importance of flexibility, that for a system to work it must be
 48 flexible. It must be able to accommodate changes in resource
 49 levels, changes in user groups, et cetera. And the last
 50

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reoccurring theme was basically the belief that whatever came out of the product of this group or the regulations that would be produced by this report would have to be tailored to deal with regional conditions. That is, that the group decided that the cultural diversity, the resources and stuff across the state precluded the development of one proposal or one method that would accommodate everybody, that there were just -- the differences were just too vast and too significant to do that, so that whatever came out would have to be flexible enough to deal with changing situations and to be tailored to regional concerns.

12

13 While at one level this seems to have gone against what the Board had initially sought to develop by directing the body to come up with a means of accommodating this traditional need, I think that it did go forward and has accomplished the essence of what the Board wanted. In that light the task force -- or the report that you have before you basically should be considered, I think, as a handbook to be used in either developing proposals or reviewing proposals that come in. That is each of the four options, a considerable amount of effort and thought went into trying to flush them out so that they could address some of the many concerns that people thought would come up, but that no one option should be considered the sole answer to the problem. And what is -- the Board is not asking that this body say, you know, give us Option A or select Option B in its entirety, rather that in either reviewing or developing a similar type of proposals, that you simply review the thoughts that went through here and use it as sort of a guidance to doing your job that you've been charged with.

31

32 A brief history as to what has happened since this product was completed, the Southeast Council basically adopted three proposals I believe -- no, excuse me, two proposals, one for deer for all of Southeast, that closely mirror the designated hunter option presented in this document, with the exception that they did decide that to ensure that waste did not occur, that one individual could only be in possession of two bag limits at any one time. but that they could hunt for as many people as they wanted. They could have actually tickets from four or five people but they could not be in possession of more than two individual bag limits at any one time.

43

44 There was another proposal for Yakutat that allowed the transference of designated hunters for moose in that area. They did not consider moose on the Stikine because of the fact that particular area there was a no-determination, c&t determination, on Stikine moose. And it was felt that that would potentially cause problems, opening it up to everybody in the State.

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1
 2 The Kodiak/Aleutians Council also adopted a slight
 modification of the designated hunter proposal for deer on
 Kodiak Island. Tok, last week, the Council at Tok, the Eastern
 Interior, basically decided to place this on hold feeling that
 the general public, the villagers, should be aware of it and
 that the proposals, I guess, should come from them, the guidance
 from them. Along that same line in Southeast, they decided that
 they would notify, send letters out and mock proposals to all of
 the villages allowing them to pursue the community harvest
 option. And I believe Gabe George, who is the vice-chair of
 that body, was going to put forth a proposal for Angoon for a
 community harvest option there.

14

15 As far as what is expected of this body at this time,
 there should not be the feeling that you're obligated to do
 anything with this, except perhaps read it. I know that there
 was some confusion in Tok as to whether they had to act on it,
 accept one or the other, or whatever. That is not necessary but
 you do have, of course, the option of moving on any or all of
 these options in one way or the other. And I guess that sort of
 concludes it and I'll entertain questions.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Is there any questions for
 George?

26

27 MR. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

30

31 MR. MORRISON: I might make some additions to what
 George has presented.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, come on up to the mic.

35

36 MR. MORRISON: My name is John Morrison. I'm the State
 Federal Regulations coordinator for the Department of Fish &
 Game. As George pointed out. we participated in these two
 workshops to come up with these proposals that you have before
 you. The Federal Subsistence Board, when they entertained the
 proposals from southeast and Kodiak last April, and feeling that
 they weren't at that point ready to make a decision about which
 of those proposals might be best, asked that these workshops
 take place and also specified that the State be involved in
 order that we might provide whatever knowledge we'd gained about
 this kind of program from our first year of operating the proxy
 hunting regulation that the Board of Game created.

48

49 The Board of Game designed the State's proxy hunting

50

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regulation with the primary purpose in mind of helping people get meat for food who were not able to hunt for themselves. They realized there was quite a possibility for fraud to be involved in issuing special permits for this purpose. So they put the restrictions on that the beneficiaries of this had to be people who were either blind or otherwise physically handicapped or over 65 years old. And they also limited it to those three species that George mentioned, deer, caribou and moose, because it was thought they were the most prominent food species taken for subsistence in quantity.

11

12 So this first year of operation at the end of the season there had been 440 of these proxy permits issued over the state. An interesting distribution of these permits developed that about three-quarters of them were issued to people who lived either in Fairbanks, Anchorage/Palmer or on the Kenai Peninsula, mainly Soldotna and Homer. About 54 percent altogether were Anchorage/Palmer. About eight percent of the total permits went to people in the southeast part of the state. And 15 percent of them over the rest of Alaska. And you might look at this in one of two ways; one is, well, they -- most of the permits are going to go where most of the people are, which is of course Fairbanks, Anchorage and Kenai. On the other hand, it represents a high proportion of these permits going to urban people rather than the rural people, which originally was the target part of the population that was felt to be most in need of this.

28

29 So in working with the Federal Subsistence office on this our major interest has been in trying to come up with both state and Federal regulations that are fairly similar, as similar as possible. And at the same time the Department has looked at the analysis of this first year's application with the idea of finding any way that maybe the State regulation might need to be improved on. And we have seen that from this first year's operation a great need for trying to simplify the process and make it a lot less cumbersome and complicated. It's difficult for a lot of rural people to handle the complex manner of applying for one of these permits.

40

41 So they -- the Department personnel who have been analyzing this have been coming up with some suggestions to the Board -- to give to the Board. They haven't done it yet in any degree except for one item that will be looked at by the Board at its meeting in January, I think, to clarify who does the reporting from such a hunt. The hunter who takes the beneficiary's permit out and applies it then has to, of course, return the meat to that beneficiary. And the Board will look at regulation that clearly specifies that it will be the

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Beneficiary who reports the harvest, not the hunter.

2

3 In the previous discussion that Sharon was pointing
4 out, the problem of hunters, not in this particular process, but
5 who just ordinarily would go out and get game and then share it
6 with the community, which is common practice, would use up their
7 tag and maybe only get a quarter of the meat for themselves
8 because they'd given the rest away. So they're stuck. I
9 mentioned you described that at one of the meetings we had last
10 summer. And it made me think of the fact that there are two
11 regulations about transferring meat, both a State and a Federal
12 regulation that require that when meat is transferred there is
13 to be a statement signed that describes when and where the meat
14 was killed and other information about it. And I've wondered
15 just how often does that document get filled out for these kind
16 of transfers.

17

18 This is another example of some of the complexity that
19 people in our organization are up against when people come with
20 questions like Sharon had about how can it be changed. We
21 certainly don't have any ready answer for that. Again, these
22 are questions that have to go before the Board or the
23 Legislature even in order to get some kind of change that would
24 maybe benefit a greater and wider variety of the populous.

25

26 Whatever we do on this in trying to not only improve
27 the State system as we go into future years of applying the
28 State's regulation but also in trying to get up a system that's
29 fairly equivalent with the Federal system so that the public is
30 not faced with so much confusion and differences of style here.
31 We need this information that we've mentioned several times
32 already in the meeting, the need for hunters, or the
33 beneficiaries in this case, to let the agencies know what was
34 harvested. It's extremely important if the -- either Federal or
35 State sides are to give the public the best service. We have to
36 know what's going on.

37

38 Now one of the activities the State's involved in
39 pretty heavily right now is taking the lead in putting together
40 a symposium that will be held next April out at Girdwood focused
41 on rural harvest reporting questions and methods and what have
42 you. We have people coming from Canada, I think Greenland, some
43 European countries, where other forms of subsistence by rural
44 people occur and for which there have been several ideas for
45 encouraging and improving the reporting of those harvests, not
46 for law enforcement purposes, but for the need of good
47 biological and sociological information, so that we can
48 constantly improve the way these programs are handled. I will
49 mail to the Council members a brochure about this symposium so

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that you're familiar with what's going to be included in it. And hopefully the Council might be able to send a representative to that meeting next spring and contribute to it. It would be beneficial not only to learn what goes on and what systems are talked about for improving this kind of reporting but you can also maybe add some ideas that would benefit other folks.

7

That's all I have on that and would be happy to answer any questions about it.

10

MR. COLLINS: Did you have a report by you said 400 and some

13

MR. MORRISON: 440.

15

MR. COLLINS: 440. How many of them actually harvested 47 moose of the 440; do you know what kind of

18

MR. MORRISON: I don't know how many took moose, Ray.

20

MR. COLLINS: Or game.

22

MR. MORRISON: Or game, all of them reported game.

24

MR. COLLINS: Okay.

26

MR. MORRISON: Most of them I think were deer, some caribou. I don't believe there were many moose. These figures are still under analysis by the folks in the Department that are looking at all this. And we'll have a report out on it eventually that gives a pretty thorough run down on what took place and what kind of alternative recommendations for any changes might come out of it.

34

CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Thank you George -- or John, both of you.

37

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if there's no questions for George on that, I'd recommend you keep this copy in a good place because these are guidelines to help you analyze proposals that may come up this next round. And they're also guidelines to help you if you decide to write proposals dealing with this. So please hold on to it. Thank you.

44

Mr. Chairman, that brings us up to the main intent of this meeting, the fall meeting, is to look at the proposed rule, or another way of saying that, the regulations that are existing. And if there's any ideas to change those regulations now is the time for the Council to look at drafting proposals.

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Now, under -- not to confuse you, you can either look at -- in general you can look at the green book for regulations, but we may -- we'll have to be careful, staff, because the proposed rule has some different things in it. So the proposed rule is under Tab 9, but it is in a Federal Register, which the print size and et cetera is a little hard to read. But we have enough staff here to make sure that if you are looking at drafting a proposal for an area, we'll verify it's written the same in the proposed rule.

10

11 And I -- in earlier discussion there was some proposals that Mr. Deacon was talking about. That's all the notes I have since the meeting started that appear to be potential proposals.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: You mentioned there was any deadline on this -- on the proposal?

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the deadline -- I'm glad you brought that up. The deadline to submit proposals is November 11th. So individuals could submit proposals. The Council, it would be best if we could try to hold off writing proposals now so you would have a vote for those. But November 11th is the deadline to have proposals in and that will be put into the process of analyzing them and also put into the proposal book which will come out in -- I'm drawing a blank. There's a schedule in your 26 you don't have it. Well, I'll get you that, but there's a schedule, and then the proposal book will come out -- I don't remember. I'll get you that information. What page is that on?

29

30 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Tab 9.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Tab 9.

33

34 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Boy, I just -- I got so far ahead of myself. It's under Tab 9 in your proposed rule about four or five pages in. There's this calendar of events which lists all the dates, and I appreciate Angela pointing that out. We're right now in the segment that says Regional Advisory Council public meetings, October 4th through the 29th. And then public proposal period ends November 11th and then the proposal book for distribution is November 28th. And then public review of that proposal book is December 1st through January 13th. And Regional Advisory Councils will meet in February.

46

47 And I provided under Tab 2, next to your agenda a calendar, that shows you the window of time when the Councils can meet. And so that kind of gives you an idea. And then the

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Federal Board takes up these proposals during its April meeting, which looks like -- it's down here as April 10th through the 34th. And then final regulations are published and then the regulations take effect July 1. So that gives you a synopsis of the trend -- or the schedule I should say. So right now we're in the public proposal period.

7

8 Mr. Chairman, we have a request from the public to testify that you may want to address.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I have somebody from the public?

12

13 MR. BAKER: Yeah, my name's Brad Baker and I'm a resident of McGrath. And I was talking to you a little while ago about -- I been in and out of here because I been doing things all day. But I keep hearing this harvest tag deal and I come up with a little deal. I was telling Jack a while ago that if you get like a organization like Cabella or somebody to give you like a rifle, a four-wheeler and a video camera, say, three places, to have an incentive to send those harvest tickets back, you would get a better count on your harvest and what you're making. Instead of some guy just, oh, here's a green piece of paper and throwing it away, he would see that he had a chance to win something. He would have a better chance of holding onto it and putting it in a deal and you have a raffle like, pull the ticket out saying that he won this raffle because he turned his ticket back in. And it would make everybody have a little more incentive and you would save lots of money because there'd be less paperwork than you would if you fine them or whatever, you know.

31

32 I mean you just have the people automatically handing their tickets in to do this raffle. And I don't know how you think that would go over or not, but I was just trying to think of something that would give people incentive on their part of so they didn't feel that they were pressured or pushed into doing something on that order.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think that's what just about every corporation in Alaska does to get their shareholders to respond to proxies and surveys and stuff like that. And it works.

43

44 MR. BAKER: I don't think there's a great big involvement or three year down the road thing. I mean it could be put into action pretty quick, I mean by July -- or what'd you say, only

49

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, July 1 is when the proposals that
would generate out of this meeting would go into effect if they
were adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board.

4

5 MR. BAKER: But you would have to con- -- or somebody
would have to contact somebody that was interested in donating
it or something to the cause to get them and have all the stuff
here and done and these laws passed -- or proposal passed and
done so you were ready when it came time to get your hunting --
you know, your hunting license and all the stuff that goes with
it so you could hand it back in, be ready. I don't know how
long it takes or how long you propose to -- this thing would
take to put in perspective to get it going. But the longer you
wait the harder -- you're going to have a tougher time getting
your harvest tickets back.

16

17 MS. GURTLE-STRICK: Brad, is this state wide or area
wide?

19

20 MR. BAKER: It'd be state wide, state wide. That way
you got -- I mean out of states, overseas, whatever, and you
would have to probably put it so that you would have to pick it
up on -- what did you say, on -- you'd have to be present to
pick it up or something, you know, in the area or the State of
Alaska. You can't get a European person coming over here for
something that he won that he couldn't get to or it wasn't
feasible financially wise. So you'd have to propose something
that it stayed in Alaska I guess so it didn't become
discrimination or otherwise, you know.

30

31 MR. MORRISON: Mr. Chairman?

32

33 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, John?

34

35 MR. MORRISON: Something that the Council would need to
consider if you formed a proposal on this, is there are both
Federal and State permits or reports. Right now it's running
about 150,000 harvest reports a year on the State tickets and
it's about 3,000 a year on the federal. And it would have to
make certain that the proposed regulation on this or opportunity
would make sure that both sides are

42

43 MR. BAKER: Yeah, that'd be -- that'd be fair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Ray.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: I think to make it work in rural areas it
would almost have to be by game management unit though. Because
if you look at statistically there's a lot more hunters in the

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urban areas and their chances of being drawn and where they hunt, they're more likely to be getting all the prizes. But if you had something for Unit 19 reports, everybody there, it's an incentive for all of them to turn it in and it would probably have to be prizes that would go to everybody that hunted in that unit and so on or else there probably would be very few rural that would -- you know, statistically that would get it just because of the different numbers maybe.

9

10 MR. BAKER: I just thought it might be something to look into and a little less paperwork and financial and upsetting the people as far as passing laws, fining them or otherwise, you know. Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Interesting idea.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: That's common sense. Okay, where we at on our

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you're at the stage that is where the Council can be proactive and develop proposals that it would like to change regulations that may more reflect additional practices. For example, Henry was discussing a potential proposal about -- I believe about having a half mile restriction along the Innoko River. And there's several others that the Council discussed earlier that could be potential proposals. The areas you represent might have an interest. You do not have to write proposals at this time. This is just your option.

32

33 In addition to that if individuals -- there are -- well, there is one public here. But in general if there's public or individual Council members that have difficulty, you know, writing up a proposal, the staff is here to assist them with that. You know, on some of them it's just hard to figure out how they want it changed. An example would be your Proposal 54. If you looked at that, that's quite a complex proposal. The staff is here to help with writing proposals for the public and for the Council.

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Is there any -- anybody with some ideas for proposals right now?

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Well, there's a need in 19(D) to do something about the moose seasons because they're -- there's three different seasons for 19(D) for winter seasons there.

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We've been working on the State side to try to get these together. We actually had proposals in, which they did not act on it next time, but we'll probably resubmit them again this next year, some of them. If they do, they're going to be on Sync. Telida has no season. One area's got December 1 to February 28th. And then around McGrath it gets about 1 to 15. It's pretty complex.

8

9 The problem is there isn't a lot of Federal land right
10 in this area. But I think at Telida they are close to that
11 Denali Park extension, yes. They could actually go up into that
12 during the winter season and would have some Federal land. I'm
13 just trying to think of what -- what we're trying for was a
14 December 1 to 30 throughout the area. And then Nikolai with the
15 control use didn't want to shorten their's and I can see that.
16 I guess for that -- for those other two parts of 19(D) if
17 there was a December 1 to 30, and then this control use area
18 would have this 1 to 28. That's one possibility. I can draw
19 something up on that though I guess if you want to. It's not
20 too

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: And obviously if a proposal is submitted
23 by an individual or organization, it comes back before this
24 Council at your late winter meeting. But you can -- Mr. Collins
25 could draft it now or with the assistance of staff and then
26 present it to the Council as a Council proposal.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. And I think in 19(C) there's still
29 a block of Federal land out there. Actually it's the
30 Federal (ph) burn. It's only -- it has a September 1 to October
31 season but it doesn't have a winter season at all. But I
32 don't know what -- I don't have any local input on what --
33 whether they would be interested in that or not. We'd have to
34 think about what the implications would be, whether -- I guess
35 the Federal season it could be limited to just local
36 residents, couldn't it? Is that what most of these are?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: You would look at the c&t standing for
39 that.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, and where are they at?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Well, for me it's easier to find them in
44 the green book. And that's on Page -- we're talking moose,
45 correct?

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: That's on Page 104. And for 19(D) -- or

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19(C), excuse me, it's rural residence of Unit 19. For 19(D)
 it's rural resident of Unit 19 and residents of Lake Minchumina.

3

4 MR. COLLINS: Okay, yeah. So 19(C) is only 19, yeah.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: And I'm calling up the assistance of your
 Biologist, too, because in reality he's the one that's going to
 Be reviewing the proposal. So the ones that you have mentioned
 So far as -- if I got them somewhat correct, you haven't passed
 a motion. You just mentioned them, is 19(D) unit wide, to have
 it I think it's a September 1 through 30th season. And 19(C),
 I'm not sure if I captured

13

14 MR. COLLINS: No, December 1 to 30, winter. I'm
 looking just at winter seasons.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I'm sorry.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: See, the winter season is the one that
 really is the discrepancy.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'm standing corrected then.
 You're talking for 19(D) would be December 1 through December
 30th.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, except in that portion that has the
 December 1 to February 28th. And then maybe add a winter season
 in 19(C) from December 1 to 30. And the down river one's
 already been addressed. That's -- 19(A) is down there and 19(B)
 is -- that's not in this area. That would likely come from the
 down river area if they were going to have anything on that or
 possibly Lime Village, Phil isn't here. But I think Lime
 Village is taken care of in the season they've got.

34

35 I'm wondering -- I guess we should look at caribou too
 to see what the growth of that Mulchatna if there's anything
 that could be done to -- yeah. Oh, no, no, actually it's in
 19(D) is most of that Federal. There isn't much in 19(C); there
 isn't much Federal land. No, there's probably no need to do one
 for 19(C). There just isn't enough Federal land to make it
 worthwhile out there, it'd be just the 19(D).

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: And, Mr. Chairman, to help the new member
 and others, essentially the proposal format is found earlier in.
 And it's got these black boxes on it and essentially it asks
 what regulation do you want changed; give page number and that.
 So if we did anything on this, we would put down Page 104 and
 then copy in there the direct regulation and how would you like
 it changed. I believe you want to add it's December 1 through

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30th season. Why should this regulation be changed? And give a justification. How would this affect wildlife populations? Well, then, now you can consult with your biologist if you desire. How will this change affect subsistence users of the Council? You could say this is a increased opportunity, whatever it happens to be, and then additional information to support your proposal.

8

9 That's the format. So for others when you go back to your areas you may want to next fall when you're with different people in your area ask them, you know, what do you want changed, et cetera, go through these same questions, look through the book the way Mr. Collins is and see if the seasons appear to be meeting the needs.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: And you said you thought November 10 was the deadline?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: It's November 11th.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: November 11.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: And as I mentioned earlier the individuals can submit them. The Council, it would be best to do it during this meeting and then that doesn't preclude the Council. They will see them again at their -- at your February meeting. And we'll have full analysis on it to both biological and sociocultural.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think I'll probably try to run this through the Local Advisory Council. Since they meet on State seasons we might be able to have one and get it in. Then this will be on the books and then this group can consider it next spring in terms of the position.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Will you be meeting before the 11th?

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Try to, if not, I may have to draft something and just turn it in to get a holding.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: And Terri will give you copies of the forms so you have them. It just makes it easier. You can use the general form that you've done with the State if you're comfortable. But it's about the same questions as long as you mark it that it's a Federal proposal.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Is there any testimony from the

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public on any proposals? Any other

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3 MR. MATHEWS: You may want to ask the crowd -- there is
 the one gentleman here that might have some. Agencies can
 submit proposals, too, but generally they do it earlier on and
 through their processes. So I don't know if the gentleman has
 any proposals or not, but you may want to ask if there's any
 public. They don't have to submit their proposals to you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: But you're here to kind of assist them
 and give them some direction on their proposal.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Is there any proposals or ideas
 from the public on new proposals? Carl, yeah, come on up to the
 mic.

18

19 MR. JERUE: Good afternoon. Well, this past hunting
 season I took out a 13-year old. He bagged I think it was a
 25-inch moose. And we were -- or I was asking him, you know,
 he's only 13 years old, I was wondering if we had to report that
 since he's under 16. So I was wondering what the requirements
 were on that. There has been a number of young hunters bagging
 those out there and they're going unreported as far as I could
 see. I was wondering if there was any requirements on that,
 mandatory or what not.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I'm not too sure on that.
 Anybody here have an answer to that?

31

32 MR. MERRITT: I took my 14-year old son out hunting for
 the first time last fall and I checked that out. And you are
 supposed to submit a harvest tag.

35

36 MR. JERUE: Oh, you are.

37

38 MR. MERRITT: From what I heard, sex, number and
 date (ph). That's what I was told.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, John?

42

43 MR. COLLINS: Regulations say all residents 16 years or
 older must have a license to hunt. All hunters have to get the
 metal tag or whatever kind of tags are necessary. The hunters
 must have harvest tickets, permits and tags while hunting that
 would involve a need to report.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Under 16 you wouldn't need

50

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license though, right?

2

3 MR. MORRISON: You don't need the license but you would
need to have the proper tags though.

5

6 MR. MERRITT: That's what I was talking about.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: And you get those free then if you ask
for them?

10

11 MR. MERRITT: They're free and of course they're not
cross referenced with a hunting license. It's just the harvest
tag that the minor has.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.

16

17 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: I have a question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Sharon.

20

21 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Yes, on the other end of the
spectrum I think there's an age, over 62 or something, where you
wouldn't have to buy the license but you would have to have a
harvest ticket?

25

26 MR. MORRISON: To get a little card there's a form that
you can fill out, Jack may have those forms, you fill out and
send to Juneau and they send you a little ID card. And when you
go to hunt you just show that to the person that dispenses the
tags and they will give you whatever you need, or harvest
tickets or

32

33 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: So then you would get your
reporting form so that if you harvested -- well, even if you
didn't, you'd have to turn it in.

36

37 MR. MORRISON: But there's no ID card like that
available for anybody under 16 as far as I know.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: What is the age on that?

41

42 MR. MORRISON: Sixteen.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: No, the upper end?

45

46 MR. MORRISON: Sixty-two I believe it is.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Sixty-two, huh. Getting closer.

49

50

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1 MR. MORRISON: A resident 60 years or older may obtain
 2 a free permanent identification card. The card replaces your
 3 sport fishing, hunting and trapping license. Disabled veterans
 4 are on the same page.

5
 6 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: That's good to know. Anything
 7 else?

8
 9 MR. JERUE: There's another question I had on whether
 10 how to determine whose land we're hunting on, Federal or
 11 State. I really can't tell the difference, you know, the trees
 12 look the same, water looks the same.

13
 14 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: That's been a big problem ever
 15 since we got formed, I guess. This issue's been coming up and
 16 nobody could really come up with any kind of clear answer. But
 17 I think once this navigable water issue clears up a little bit
 18 we'll have a better understanding of what land is what because
 19 of the high water mark. I think it will basically eliminate the
 20 high water mark. I guess, yeah.

21
 22 Yeah, that's a big issue down there. At our last
 23 fall's meeting we had a pretty long discussion because there was
 24 some people from Huslia that got caught hunting close to the
 25 water line, I guess. So that was discussed pretty thoroughly
 26 last year and it's never really cleared up yet. But I think
 27 this decision that's going to be coming out in the Court of
 28 Appeals will pretty much clear it up, a lot of it up.

29
 30 MR. JERUE: The reason I was asking that question was
 31 when we do report with the harvest tickets we put the location,
 32 approximate location, and the State comes back with you and
 33 tells you they don't have authority on that land that you hunted
 34 on, you took game on. But do they refer you to the Federal or
 35 ...

36
 37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I don't know. I ran into the
 38 same situation all the time for -- I got a moose where I wasn't
 39 supposed to and didn't -- they didn't ask me anything about any
 40 kind of -- of course, it might jeopardize my -- so, I don't know
 41 it's something that they pretty well, they let slide, I guess.
 42 It's something that just -- it's just the way the situation is,
 43 the way the make up of the lands are, and right now it's pretty
 44 confusing to a lot of people. But I think it will be cleared up
 45 a little bit more in the future. So I hope we don't have too
 46 much confusion about that in the future, I hope.

47
 48 MR. JERUE: Another question I had was in the past,
 49 when I was growing up, we always hunted in -- I think it started
 50

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On the 20th of August. If I recall right, I think it was 10 days or was it 20 days, I can't remember how long it was, but I knew it was in August. Why has that been changed? If you have any answers to that?

5

CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I don't know. Maybe Conrad knows.

8

MR. GUENTHER: I really don't know for certain. The only thing that I've heard regarding that is there was some discussion about the warmer weather and having problems with meat spoilage, so that may have been a major consideration, making that change, but I really don't know what the answer is.

14

MR. JERUE: The reason I was asking the Council here, the changes that I've seen in growing up. Now, the way the hunting -- the season is, it seems like the last five days that when we do see most of the bulls out and they're in rutting season. And all the big ones they're going out drinking water which makes them really easy to get. You don't have to go far, you don't have to look so hard. A half an hour you could have a trophy moose. And I'm thinking it might be way to protect the larger bulls in our areas, maybe move the season back five days or a week, something like that. And there is no problem with the warm weather now that we all got freezers and got electricity to take care of the meat.

27

I see it as a way to protect the larger ones by moving it back. All the hunts that I've been on, you know, late in the season that's when we see all the big ones out there near the water, which makes them the prey.

32

CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think Sharon had a question.

34

MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Yes. Would this, then, be for subsistence hunters only? In other words, you know, if there is subsistence hunters only, I know in the Ruby area it's the last five days of the normal season for antlerless. I mean subsistence people can take antlerless. And instead of those five days it would be five days preceded the season, which would give them a chance to harvest a young bull, leaving the breeding bulls out in the field and leaving the trophies for the trophy hunters for later in the season. Is that what you're suggesting; something like that?

45

MR. JERUE: Well, we don't have a cow season, you know, preceding the regular antler season, bull season. So I guess my intention was to limit the larger bulls taken later in the

50

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1
2 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: And it could be that the people
who would harvest an animal earlier in the season would be the
resident hunters.

5
6 MR. JERUE: I guess.

7
8 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Because the larger bulls are later
on. That would be for the trophy hunters.

10
11 MR. JERUE: Oh, yes.

12
13 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think one of the big arguments
on that around home is a lot of people don't get a big bull late
in the season because they're already start rutting by then. A
lot of people would rather have a cow, you know, the last five
days. In fact, most people I know from around home we would
rather pass up a bull if it's pass the middle of September, you
know, and wait for a cow season to open. But it's good to get a
bull early in the season.

23
24 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Um-hum.

25
26 MR. JERUE: August is good.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if Carl needs assistance or
whatever with writing a proposal as an individual, we're here.
If he'd like. I'm gathering he's asking for an earlier season,
but anyways we can assist him with writing a proposal, if he
desires to do that. And he is bringing it before the Council,
if you want to be involved with it. You will be involved with
it at your next meeting if it is submitted.

35
36 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think maybe you could probably
look at our season, you know, our season in 21(D), it's a little
bit different from 21(E) in that we have a cow season and you
guys don't have cow season. Maybe you could come up with a
proposal that would allow for a cow season the last five days,
September 20th to the 25th. Yeah, I think it usually 21st to
the 25th we have cow season and it seems to work pretty good.
So if you want to come up with a proposal or something like
that, you know, now would be a good time while we have some of
the staff here.

46 MR. JERUE: I haven't heard any input from the people
in Anvik about having a cow season. The bull season is
adequate, it's serving the people's needs. But what I've been
hearing, you know, the last five days of the hunt is -- that's
50

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When you see, like I said, mostly big bulls that are running and they're not much use to us, we'd rather prefer the smaller ones or get them early in the season if we're lucky. So I guess what I've been hearing is have the season moved up five days, but I haven't talked to anyone in Grayling or Holy Cross, Shageluk on that.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: We just went through that season last year. We had September 1 through 5 subsistence hunt only in 21(D) and it was on the books for one year and we had a lot of opposition to it and it was finally changed back to the original season, that aligns with the State. But it was probably split 50/50 for or against early season, you know.

14

15 A lot of people like the early season because a lot of people are out of meat at that time of the year and it really helps out. And then there were a lot of people that were opposed to it because it was too much confusion with the State season, you know, so it eventually went back to September 5th to 25th season in 21(D). So it might be a good idea to try it anyway, see what happens.

22

23 Any more discussion on proposals?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: I think Carl is going to be working with Conrad on his proposal as an individual and I think Ray is submitting proposals, as the Advisory Committee or as an individual. The only thing that I have on my pad of paper here that I'd like to check off is I thought Henry had a few proposals that he may want the Council to deal with.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: He's wanting a comparable one for an earlier one, he was talking to me about. Similar to the Aniak and Anvik.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: You have an option, Mr. Chairman, if you want to kind of recess and then caucus, you know, a couple of members and then work with the staff and then come back with some ideas, if you're more comfortable with that. That seems to be productive at other meetings. I'll start fingering staff here, but there's enough here that you should have, at least, one or two staff persons per caucus area. And they would be here to assist you in looking at Federal seasons, looking at that determinations and looking at wording and justification. So that might be a good idea to -- I don't know, we'd have to see what time frame you'd need to do that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: What's the Board feel on that? You guys ready for another break?

50

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1
2 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Yeah, sure.
3
4 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Get some proposals written up.
5 Okay, we'll take another recess, 10 minute recess.
6
7 (Off record)
8
9 (On record)
10
11 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Okay, I'll call the meeting back
12 to order. I guess we left off on proposals. Vince has some
13 information on new proposals here.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, I think there was some drafted for
16 the Council review, I'm not sure. You may want to ask your
17 Council members if that's true. I think the proposals that were
18 being drafted over here were going to be submitted by an
19 individual, so unless that individual wants to submit them to
20 the Council and then you draft parallel proposals that go in,
21 you'll see those proposals at the next meeting. And I didn't
22 track
23
24 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I don't have one for now, I'll
25 submit one.
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Henry, did you have proposals to submit
28 to the Council?
29
30 MR. DEACON: Two here.
31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I just got an update on Carl's
33 proposal, the public on that wanted it. He doesn't want to
34 present it to the Council, he wants to take back what they
35 worked on and go around the area he lives in and the village and
36 see what they feel about it. So he's not going to bring one
37 before you tonight, but you will see some version of it at your
38 next meeting. So I think that leaves us with the two proposals
39 that Henry has.
40
41 MR. DEACON: Do I have to read or will someone read?
42
43 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I can read them if you want me
44 to. I have two proposal here by one of the Council members,
45 Henry Deacon, and this is covering a moose season in Unit 21(A)
46 and 21(E). And they want the season in 21(A) runs from
47 September 5th to September 30, is that right?
48
49 MR. COLLINS: That's what it is now, this is what they
50

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Want.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, okay. The existing season
4 right now is from September 5th to September 30th, 21(A) and
5 they want to see it changed to August 20th -- from August 20th
6 to September 10th. And the other area is 21(E), existing season
7 right now is September 5th to September 25th and they'd like to
8 see it changed from August 20th to September 10th.

9

10 And why should this regulation be changed? After about
11 September 15th the moose start moving extensively and become
12 vulnerable to hunters. The excessive vulnerability can result
13 in excessive harvests which is harmful to the moose population.
14 How will this change affect wildlife population? An earlier
15 season will protect the moose population, but still provide
16 adequate harvest opportunity for subsistence hunting. It will
17 protect the moose population in Unit 21. How will this change
18 affect subsistence users? This change would not reduce
19 subsistence hunting opportunity for moose, but would enhance
20 future hunting by protecting the moose population.

21

22 Is there any questions on this proposal? It's pretty
23 clear.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: The Council may want to move to have it
26 make a motion to that effect when we get there.

27

28 MR. DEACON: I so move.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's been moved to adopt the
31 proposal before us. Is there a second?

32

33 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's been seconded to adopt the
36 proposal. Questions?

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Is everyone clear on the justification
39 for the proposal and

40

41 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: This doesn't state antlerless or
42 what kind of moose is it?

43

44 MR. COLLINS: It should be one bull moose, is that one
45 bull moose?

46

47 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Bulls only?

48

49 MR. DEACON: It should be, yeah.

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I think somewhere on here
3 it should be listed.
4
5 MR. COLLINS: It should be listed right after here.
6
7 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.
8
9 MR. COLLINS: We could put that in, yeah.
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think we have a comment
12 from BLM, Bureau of Land Management, on that.
13
14 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.
15
16 MR. YOKEL: This is Dave Yokel, just a note, there is a
17 winter season in each of those subunits also, you might want to
18 clarify that you're not cancelling that winter season with this
19 change. Just to prevent confusion.
20
21 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I don't think this affects
22 the winter season, this is just moving the season up in the fall
23 20 days or 15 days.
24
25 MR. YOKEL: Okay.
26
27 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any more discussion?
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: I think there may be some. Mr. Chairman,
30 don't know how you want to proceed with this because we can
31 bring up other information that may assist you in supporting
32 this proposal or rejecting this proposal as one coming from the
33 Council. Do you want us to bring up those items at this time?
34 An example would be with this one that you'd have a season that
35 would be different than the State season. If it's concern about
36 conservation, you'd have a longer hunting period, then, with the
37 passage of this proposal. If you look at both State and Federal
38 seasons jointly.
39
40 I'm not trying to say you shouldn't submit your
41 proposal, but do you want that type of discussion at that time?
42
43 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: This would only cover Federal
44 lands.
45
46 MR. DEACON: Just Federal lands.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: What?
49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Federal.
2
3 MR. DEACON: Federal. This is for Federal.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, this is a Federal proposal, but the
6oose don't know which season they're being hunted under.
7
8 MR. DEACON: Yes, I know that.
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: So you have to look at -- you do not have
11to look at, I'm just pointing out that the impact, if this
12proposal was passed, would be more hunting days. And if you're
13saying this proposal is to protect then you'll have to look at
14changing the State season also. I think someone else can
15explain this better, I just need to know if you want that
16discussion now or not? It will come when the proposal hits the
17proposal book.
18
19 I'm not trying to stop the proposal, I just don't
20
21 MR. COLLINS: In other words, the State season wouldn't
22season, even on the Federal land there would still be a State
23season unless you get the State to change their's, too, that's
24what he's saying. So you have to put a proposal into the State
25change.
26
27 MR. DEACON: Oh, we got to talk to the State task
28force, once they see that, I think they can go along with that,
29oo.
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, David James may have some
32other questions. And, please, I'm not trying to stop the
33proposal, I'm just laying out the information 'cause some may
34interpret that I'm trying to prevent it. I am not trying to
35prevent it. Thank you.
36
37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Dave, go ahead.
38
39 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair, I was just going to suggest that
40what's appropriate is to pursue both proposal simultaneously,
41you know, and you can pass and an appropriate recommendation or
42resolution or whatever it's called when it goes to the other
43system, to the Game Board, that you would like this, you know,
44the season changed. Because if you don't, you know, what
45happens is you end up with a longer season. Because people
46could still go out and hunt on Federal lands under the State
47regulation unless other hunters were specifically excluded. But
48that's a special case. I don't think there's anything wrong
49with it, you just have to make sure that you try to, you know,
50

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get the State proposal to come along at the same time.

2

3 I mean, it's not an easy job, but it could be
4 coordinated. It's possible to avoid having your change with the
5 Federal system and having the State remain the way it is, is
6 what you do not want, because that makes a longer season. It's
7 possible, it just would take a lot of coordination and
8 communication between the two, you know, and at the last moment,
9 if it was necessary, or for some reason the State Board wasn't
10 willing to cooperate then you could, you know, withdraw your
11 proposal or take whatever appropriate action is necessary.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I don't have the material
14 on the Board of Game schedule. The Fish & Game representative
15 may have that, but they're on a three year cycle, we're on an
16 annual cycle and I think

17

18 MR. COLLINS: Moose is up this year.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, but I think proposals have
21 already

22

23 MR. COLLINS: December 7th is the deadline submitting
24 and then it'll come up at the spring Board meeting.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, December 7th, okay.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: I just received notice that we have to
29 have proposal in by, I think, December 7th.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: So you do have the option that David laid
32 out, that you could submit as a body, if you did adopt this one,
33 on the Board of Game asking to change their season. I was just
34 point that out as an example that if you're bringing this up as
35 a conservation concern, you're going to have to look at the
36 composition for the area, as far as other regulations. It
37 doesn't mean you don't submit your proposal, it just means

38

39 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair, I would suggest, the process
40 would be, Vince will love this, is that you all could pass --
41 you know, give Vince direction that you would like a State
42 proposal submitted to the State Board on whatever form it is
43 they use, which is similar to ours, but probably different. And
44 he could submit it in the name of the Council, if that's the
45 direction that you give him.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: And also the option still exists as an
48 individual, Henry can submit his proposal as an individual. You
49 don't lose that option as a Council member, you could still

50

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Submit these proposals as an individual. It would be better if it was submitted as a Council, it carries more weight.

3

4 MR. DEACON: That's the way it should be.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, we had a motion and seconded it, are we ready for a vote? Are we ready for a vote on it?

9

10 (Various nods and um-hums from Council)

11

12 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All in favor of the motion to Henry's proposal signify by saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign.

18

19 (No opposing responses)

20

21 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motion passes.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Just for clarification. That motion was to submit the proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board as written and that's where it stops? And you're going to proceed with other action, maybe?

27

28 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.

29

30 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Are we going to ask Vince to

31

32 MR. COLLINS: If you want it to go to the State we have to move that we submit it to the State Board, too.

34

35 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Okay, he moved to submit it to the State Board, too.

37

38 MR. DEACON: I'd like to see that made by this Board here not by me.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, this is going in from the Board. I mean, we just passed this to go from the Board.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: So we would also need a motion to pass it on to the Game Board?

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Right, because that's a separate action.

48

49 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Right, I'll second it.

50

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1
2 MR. COLLINS: For member, too, what this does is get it
3 printed. Now, it may be that the local GASH or something may
4 want to modify those dates, they may have another proposal, but
5 then when we discuss them in the spring we would have those. So
6 we could even change our mind in terms of the exact days if we
7 get in more information. But it does get it in there in the
8 book so it'll be discussed in the spring.

9
10 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, okay. There's a motion on
11 the floor to

12
13 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: He moved, I seconded. Didn't you
14 ~~do~~ move?

15
16 MR. DEACON: (Shakes head negatively)

17
18 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Oh.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: No.

21
22 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: I thought he did.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, I thought there was a
25 motion on the floor.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: Do you want to move submission to the
28 State, too?

29
30 MR. DEACON: Yes, so move.

31
32 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Okay, I'll second it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: There's a motion on the floor to
35 submit it to the State Game Board, it's been seconded. Any
36 discussion?

37
38 MR. DEACON: Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Question has been called for.
41 All in favor signify by saying aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign.

46
47 (No opposing responses)

48
49 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motion carries.

50

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1
2 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we'll have copies made of
that, if you would like one?

4
5 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: And then definitely, Henry, you need to
take one with you, I'll keep the original and I'm making a
mental note that that'll be top priority next week to get it. I
know there's a December 7th deadline, but just to make sure it
doesn't get lost in the shuffle, to get to the Board of Game.

12
13 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: And that was Proposal Number 1
for this -- what proposal number was that?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: You didn't have a number, but -- the
numbers are assigned later.

18
19 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, okay, yeah. Okay, we have
another proposal here. Is this about the same thing?

21
22 MR. DEACON: No, it's about one half mile.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, this is half mile. Unit
25(E), one moose, however, -- oh, what regulation do you want
changed? What existing regulation do you want changed? Give
number, unit number of other species, if possible. Copy the
regulation from the published document. Unit 21(E), however,
only antlered bulls may be taken from September 5th to September
26th. That's the existing season.

31
32 How would you like to see the regulation changed? In
addition to existing language moose may not be taken within one
half mile of the Innoko River during the February season. Why
should this regulation be changed? Moose are concentrated on
the winter feeding grounds in late winter. Hunting disturbance
and in this critical habitat can be harmful to moose population.
How will this change affect wildlife population? This proposed
regulation should insure that moose are undisturbed in critical
late winter habitat and, therefore, insure that the moose
population will remain healthy. How will this change affect
subsistence users? By maintaining a healthy moose population
subsistence hunters will benefit in the future.

44
45 MR. COLLINS: I think, probably, you want the winter
season dates at the time instead of that September 5, whatever
that is.

48
49 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, February 1st through 10th
50

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1 in your area, that's winter season?

2

3 MR. COLLINS: That's the only you want on top there.

4

5 MR. DEACON: Yeah.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the season for 21(E),
8 the winter season is February 1 through the 10th.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum, that's okay, that's a
11 correction on that. Any questions on this proposal? Is there a
12 motion to adopt?

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, he moved it already.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, he moved, was it seconded?

17

18 MR. COLLINS: That it be submitted to the -- oh, no,
19 I'm sorry, I was just thinking about the Federal.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, this is different proposal
22 here. There's no motion to adopt yet.

23

24 MR. DEACON: I so move.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's moved to adopt the proposal,
27 is there a second?

28

29 MR. COLLINS: I'll second it.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's been moved and seconded to
32 adopt proposal. Questions?

33

34 MR. DEACON: I call for the question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Question has been called for.
37 All in favor signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign.

42

43 (No opposing responses)

44

45 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motion carries. We'll also have
46 pass this on to the Game Board too. Is there a motion on the
47 floor to

48

49 MR. COLLINS: I don't think the Game Board has a winter

50

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season, do they? No, I don't think they have.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, this is Federal, huh?

4

5 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, this is just Federal.

6

7 MR. SHERROD: They do have one.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Oh, do they have one?

10

11 MR. SHERROD: They do, yes.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Okay, then it would have to go to them
14. I'll move the it be submitted. The same proposal be
15 submitted to the State.

16

17 MR. DEACON: Second.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's been moved and seconded to
20 submit this proposal to the State Game Board. Any discussion?

21

22 MR. DEACON: Question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: The question has been called for.
25 All in favor signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign.

30

31 (No opposing responses)

32

33 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motion carries.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, here's the copies for the
36 earlier one, one is for Henry and one is for yourself. There's
37 an extra one if someone would like it, I have the original.

38

39 MS. GURTLE-STRICK: Ray, do you want since you'll be
40 conducting a meeting?

41

42 MR. COLLINS: No, it doesn't affect our area here, I
43 think GASH and the others are the ones that need them for their.

44

45 MS. GURTLE-STRICK: Okay, you need that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Any more proposals before the
48 Board?

49

50

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1 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Angela.
4
5 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Could we direct the staff to write a
6 proposal to do a wolf study for Unit 21(E)?
7
8 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I would second that.
9
10 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I think that's possible.
11
12 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Is that a motion?
13
14 MR. COLLINS: Did you move it?
15
16 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: No, you moved he seconded it.
17
18 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It's been moved to adopt a
19 proposal for a wolf survey in 21(E).
20
21 MR. COLLINS: Well, I think we're requesting, that
22 what, Fish & Game to conduct

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: That's what I was asking for
25 clarification on. Who are you asking this to do?
26
27 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Whoever has the most money.
28
29 MR. YOKEL: Maybe BPE (ph) will do it for us.
30
31 (Indiscernible -- simultaneous talking by Council)
32
33 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, I think Jack would be
34 involved in that.
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: I need clarification. You're requesting
37 a study, you're not asking -- it's not a proposal under Subpart
38 B so it would be a request and others are advising me that it
39 could be part of the annual report or be a separate request.
40 It's not a proposal, we want to make that clear, it's not going
41 through.
42
43 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, okay.
44
45 MR. MATHEWS: And it's budget dependant and resources
46 and all those other good terms for that. And BLM is here in the
47 likelihood. That's what I was looking to see the Federal land
48 pattern in that area and it appears to be Bureau of Land
49 Management for 21(E).
50

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1
2 MR. COLLINS: I think also part of the Innoko Refuge is
3 in that.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
6
7 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: So what are we looking for; a
8 request?
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: So the motion, has it been seconded and
11 that's where it stands, correct?
12
13 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Um-hum.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: I think what I will do with the request,
16 if it passes, submit it to Bureau of Land Management -- or
17 through the process it'll go to them and then to Innoko and then
18 they can work it out who will actually do it, if they do
19 positive. But it would help if there was some discussion as to
20 why you want this study done, just briefly here. I know you
21 discussed it earlier, but it would be nice to capsule it at
22 this point why you want a study done in 21(E).
23
24 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Mr. Chairman.
25
26 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Sharon.
27
28 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Yes, are we asking BLM, the Innoko
29 Refuge and the State to do a cooperative wolf study here?
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know, that's what I'm trying to
32 get clarification on that. If you are directing it to an entity
33 or just doing a shotgun approach.
34
35 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Well, we want a job done. Could
36 we write three letters saying the same thing?
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: I'll defer to the State on that. Federal
39 jurisdiction is on Federal land and et cetera, I don't know.
40 We're not to meddle in their affairs as an agency staff person,
41 maybe they can speak to that.
42
43 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Would it be

44
45 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: John has some information.
46
47 MR. MORRISON: It would be appropriate to ask the Board
48 ask the State. The Board could take a look at the situation
49 and the Board would be representing the Federal agencies
50

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involved. At the same time, then, the Board could invite the State to participate in this, just like they've asked us to participate in workshops in designing the designated hunter.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: I think the reason, Mr. Chairman, or some
6 of them that we stated is it's a critical subsistence area for a
7 large number of users, it's a very important moose population
8 here. Studies are being conducted on moose numbers and their
9 food base and so on, but we don't have corresponding information
10 on the predators that utilize that same area and it would be
11 good to have that to have a complete study of both populations
12 in the area and their interactions. For the sake of managing
13 and maintaining healthy moose populations in the future. That's
14 some of the reasons I can think of. And also there seems to be
15 -- local perception is, is there's an increasing number of
16 wolves using the area and we would like to know what impact
17 they're having on the moose populations.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: So we'll direct a request to
20...

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: It's been moved and seconded, was there a
23 vote on that or did I miss the vote?

24

25 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: No.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: No, we haven't voted. It's been
28 moved and seconded to request U.S. Fish & Wildlife to do a wolf
29 survey in Unit 21(E).

30

31 MS. GURTNER-STRICK: Is it U.S. Fish & Wildlife or to
32 request the Board?

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: I think it would be just best, like
35 Mr. Morrison said, to the Federal Subsistence Board and then
36 we'll work it that way. I was just upgrading my knowledge of
37 what land base was in 21(E).

38

39 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, okay. It's been moved and
40 seconded to request the

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Some comment there.

43

44 MR. DEACON: 21(E) and how about 21(A); (A) and (B)?

45

46 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: This is for just 21(E).

47

48 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: That's where we're having the most
49 problem 21(E).

50

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1
2 MR. DEACON: 21(E) and that's the motion on the floor.
3 We have a problem in the Innoko River, too. That's where the
4 wolves and the hunters are really hitting. Well, our area it's
5 the subsistence users, I think, more like.

6
7 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, are we ready for a vote?
8 Any more discussion on this request?

9
10 MR. DEACON: I call for the question.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: The question has been called for.
13 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All opposed, same sign.

18
19 (No opposing responses)

20
21 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Motions carries. Is there any
22 other proposals? Hearing none, we'll go on with the next thing
23 on the agenda. And that's development of Council proposals.
24 That's over, huh? Future meeting plans.

25
26 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Oh, yes.

27
28 MR. COLLINS: We got the annual report.

29
30 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh, we'll we better skip that.
31 1994 Annual Report.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, real quick. The copies
34 that I just handed out, I'm changing them on the master, it says
35 the name or organization as Henry Deacon, since you adopted that
36 as your proposal, I'm making that Western Interior.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.

39
40 MR. DEACON: Yeah.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you. Yes, we're up to annual
43 report. I'm all ears.

44
45 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Who's got the annual report?
46 Who's got the annual report?

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the annual report for last year is
49 under Tab 6.

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: This is last years, 1993, I
3 thought we were suppose to discuss '94.

4
5 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, we have to compose one, though.

6
7 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Oh.

8
9 MR. COLLINS: This is the one we sent last year, some
10 of the things, let's see what we did. I guess one thing is that
11 we could note that the clarification on the mean high water
12 still remains a point of contention and the boundaries between
13 State and the Federal areas -- I don't know if there's any
14 marking, like on the Koyukuk. It was suggested that, at least,
15 where one began there would be some flags on the river, did that
16 ever happen this fall?

17
18 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I don't think so.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: Okay. We talked about that in the
21 spring. So we might in this report that there is still
22 confusion on the part of hunters in the Koyukuk about where the
23 State and Federal lands are. I don't know if it's confusing
24 down in 21(E), is it? Does it pose a problem down there with
25 any of the late seasons or any of the -- which is State and
26 which is Federal or not?

27
28 MR. DEACON: Oh, yeah.

29
30 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Well, we don't know, we just know
31 that the moose are there (ph). (Indiscernible -- away from mic)

32
33 MR. COLLINS: We dealt with that Aniak area, we do have
34 there's is a Council member down there not. I guess we
35 could, in the annual report, note what we said about these
36 alternate members that it is difficult with a large area and
37 some members not being able to make it for weather or other
38 reasons that when we've had our meetings we've had areas
39 represented and that's the reason why we're submitting a
40 request for the two alternate members. So that could be written
41 up as part of -- just summarizing what we've already done here.
42 And I suppose the report, again, would include this issue on
43 this study right now. The fact that we lack the data about
44 what's happening in terms of wolf populations. Predators in
45 relationship to the moose and so on, the reason we're asking for
46 that study. That's not duplication, is it, to put that in our
47 annual report as issues that we're concerned about?

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: No, I was just going to recommend that we
50

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do it both ways. That I would draft a letter for Harold to sign requesting it, because it's not clear when the annual reports will be reviewed by the Secretaries, so there could be a delay in that, so we could do it both, put it in the annual report and then send a request as a part of this meeting.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: And I think that might be strengthened if you have comments from staff, they also mentioned that they would like to see that kind of a study and maybe some of them have comments as to why such a study would be useful. So would that strengthen the annual report if that

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it would strengthen the report. If I understand you're asking me to contact staff for additional justifications for doing this study, that's no problem to do that. That's showing a cooperative effort with the management and the Council.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Because I heard from the refuge managers they were behind that kind of a request and they saw the need for that, too, so they may have further comments that would strengthen that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think also maybe the season that was changed back from early season to the regular season that was before on September 1st through 5th was changed back to September 5th to the 25th in Unit 21(D).

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: You would want that in the annual report?

30

31 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, it was

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Because that's, you know, a proposal to change regulation request.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: That's not a proposal, it was changed, already changed.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Then I'm not clear on what you're asking for then.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, what they want to know is, more or less, what we accomplished in the last year, isn't it? Under accomplishments.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: You want to go over accomplishments for the last year in the annual report, is that what you're indicating?

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, I can address it. May not,
2 guess.

3
4 MS. GURTLE-STRICK: Well, I think Harold is referring
5 to Number 2 under important points to remember. The annual
6 report may be viewed as a report card on the subsistence program
7 including the Regional Advisory Council system. In other words,
8 this is something that was done that we may have recommended.
9 It's -- the report would be listing something that was done, not
10 to be done. If it's to be done then it can't be reported yet.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: No, the annual report is, as it's listed
13 under 805, is identification and evaluation of uses and needs
14 and recommended strategies. Yes, you can have a component in
15 the report that goes over what has been accomplished or done, et
16 cetera, but it's more identification and evaluation. It can be
17 summaries, but it's to point out deficiencies.

18
19 These are my opinions and I'm basing them the reports
20 that I wrote for the State, the annual reports. We were looking
21 at areas where there was a need for additional input or et
22 cetera. It can be the other, too, but this is a report that
23 kind of, in my opinion, is to flag issues of concern. Like
24 you've mentioned already from your last report, confusion on
25 identification of land jurisdiction and alternate members.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: Do you have a statement that could be
28 made as to how that positively impacted subsistence hunters. I
29 see where something is implemented we might comment to say how
30 that is making it possible for subsistence needs to be met, if
31 we have kind of additional information on the impact of some
32 action, that would be -- is that the case? Do you know? I
33 mean, is there something we could say that would -- as to how
34 its
35 affected

36
37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Kind of eliminated some of the
38 confusion as to two different season, hunting seasons on two
39 different lands, you know.

40
41 MR. COLLINS: I see, yeah.

42
43 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It did eliminate the confusion,
44 I think that should be noted in the annual report.

45
46 MR. COLLINS: So in this fall season, then, the
47 suggested change eliminated the confusion that existed prior on
48 hunting and it was -- and what, were the hunters pleased about
49 that?

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, I haven't heard any
3 complaints. Yeah, Dave may have a clarification.

4
5 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair, thank you. As I recall at the
6 spring meeting there was general agreement that people in the
7 area wanted to have that four or five day advantage, they did
8 desire it. However, because it put them in jeopardy of breaking
9 the law, they wanted to eliminate that possibility, so maybe the
10 point that should be emphasized in your annual report is this is
11 the dilemma that comes off this boundary problem. And because
12 of the way jurisdiction is currently set up it prevents you from
13 having that kind of a four day early season. In other words, a
14 way to give local people an additional advantage or opportunity
15 before the general season is opened. This is one of the
16 dilemmas that you face. Now that's what I remember from the
17 spring meeting. That's seemed to be -- if there's any moral to
18 the story at all, I think it's something like that.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, since I'm way off base on
21 this one, I would kind of request that on that section that I
22 would consult with you when I'm drafting that section in the
23 report and possibly David James to get it clear, if that's okay
24 with the Council.

25
26 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, fine.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, 'cause I'm not tracking you at all.

29
30 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: And if there's any other things
31 for the annual report, you know, it would be good identify them
32 now and then maybe we can work on it in the next few weeks or
33 so.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: If you're indicating that if other
36 members have additional things that they can get a hold of me to
37 incorporate.

38
39 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: We need to kind of put a deadline on
42 dropping that because then I can function more efficiently that
43 way. I would say if they have any additional things to add to
44 the annual report that they should contact you and then contact
45 me together so it's in agreement with the Chair, some sequence
46 like that, before the next Board meeting, which is November
47th. If that's agreeable, because then we can proceed. So why
48 am saying incorporate the Chair is that the Chair needs to be
49 informed of what's possibly going in.

50

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1
 2 Actually what would be best is you would contact me and
 3 I will contact the Chair and the people submitting it would
 4 leave it up to the Chair's direction that it might not put into
 5 the annual report. If that's agreeable to all the members.
 6 Okay. So it would be by November 14th.

7
 8 Again, the 800 number is there to call and the past
 9 practice of utilizing the phone and charging it to the phone to
 10 call to each other is still in effect. And David can explain
 11 that one, but essentially if you want to call another member you
 12 would charge it to the Fairbanks number so you don't end up with
 13 a bill when you're discussing these issues amongst yourselves.

14
 15 Okay, I think if that's it for the annual report, we're
 16 on to where do you want to meet next and maybe before where we
 17 should discuss when. There's a calendar right next to your
 18 agenda, the X's indicated the beginning and end of the window
 19 where Council meetings can happen. I would prefer or recommend
 20 that the Council try to meet either the week of February 6th
 21 through the 10th or the week of the 13th through the 17th
 22 because the Eastern Interior is meeting on March 1st, 2nd and
 23 3rd, somewhere in that time. And that would allow me to
 24 adequately address both Council's needs.

25
 26 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think I had a different date
 27 set for that. I think maybe February 24th and 25th.

28
 29 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Um-hum.

30
 31 MR. MATHEWS: What was the dates?

32
 33 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: February 24th and 25th.

34
 35 MR. MATHEWS: February 24th and 25th?

36
 37 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

38
 39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the only reservation on
 40 that is the staff that's going to be assisting with you will
 41 also be gearing up and working for the Eastern Interior, which
 42 is scheduled to meet March 1st, 2nd and 3rd. So there's
 43 potential that weather could prevent us being -- one is weather
 44 and one is staff load. If it could be earlier in February it
 45 would make it easier on staff arrangements.

46
 47 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I probably

48
 49 MR. COLLINS: 17th, 18th?

50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I'd rather stick with February
3 3rd to the 25th if possible.
4
5 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: I would to.
6
7 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Because I have a lot of things to
8 do the first part of February, the first half. And I might not
9 be able to make it any other days.
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: So we're looking now at the dates of the
12 23rd, 24th and 25th, then, somewhere in there?
13
14 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.
15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Is that the wishes of the Council?
17
18 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.
19
20 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: And I think if something else
21 came up we might be flexible to, you know, move it up a few
22 days. We don't to overload you guys with work.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: I'm taking indication by the nodding of
25 heads that the seems to be the most appropriate dates.
26
27 MR. COLLINS: That would work best for me, I think.
28
29 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I think we're pretty much
30 in agreement. We have longer daylight time, stuff like that,
31 too, on those days and it's a little bit warmer.
32
33 MR. MATHEWS: The next question is location of that
34 meeting.
35
36 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: What about Huslia? Since we don't
37 have a representative from that area any longer.
38
39 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, we discussed Huslia and it
40 sounds like a pretty good

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Since we don't have a member there, do we
43 need to get permission to use -- I mean, there's no one here to
44 speak for Huslia. Or is there someone here to speak for Huslia
45 that they would like us to have the meeting there?
46
47 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think they would be more than
48 glad to have it there.
49
50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
2
3 MR. COLLINS: You can check with them on that, I guess?
4
5 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum. (Affirmative)
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then we'll go with Huslia.
8
9 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Who's on their Advisory Committee?
10
11 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I don't even know if they have
12 any meetings anymore.
13
14 MR. COLLINS: I think that probably because of the time
15 of the year we need to check the dates and the availability of
16 I mean they would have to be able to have places to put us up
17 and so on. I remember in Galena, even, it was a question for a
18 while that there would be any place to stay there last year.
19 That's a cold time of year, so there would have to be a check on
20 that, so there needs to be a fall back, too, if for some reason
21 that won't work in terms of time or accommodations of being able
22 to meet somewhere else.
23
24 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Maybe I have a suggestion here,
25 well, if we can't make it Huslia for February 23rd to the 25th,
26 maybe we can make it in Galena a week earlier or the same date.
27
28 MR. COLLINS: Is Anchorage viable at all?
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Please?
31
32 MR. COLLINS: Is Anchorage a possibility, was there a
33 determination on that or not? Inside the area or

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: I looked into that earlier in the meeting
36 that I could find there's no requirement that you meet in
37 your region, other than the fact that you are to solicit local
38 comments.
39
40 MR. COLLINS: Right.
41
42 MR. MATHEWS: So local comments would have to go to
43 Anchorage.
44
45 MR. COLLINS: I was thinking because of the timing, if
46 something fell through on that, it might be easier to arrange a
47 fall back, like in Anchorage, where there is accommodation, it's
48 closer to your office, then having to start all over trying to
49 arrange it in another community or something.
50

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1
2 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: And also lodging in Huslia, I'm not sure,
we'll have to get the community to offer the various government
6- village offices and et cetera and maybe homes. And the
school, I don't know, and the school is always an option too.
8o if I get it correctly Huslia is number one, if that does not
work out for some reason then the fall back is Anchorage?
10
11 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Or Fairbanks?
12
13 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Fairbanks.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: Or Fairbanks?
16
17 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Fairbanks would be a little more
accepted for a lot of our areas.
19
20 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: For people from Huslia, Allakaket,
Hughes, Galena, Fairbanks would be easier.
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: But for Anvik and the other areas, it's
24 we have to run you through Anchorage to get that

25
26 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: And McGrath.
27
28 MR. COLLINS: Where is most of the staff that will be
involved in the meeting?
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Your team is all out of Anchorage, as it
stands now. Oh, I'm sorry, I keep forgetting about George, I
apologize. George is in Fairbanks. Conrad and myself are out
of Anchorage at this moment. I apologize, George. The
sociologist is in Fairbanks or anthropologist.
36
37 MR. DEACON: Like for me, how do I travel to Huslia?
How do they do that; charter or go by some

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: We would make arrangements though
charters or whatever. We would work that out, the travel
arrangements. I mean, getting everybody into Huslia is going to
be also interesting, so it's just the nature of this area here
reach to is Anchorage driven and the other areas are
Fairbanks driven, so we just have to work through it, that's
all.
47
48 So is the fall back then, Fairbanks, then? It's good
to have a fall back in case something

50

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1
2 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Huslia, Anchorage, Fairbanks now?
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: We can always throw in Juneau.
5
6 MR. COLLINS: Do you have -- you go to where, Galena,
and then -- can you go to Anchorage or Fairbanks from Galena?
8
9 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, from Galena to Fairbanks,
yeah.
11
12 MR. COLLINS: Oh, you go there and done to Anch- -- if
13 was Anchorage. There isn't any Galena-Anchorage now?
14
15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: No, no more direct flights from
Galena to Anchorage.
17
18 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay. We have the same problem in
19 that we would end up going into Anchorage and then up to
Fairbanks.
21
22 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Well, you guys would probably
23 like that.
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Well, do you want to leave it up to my
26 professional judgment on your back up?
27
28 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: I think that's was we did last
29 year when came down here, it was pretty much charters going up
30 here to down here.
31
32 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Um-hum.
33
34 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: It wasn't much of a problem. So
35 maybe we'll have our second choice in Fairbanks, then?
36
37 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: These are the same dates?
38
39 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: On the same dates.
42
43 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Same dates, yeah.
44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, pretty much on topics, issues and
46 subjects, obviously you'll be doing Subpart D proposals; you'll
47 be back again with the option of official recommendations on the
48 Kenai c&t, pretty much for sure, it's still pretty questionable
49 the Upper Tanana c&t determinations. And there'll be other
50

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various issues that may surface between now and then. Are there any issues now that somebody would like noted for this meeting?

3

4 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Angela.

5

6 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Jack, for the next meeting I'd like to see a report on caribou. I'm very curious to know about them.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: For what region?

11

12 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: 21(E).

13

14 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: 21(E)?

15

16 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: The reason I'm so interested, last month, in September, someone flew over our village from Aniak going up river and spotted 30 caribou on the bar, we don't have caribou. So we thought the guy is still seeing things, you know. We didn't believe it (ph), we sent two boats down river. We go down and drag out boat down in front of the bar and there was a lot of caribou tracks there. Then about two days later an elder, who is 75 years old, he picks berries at Otter Hole. Otter Hole is about 10 miles down river from Holy Cross and it's a slough.

26

27 He was back there picking berries and he seen something on the hill moving around. He's 75 and his eyesight getting -- it's good but not that good, so he took his binoculars and lo and behold there's a bunch of caribou up on the mountain, on the Hill where he's going to go for berries. So I want to learn more about caribou. If someone could give us a report on how they travel. I'm curious.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, we have the same -- almost the same situation from on the Koyukuk, you know. Two years we had, oh, over 50,000 caribou come out behind Koyukuk and about this time of year and head on up the Koyukuk River. That was two, three years ago and then last year there was none. None come, but there were, I think, 50,000 caribou came out around St. Michael. They thought that that was where the herd went, further south this last year. It might be some of the caribou that got slowed down, lost their way home or something.

44

45 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Um-hum.

46

47 MR. GUENTHER: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. Angela, specifically, what would you like know? I may be answer your question now.

50

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1
2 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Where are the caribou around 21(E)?
3
4 MR. GUENTHER: I would guess that what you're probably
5 getting is some really early migrants in the Western Arctic
6 caribou herd. Because last year the Western Arctic herd came
7 down and -- I wish we had a bigger map that showed the whole
8 area. But the Western Arctic caribou herd actually ended up out
9 on the Yukon River Delta clear down to the mouth of the Yukon
10 River. They didn't cross the Yukon River down there. So
11 Western Arctic has been, every year for a number of years now
12 the range has been expanding farther and farther.
13
14 So probably, almost for sure, what you're seeing were
15 Western Arctic and most probably the front edge of the movement
16 of Western Arctic animals moving down through that area onto the
17 wintering area.
18
19 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Because at first some of the people
20 thought -- you know, Aniak people always have caribou in the
21 wintertime, but those things can't swim across the Yukon, it's
22 really fast water.
23
24 MR. GUENTHER: Well, they cross some hugh rivers in
25 Canada, the Porcupine herd crosses some really large rivers,
26 they cross them with ice flows in them. I mean, caribou are
27 capable of swimming some very large rivers and some very rapid
28 rivers. In fact, some of the rivers in Canada, they had such
29 strong current that a lot of the caribou are killed actually on
30 some of the crossings. So they certainly are capable of doing
31 that. That would be my guess at this point.
32
33 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: We have a question from the
34 audience.
35
36 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I missed exactly where you saw
37 those, but there's -- there is also a possibility -- where did
38 you say that they were seen again?
39
40 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Right in front of town, on the
41 island.
42
43 MR. DENTON: Okay, now, that could be what he just
44 explained or we also had reports of Mulchatna animals crossing
45 the Kuskokwim going north. In and around Crooked Creek last
46 year there were several hundred head seen swimming across the
47 Yukon, they were swimming across. And the ability of caribou to
48 cross the Yukon is well documented, they're major crossings in
49 the late 1800s of large numbers of caribou crossing further out
50

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on the delta and Marshall area, 1840's accounts of large numbers crossing the river at Anvik. And so there's -- it's been well documented over the years of large numbers crossing the Yukon River, so it's a fairly normal event for caribou to do that.

5

6 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Well, I want more information.

7

8 MR. DENTON: We'll they were seen crossing the Kuskokwim down here. That was last fall.

10

11 COURT REPORTER: I can tell it's getting late
12. Chair. I mean, these people are moving away from
13 microphones and I'd appreciate them not doing so.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I think is it and it's
16 about that time to check in pretty shortly here, so we'll try to
17 wrap it up in the next few minutes.

18

19 Yeah, I'm pretty sure we'll have an answer at our next
20 we'll have an answer on that, huh?

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Is there going to need to be a report for
23 this next meeting?

24

25 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And it's clear?

28

29 MR. GUENTHER: (Nods affirmatively)

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, so there will be a report on the
32 caribou for the next meeting then.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Um-hum.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Is there any other topics or
39 issues for our next meeting? If not, we can always call up.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: And also there's just one topic I want to
42 bring up, is that if we are in Huslia, I would ask the Chair or
43 anyone else to invite one of the elders to come and -- other
44 Council meetings have a moment in the beginning for a prayer or
45 some kind of comment and then at the end a closure. I would ask
46 the Chair or someone that's more familiar with Huslia to invite
47 someone to do that, if this Council agrees to that. It sets the
48 tone for the whole meeting. So that's the only other thing and
49 I'll work with the Chair to see if there's a particular

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individual that we should contract.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I have one person in mind
4 already on that, so that's no problem. What I'd like is maybe
5 get the Galena staff involved and let them know our intentions
6 of having a meeting in Huslia, because they work pretty close
7 with them too. Fish & Wildlife in Galena.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: So you mean Pete DeMatteo and Paul
10 Medburg.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Pete and Paul and the other
13 guys. I forgot their name right now.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: New guy anyway. Is there any
18 comment from the audience or any other issues? We have a
19 gentleman here that just came in.

20

21 MR. ALMSEY: I'd like to say a few things.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah, come on up to the mic here,
24 you're more than welcome.

25

26 MR. ALMSEY: Well, I'm Ted Almsey, I'm going on 50
27 years in Alaska right now and 49 years in roadless areas beyond
28 the frontier. I've earned my livelihood as a registered guide,
29 prospector, miner, living off the land like most of the people
30 here. And I got my first registered guide license in 1950 and
31 my current license -- I can't tell you all units I'm licensed
32 for, but originally I was licensed for all of Alaska except
33 Southeastern.

34

35 And I'd like to say that two things that we should do
36 to bring moose and caribou back under the Guide Law because
37 there's too much waste and too many people coming here,
38 foreigners come in here. Our local meat cutter here, he claims
39 that waste, after he get is it, is about 50 percent and a lot of
40 the stuff -- this stuff that they bring in boned out, I'd say
41 the meat loss on those are probably 75 percent or more. In
42 fact, I got something this fall from the game warden here who
43 had confiscated sheep meat that somebody boned out and by the
44 time I got done trimming it there wasn't a thing in it that you
45 could use for fry meat, it was just all stew meat. And I
46 probably lost half of it in the trimming. You know, it was
47 used, but not for human consumption.

48

49 And I feel that by putting none residents and aliens

50

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Back under the Guide Law there's going to be more meat for the people that live here because there's going to be less waste and less people coming in to take our fish and game from us.

4

5 And there's another factor, it seems like today -- when I got my guide license, I think there were only something like only 40 guides, registered guides in Alaska. And you had to have lived in Alaska continuously for five years. Have five years of experience in order -- that was the first qualification. And today, as I understand it, the majority of the registered guides here are residents of the United States, they're not residents of Alaska and I think that that should be the requirement is in order to hold a registered guide license in Alaska that you should be a year around resident of Alaska.

15

16 And we're having trouble with too many guides. Before statehood we didn't have a problem, but after statehood, they decided that the more guides, the more money was going to come into the country, so they ended up with some kind of a boy scout deal where you could go down to a barroom with somebody, look over a map and go down and apply for a license and get it. Then we got, what we call, sweepers coming in. We'll back at that time none of us told where we -- our hunting area was because the country was opened to everybody. And I wanted to put a badge in, but I couldn't. I figured, well, if I go and put permanent facilities in anybody that comes along with a rented airplane and a borrowed tent could come in on me and clean the country out and leave and that was the way they were going, they were just cleaning the country out and going off.

30

31 And so now they got this guide area business for outfitters, well, why not limit an outfitter to one unit, the unit in which he resides. I can guide for any other outfitter in most of Alaska. I don't -- with the license I got I don't have to have to outfit in the other units, but I'd be limited to outfitting in Unit 19 and I fell, well, that's acceptable, all right. But by putting some of these restrictions on the guides and outfitters, there's going to be less of our meat that's going out of the country that we're not getting. And these unfounded, damn, environmentalists that -- or wolf lovers, somebody ought to hang most of them.

42

43 We're losing lots of our meat in the wintertime between deep snow and starvation and excessive wolf population. And wolves, I guess they figure like us with a deep freeze, they'll come along and if they run into a whole bunch of moose down on the river they kill them, but then don't necessarily set there until they eat them up. They'll go on. Maybe if they get hungry they'll come back again. They do the same thing with

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caribou. They'll kill anything they can kill and they'll have a good feed or two and then they go on.

3

4 And I remember one fall, I never thought about wolves eating fish. While I was up here in the range and here were the fast salmon come up to spawn and snow on the ground. I go up to the cabin one morning and here's wolf tracks all over the place and salmon dragged out of this little creek, all over the bank and partly eaten and the wolves had gone. Well, they'll eat anything. And when they get hungry they'll clean out the beaver, they'll clean out the muskrat, they'll clean out anything, we ain't got nothing left for food.

13

14 And in these timbered areas -- now, I was up in Fairbanks, I think it was '52-53, worked for Wien and Fish & Wildlife had brought a dozen Super Cubs, they had their hunters and their pilots, and Jay Hammond was one of them, out killing all the wolves they could kill. Well, Wien's pilots would -- I think they worked for two week straight or something like that and then they could get about a week off. Well, Arctic Contractors had left a bunch of fuel up along the north slope of the Brooks Range, these guys knew where it was, so they didn't have to take any fuel up there. And they went up and between the Kobuck and the Noatak and the North Slope they were slaughtering wolves to beat the band.

26

27 But the point is that they never wiped out the wolves, all they did was control them. And down in these timbered areas here, I don't care how much area hunting you do, you're not going to wipe the wolves out, that's all there is to it. In the barren ground up there there's a chance that you can wipe some of them out, but the caribou herds went something like 75,000 up to 750,000 or something, over the next few years. And we had wolf control here for at least 20 years, from before statehood till about 1970. And around 1970 and later in this part of Alaska, right here in Unit 19, we were allowed two moose if we wanted. And there was lots of moose. And today, by golly, it's getting harder and harder and harder just to get a moose for yourself for the winter. And so there's got to be something, some solution to that.

41

42 I don't know if I have much else to say on it, but I think those things should be addressed. You guys got any comments?

45

46 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: You brought up some pretty good points. I'm pretty sure of that because I noticed a lot more and more wolves and it's getting to be too much to handle right now in my area, too, because I've seen the results of what

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they've been doing last spring after crusts and they were

2

3 MR. ALMSEY: Well, that's it, they can run on the
4 crusts and then the moose and caribou are stuck, you know.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Our problem, Ted, is that we probably
7 have no jurisdiction or no impact because the guides are under
8 state regulation. All we do is advise the Federal seasons on
9 Federal lands, so we probably would not

10

11 MR. ALMSEY: You have no control of the guide business.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: No.

14

15 MR. ALMSEY: There's one other thing, too, that I
16 noticed the feds are giving us a bad time on -- years back,
17 before statehood, the people along these rivers, didn't make any
18 difference if you were a Native or non-Native, families went out
19 and fished. And they got all the fish they could handle. Well,
20 they had their fish houses, they put up dog fish and they put up
21 eating fish. And subsistence was never a cashless society under
22 U.S. rule in Alaska, it was less cash, but not cashless. We all
23 had to have money for something.

24

25 You go out and cut your own wood, yeah, so you had your
26 fuel. You got your fish, yes, so you had something to eat. The
27 surplus fish that they could use for dog feed or something like
28 that, you took it down to the trader and you traded it in for
29 something to eat. You had extra salmon strips and things like
30 that, you sold them to whoever wanted them. That wasn't a
31 commercial operation, that was family living. And the same
32 thing, we used to buy kegs of salmon bellies from people that
33 put them up and stuff like that. Well, that should still be the
34 way it went. Trapping was the same thing. It was a part of our
35 livelihood, guiding the same thing. I never made a living
36 guiding, most of the guys didn't, that was just part of our way
37 of life.

38

39 And so in years back, too, I didn't know any white man
40 the country would have -- we all always called them clubs, these
41 U.S. made snowshoes, everybody used Native made snowshoes. The
42 Natives made moccasins; the Natives made mits and caps and
43 parkies (sic) and everybody in the country wore that kind of
44 stuff. So part of the fur that they took was manufactured
45 locally and sold too. And I think there should be some means of
46 getting back to that, that was subsistence lifestyle, that's
47 what it was. You used what you needed for yourself, personally,
48 and what surplus you had you produced and sold. But you can't
49 all those commercial operations, they were commercial

50

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operations, they were just a way of life. And I think that some of that should be returned.

3

4 Well, I guess that's about all I've got to say.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: That's an ear full, that's good, you made a lot of good points. But I think that's what were trying to get back to, you know, we lost a lot of -- a lot of our rights to hunt and fish where we used to and we're trying to get some of that back.

11

12 MR. ALMSEY: Well, that's what I think -- like I say, the family fishing deal, when they say you can't sell it because you took it for subsistence use, that's not right.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

17

18 MR. ALMSEY: I mean, if you're taking it and you're a commercial fisherman and you're selling off part of it or something, that's something different, but I mean, when you're just subsistence fishing -- if you can't go out and get a bunch of white fish, and I'm hungry, and I'm willing to buy a dozen white fish from you, I should be able to do that and that shouldn't be any commercial business or anything like this, you know.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

28

29 MR. ALMSEY: But I think those things should be brought up with these people and maybe let them know that that was the way of life in the country. Everything has changed since statehood and with all this welfare stuff you can't say what's what today, you know. But that's the way it used to be years ago.

35

36 Well, I thank you guys for listening. I figured I -- I debated about coming up. Everyone of these public meetings I go to everything seems to be predetermined before you get there, you feel it's a waste of your and effort to even come, but I decided that, well, I'd come up for a few minutes and see I could make a difference. So I thank you people.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: That's the kind of comments we like to hear. Any other questions or statements before we adjourn? I'm ready for adjournment, I call for adjournment.

46

47 MS. GURTLER-STRICK: Second.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Question.

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CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: All those in favor signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN HUNTINGTON: Meeting adjourned.

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

* * * * *

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

STATE OF ALASKA) ss.
)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Reporter for R&R Court Reporters, Inc., do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 44 through 186 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Western Interior Regional Subsistence Advisory Council, Volume II, meeting taken electronically by me on the 28th day of October, 1994, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at the Takusko House, McGrath, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by Annie Hubner and myself to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 7th day of November, 1994.

Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/96

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