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1 SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
2 PUBLIC MEETING
3 VOLUME I
4 Friendship Center
5 October 8, 1999
6 1:30 p.m. o'clock
7 Shishmaref, Alaska

8

9 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

10

11 Grace A. Cross, Chairman
12 Frances A. Degnan
13 Johnson P. Eningowuk
14 Leonard Kobuk
15 Perry T. Mendenhall
16 Preston Rookok
17 Elmer K. Seetot
18
19 Clifford Edenshaw, Regional Coordinator

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

2

3 (On record - 1:30)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Roll call.

6

7 MS. DEGNAN: I'll call the roll. Toby
8 Anungazuk. Peter.....

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: He's been.....

11

12 MS. DEGNAN:Buck.

13

14 MR. MENDENHALL: He's been excused.

15

16 MS. DEGNAN: Excused. Grace Cross.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Here.

19

20 MS. DEGNAN: Leonard Kobuk.

21

22 MR. KOBUK: Here.

23

24 MS. DEGNAN: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

25

26 MR. SEETOT: Here.

27

28 MS. DEGNAN: Perry T. Mendenhall.

29

30 MR. MENDENHALL: Here.

31

32 MS. DEGNAN: Johnson Eningowuk.

33

34 MR. ENINGOWUK: Here.

35

36 MS. DEGNAN: Frances Degnan. Present.
37 Daniel Olanna. Preston Rookok.

38

39 MR. ROOKOK: Here.

40

41 MS. DEGNAN: We have a quorum.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. I want to
44 welcome everybody to our meeting today. And I'll ask
45 everybody -- first the Council to introduce themselves
46 starting with Preston.

47

48 MR. ROOKOK: My name is Preston Rookok,
49 Savoonga, Alaska.

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm almost near Savoonga
2 but I'm from Nome. I'm Perry Mendenhall.

3
4 MR. ENINGOWUK: I'm almost from Savoonga,
5 too, I'm from Shishmaref.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm the Chair, Grace
8 Cross. I'm from Nome.

9
10 MS. DEGNAN: I'm Frances Degnan,
11 Unalakleet. I'm the secretary.

12
13 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig
14 Mission.

15
16 MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, St. Michael.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And those of you, can
19 introduce yourself, too, please.

20
21 MS. PERSONS: Kate Persons of Wildlife
22 Division, Fish and Game in Nome.

23
24 MR. LEAN: I'm Charlie Lean. I'm with Fish
25 and Game in Nome and I'm the commercial fisheries area
26 biologist.

27
28 MR. DENTON: I'm Jeff Denton. I'm with the
29 Anchorage Field Office, BLM.

30
31 MR. OLANNA: I'm Jacob Olanna from Kawerak
32 Nome.

33
34 MS. MEYERS: I'm Randi Meyers from
35 Kotzebue, Bureau of Land Management. I'm the natural
36 resource specialist.

37
38 MR. DeCICCO: I'm Fred DeCicco with the
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, area biologist for the
40 Sport Fish Division, Northwest Alaska. I'm in Nome and
41 Fairbanks.

42
43 MR. TOCKTOO: I'm Fred Tocktoo. National
44 Park Service headquarters in Nome.

45
46 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
47 Service in Nome, subsistence program.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Could the residents of
50 Shishmaref please introduce themselves.

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1 MR. D. IYATUNGUK: I'm Daniel Iyatunguk,
2 Shishmaref.
3
4 MR. E. OLANNA: Edward Olanna, Shishmaref.
5
6 MR. R. IYATUNGUK: Robert Iyatunguk,
7 Shishmaref.
8
9 MS. L. ENINGOWUK: Luci Eningowuk.
10
11 MS. KUZUGUK: Nora Kuzuguk, Shishmaref.
12
13 MR. OBRUK: Tommy Obruk, Shishmaref Village
14 IRA.
15
16 MR. KUZUGUK: Richard Kuzuguk, Shishmaref.
17
18 MR. JONES: Bill Jones, Shishmaref.
19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: These two up here, please.
21
22 MR. ONGTOWASRUK: Frank Ongtowasruk,
23 Shishmaref.
24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And this young lady.
26
27 MS. WEYIOUANNA: Nellie Weyiouanna,
28 Shishmaref.
29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And I welcome all of you
31 to our meeting. And we'll go on to the next item, review
32 and adoption of agenda.
33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: So moved.
35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a second?
37
38 MS. DEGNAN: Second.
39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Discussion.
41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: Could you identify the
43 tie-up items on there that would be deferred?
44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Cliff.
46
47 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Perry, the items that
48 you deferred are Tab F customary trade, Tab H fisheries
49 implementation, Tab I Proposal 15, and a portion of under
50 Tab E with the Federal Subsistence Program discussing

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1 fisheries training session for January/February of 2000.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, should we go ahead
4 and defer E, F, I and H to Nome -- to be heard in Nome
5 tomorrow? Is everybody in agreement?

6

7 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair, there's no
8 objection -- you go to ask?

9

10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there any objections to
11 deferring those to Nome?

12

13 (No audible response)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. So we'll handle Tab
16 F, H, I and E in Nome.

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL: You can leave them open
19 for Shishmaref people to comment on those because that's
20 the only time for them to comment on them.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

23

24 MR. MENDENHALL: So make that statement.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: But we'll leave them open
27 for -- to see if there's any comments from Shishmaref
28 people. There was a motion on the floor to adopt -- is
29 there a motion on the floor to adopt the agenda?

30

31 MS. DEGNAN: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a second?

34

35 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

36

37 MR. KOBUK: I'll second it.

38

39 MR. ENINGOWUK: Question.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All is in favor signify by
42 saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
47 sign.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, we'll move on to
2 Item number 5, review and adoption of minutes from March 5,
3 1999 meeting in Nome which is in Tab C.

4
5 MR. MENDENHALL: I make a motion for
6 adoption of March 5, 1999 minutes for purpose of discussion
7 -- adoption and review.

8
9 MR. ENINGOWUK: I'll second the motion.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The motion has been made
12 and seconded.

13
14 MR. ENINGOWUK: I got a question on your
15 minutes on part of review and adoption of minutes. The
16 minutes from the September 23, 1998 meeting, there's one
17 down there, Grace request the minutes from the September
18 23, 1999 minutes, is that a typo or is that two different
19 minutes?

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Where are you at?

22 Page.....

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: We don't keep after hours.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: On the second page,
27 right.....

28
29 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS:adoption of minutes?

32
33 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's when we reviewed
36 September 23, 1998 meeting that was held in Nome and we
37 approved -- we had amended it, so that was part of our
38 meeting. Is there discussion on the minutes?

39
40 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair. Same paragraph,
41 four sentences, is that supposed to be 1999 or is that
42 supposed to be 1998?

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think it's supposed to
45 be 1998.

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Somebody had a meeting
48 without us.

49
50 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair, I wonder if it

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1 would be possible under ADF&G on the next page, I'm quoted
2 as saying that blue king crabs are doing very well and I'm
3 sure I meant red king crab.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Which page?

6
7 MR. LEAN: About the fourth page in under
8 ADF&G.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: Third paragraph.

11
12 MR. LEAN: Third paragraph down, paragraph
13 starting Charlie Lean and then the next line it says blue
14 king crabs, that should be red king crab. There's a
15 difference.

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: It's not blue it's red?

18
19 MR. LEAN: It should be red king crab. The
20 blue crab, I think they're okay.

21
22 MR. SEETOT: Ms. Chair. Question to
23 Charlie Lean. Blue crab -- I think that I asked a question
24 at that meeting about the status of the blue king crab and
25 you know, where were they at, and that was in reference to
26 that paragraph.

27
28 MR. LEAN: Okay.

29
30 MS. DEGNAN: But blue and red are doing
31 well.

32
33 MR. LEAN: Anyway, if it pleases the
34 Council, I could give a portion of my report today on red
35 king crab and maybe clarify that.

36
37 MR. DeCICCO: Madame Chairman, also under
38 ADF&G under the sport fishing, the first paragraph, second
39 line it says, angler days based on coastal survey, it
40 should be postal survey with a P, because that's a mailout
41 survey.

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: Postal.

44
45 MR. DeCICCO: The next paragraph, the last
46 sentence it is tracked the salmon to the North River, not
47 the North Fork and to the Unalakleet River.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Wait, to the North River?

50

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1 MR. DeCICCO: Yes. North River and
2 Unalakleet River, not as it's stated North Fork. The next
3 paragraph the first line it says, involved in a grayling
4 stocking assessment, that should be -- the ING should be
5 struck to stock assessment. We assess the stocks of the
6 fish. And the very last sentence in the next paragraph,
7 the population levels of grayling, that should be Nome
8 River has been very low, but I would suggest that we add
9 but it varies from river to river, it's not all stocks in
10 the Nome River -- I mean Nome area are not low, but the
11 Nome River stock is.

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: Are you're just referring
14 to one river?

15
16 MR. DeCICCO: I believe I talked about
17 rivers as a group but we can refer to the -- and mentioned
18 that stock in the Nome River is low, and that can stand if
19 we change area to river. And then we could add, comma, but
20 stock status varies from river to river.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Has this also been taken
23 up with the State Advisory Council there?

24
25 MR. DeCICCO: I talked to the advisory
26 committee about.....

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm just saying -- yeah, I
29 was just asking if they are aware of what you said here.

30
31 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, I'm sorry, Mr. Denton.

34
35 MR. DENTON: Madame Chair, also under the
36 agency reports for Bureau of Land Management, the first
37 paragraph, Bob Schneider is not the new director he's the
38 new field office manager for the Fairbanks office.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, where?

41
42 MR. DENTON: The BLM, the third page under
43 Bureau of Land Management, agency reports.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Third page, Bob Schneider
46 is what?

47
48 MR. DENTON: He's the new field office
49 manager for the Fairbanks office. And then on the second
50 paragraph, on the next page, fish weir is on the North

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1 River not the north fork of the Unalakleet River.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, the fish weir on the
4 North River?

5

6 MR. DENTON: On the North River.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Should be?

9

10 MR. DENTON: Should be North River and
11 north fork of the Unalakleet.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: Grace.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Sorry, Kate.

18

19 MS. PERSONS: And I've got one thing on the
20 third page fifth paragraph talking about ptarmigan, the
21 last sentence there it takes longer for ptarmigan on the
22 road system to gain weight and grow faster versus ptarmigan
23 off the road; I wasn't the one who said that. I don't know
24 who did but I don't know that to be true so I can just tell
25 you I didn't say that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You want to strike that
28 off there?

29

30 MS. PERSONS: Yes.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Page 3, it's one, two,
33 three, four, fifth paragraph down.

34

35 MR. ENINGOWUK: Kate, I didn't hear your
36 comment?

37

38 MS. PERSONS: To strike the last sentence
39 of the fifth paragraph on the third page. At least I don't
40 know that to be true, I didn't say that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That it takes longer.

43

44 MS. DEGNAN: Okay, but you will let us know
45 if you find out?

46

47 MS. PERSONS: I think maybe where that came
48 from was I was talking about the Northern Seward Peninsula
49 Advisory Committee and they had requested that the
50 ptarmigan season not open until the 1st of September

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1 instead of the 10th of August because young birds were
2 being taken along the road system. But it's not that they
3 grow faster elsewhere, it's just that road hunters were
4 taking young ptarmigan along the road system. I think that
5 might be where that came from.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, there's two
8 different species of ptarmigan.

9
10 MS. DEGNAN: Okay, sounds good.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there any other
13 corrections?

14
15 MR. ROOKOK: I have a question, Madame
16 Chair on annual reports, 1998, annual report not submitted?

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Can you kind of count how
19 many pages you are at?

20
21 MS. DEGNAN: It says after ADF&G, annual
22 report.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, okay.

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: On the third paragraph.

27
28 MR. ROOKOK: On Page 5, third paragraph,
29 annual report.

30
31 MR. MENDENHALL: Last sentence.

32
33 MR. ROOKOK: Last sentence.

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: He just has a question on
36 that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, what's your
39 question?

40
41 MR. ROOKOK: Why wasn't the annual report
42 submitted in 1998?

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I thought there was one
45 that was submitted in '98.

46
47 MR. EDENSHAW: Madame Chair, the way we do
48 the annual reports is if you look under Tab H, that is the
49 1998 annual report, and what I was referring to, in that
50 calendar year they didn't submit a report so it could be

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1 either '97 -- I only put in there for that calendar year,
2 the Council did not submit a 1997 annual report.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There was no annual report
5 submitted in 1997?

6
7 MR. EDENSHAW: That's correct.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: But we did submit an
10 annual report in 1998?

11
12 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

13
14 MR. ROOKOK: Is that.....

15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: Excuse me, Preston. The
17 annual reports are done, they're like lagged behind, like
18 1997 those would get done -- get approved in 1998, just in
19 the normal regulatory cycle of how those are done. They
20 have to go through regional council Staff Committee and
21 then the Board would accept the reports and then also do a
22 formal response to the councils.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So the Council did not
25 submit a -- so what you were saying was this Council did
26 not submit an annual report for the year 1997 in the year
27 1998?

28
29 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: But there was one that was
32 -- but we did submit a report for 1998, I remember that?

33
34 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes. Yes, that's correct,
35 Madame Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The 1997 annual report was
38 not done so it needs to be clarified. Any other comments
39 or.....

40
41 MR. ENINGOWUK: Call for the question.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question has been called.

44
45 MS. DEGNAN: All those in favor.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah. We need to be
48 amending this annual report and I think that what we should
49 do is amend it and resubmit it.....

50

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1 MS. DEGNAN: The annual report?

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: This annual report with
4 corrections on it.

5

6 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

9

10 MR. ENINGOWUK: A motion was made to
11 approve the agenda, seconded, I think we need to make -- if
12 it's agreeable with the motion maker and second, that we
13 amend the motion to read as corrected and whatever.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: The motion was made.....

16

17 MS. DEGNAN: These are just the minutes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

20

21 MS. DEGNAN: These are just the minutes to
22 adopt as amended.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, a motion was made to
25 adopt the minutes but, however, does the motion maker want
26 to say as amended?

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: Yes, for adoption after we
29 review, yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Okay, question has
32 been called, all is in favor of the motion signify by
33 saying aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
38 sign.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Okay.
43 Now, we come to the election of officers. Are we ready to
44 do that now? Everybody in favor of electing officers now?

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, are there going to
47 be more people at tomorrow's meeting or not?

48

49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Just Peter Buck.

50

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: Toby.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And Toby. Is Toby going
4 to be there, too -- didn't Toby cancel altogether?

5

6 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Toby did cancel and
7 Isaac.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So just Peter Buck's the
10 only one in Nome.

11

12 MS. DEGNAN: We can defer 'til Nome.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I don't know, what is the
15 wishes of the Council?

16

17 MR. MENDENHALL: Who is the officers at the
18 present, just for knowing?

19

20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm the Chair, Johnson
21 Eningowuk is vice chair, Frances Degnan is the secretary.

22

23 MR. MENDENHALL: Since the lateness of the
24 elections were from last year -- were late, I would just
25 like to make a -- entertain a -- make a motion to keep the
26 present officers as is. That's my motion. If you agree to
27 be the chair, and if Johnson agreed to be the vice, and
28 Frances agrees to be the secretary because it's such a
29 short term, you've basically served out the term.

30

31 Do you understand my motion?

32

33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What?

34

35 MR. MENDENHALL: I make a motion to keep
36 the same slate of officers as is since the officers have
37 served a short time unless the -- the present officers
38 agree not to be the chair and the vice chair and the
39 secretary; that's what I'm saying. I make that motion.

40

41 MR. SEETOT: I second the motion.

42

43 MS. DEGNAN: Question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: A motion has been made to
46 keep the same slate of officers for this year, it has been
47 seconded and question has been called. All is in favor
48 signify by saying aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
2 sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. So we've
7 got the same set of officers. Moving on to number 7, we
8 will be addressing Shishmaref issues. Are there -- does
9 anybody want to make any public comments at this time,
10 first, or should we go through these?

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: Go through those now.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, we'll start with
15 Jake Olanna from Kawerak regarding caribou and the Koyuk
16 letter.

17
18 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I'm Jake Olanna,
19 Kawerak Subsistence Resource Specialist at Kawerak Natural
20 Resources. And before the start of the meeting here I
21 passed out a letter from the Native Village of Koyuk
22 addressed to you, if you want me to read it for the record,
23 I can.

24
25 MS. DEGNAN: This one here.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You may read it for the
28 record, yes.

29
30 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, this letter is
31 addressed to yourself, Grace A. Cross, Chair, Seward
32 Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Nome,
33 Alaska. Dear Ms. Cross, the Koyuk IRA Council would like
34 your help with the resolution that was brought to the Koyuk
35 IRA Council regarding the big game guide activity in and
36 around Koyuk area by tribal members; see attached
37 resolution. That's the only thing I didn't get. I believe
38 your coordinator hadn't gotten that resolution from me
39 earlier this spring, so unfortunately it's not in the
40 packet, I believe. This concern also came up at our
41 monthly meeting held last night, October 5, 1999, at which
42 time six or seven IRA council members were present. The
43 first and foremost reason for the request is the increasing
44 intense competition for game between Western culture
45 through game guiding under Bob Hannon and the Koyuk's
46 traditional way of life dependency for moose and caribou
47 meat and other area of wildlife for subsistence use.

48
49 In addition to the above mentioned concerns, the
50 information we received from the state of Alaska,

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1 Department of Fish and Game is the decline of moose
2 population, mainly calves, in and around the Koyuk and
3 Inlitalik River areas. Also locally, a growing concern of
4 wasted meat left by sport hunters crossing over the Native
5 corporation lands without a permit using an airplane during
6 hunting trips, flying over game and chasing them to
7 hunters. A lot of this concern was seen by our tribal
8 members but not photographed or videotape due to just being
9 in the area and observing these types of activities.

10
11 The Koyuk IRA Council, on behalf of a majority of
12 our tribe, approve of a proposal being submitted to the
13 proper offices, organizations for considering the
14 Inlitalik area to be closed to sport hunting for moose and
15 other game.

16
17 In closing, we would like to know where to find out
18 -- if there is going to be guiding in our area, not only by
19 Bob Hannon but by other guide outfits? Where do we look to
20 oppose such a request? Thank you for your help. If you
21 need additional information, please call me at the number
22 listed above. Sincerely, Merlin Henry, president.

23
24 Madame Chair, to expand on this a little bit.
25 Early last spring -- yes, you've got the resolution, very
26 good. Do you want me to read it, too?

27
28 MS. DEGNAN: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: (Nods affirmatively)

31
32 MR. OLANNA: This is accompanying
33 resolution 99-05-0401. Petition to stop Bob Hannon's game
34 guide outfit. To Whom it May Concern:

35
36 Whereas, the Native Village of Koyuk have harvested
37 meat from Koyuk traditional lands for several thousands of
38 years; and

39
40 Whereas, there exists in Koyuk an increasingly
41 intense competition for game between the Western culture
42 through game guiding under Bob Hannon and Koyuk's age old
43 tradition way of life, namely a dependency for moose meat,
44 caribou meat and other area wildlife for subsistence; and

45
46 Whereas, it is known by some Koyuk Natives that Bob
47 Hannon's game guide outfit have wilfully wasted game meat
48 and caribou meat and have trespassed on Native allotments
49 and Koyuk Native corporation private lands and have
50 harassed animals with an airplane and have not practiced

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1 local hiring for hunting personnel and used an aircraft to
2 herd out of hiding bears to be shot.

3

4 Now, therefore, be it resolved that the undersigned
5 Village of Koyuk Traditional Council members and Tribal
6 members hereby oppose the licensing of Bob Hannon's game
7 guide operation in Koyuk.

8

9 This is signed by Merlin Henry, president, co-
10 signed by Kenneth Dewey, Sr., tribal member.

11

12 Having read those for the record, Madame Chair,
13 like I stated earlier, I was down there early last winter
14 -- well, actually it was this spring. My office was
15 involved in a subsistence harvest survey that was conducted
16 in Koyuk and Shaktoolik. And at that time this resolution
17 was in its petition stage where the petition were
18 petitioning at the IRA office and coming in and signing it.
19 And it just so happened it was sitting there at the office
20 when I was there in Koyuk. And according to the tribal
21 coordinator she stated that this action was because of the
22 encouragement of guide hunters coming in and taking moose,
23 caribou for their antlers and leaving the meat and carcass
24 to waste; and to them that was very hurtful. And that
25 they're -- they had me look to see how this guide was
26 getting his operator's license. And I went through the
27 process, I got a hold of Division of Occupational Licensing
28 and I was told by that office that Hannon had not applied
29 for his 1999 game guiding permit, but I haven't heard any
30 more since.

31

32 So in short, they're asking you to draft a
33 proposal, I suppose, to the Federal Subsistence Board to
34 address this matter. And I would support Koyuk's endeavor
35 to do this, and I'm hoping that you, the Committee, will
36 draft a proposal to that effect. Any questions?

37

38 MR. MENDENHALL: This came from their last
39 meeting that they had on this recently or what date?

40

41 MR. OLANNA: Well, this resolution was done
42 in May, okay, but this letter I received -- I told them to
43 go ahead and fax it to me but I gave it to Grace before I
44 left Nome yesterday, and this is dated October 6th, they
45 had their meeting on October 5 and they expressed the same,
46 again, according to this letter that you have in front of
47 you. So with that information that I have, I would
48 strongly urge you, the Board, to consider Koyuk's request
49 and act in that fashion.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There were proposals that
2 were submitted by Kate Persons addressing the State portion
3 of it, and perhaps when it's time for her to give her
4 report she can go through hers -- the ones that she had
5 submitted to the State.

6
7 And when this letter first came -- when the
8 resolution first came, I called up Alaska Department of
9 Fish and Game and talked to Todd -- I can never pronounce
10 his last name, it starts with an M, Millichik or something
11 to that effect, and faxed him a copy of the resolution and
12 he did go out to investigate. According to him, he was
13 going to go out and investigate to see if there were any
14 violations, and then he reported back to me and said that
15 he wasn't getting very much cooperation.

16
17 MS. DEGNAN: From the guides?

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, and then I had
20 called up Cliff and faxed him a copy of the resolution to
21 see how we can address it and there was a decision that was
22 made, because it was a user conflict type of thing -- Cliff
23 can explain that better for me.

24
25 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 When Grace faxed that information down, my understanding in
27 conversations with Donna Dewhurst regarding the issue down
28 there in 22(A) and I think it was 22(A) and (B) or more
29 specifically (B), was that it was a user conflict -- I
30 think those are BLM lands, and maybe Jeff Denton could
31 address some of that. But our understanding was that it
32 was a user conflict and because the gentleman, Bob Hannon,
33 who's mentioned in this, applies for a permit through that
34 agency it would have to be handled on that basis. So the
35 question that Donna asked also was that, did they have
36 proof? They needed proof. And then the other issue that
37 was brought up is that they could submit a proposal to
38 close Units 22(A) and (B) or where there is Federal lands
39 to non-subsistence users, that's another option they can go
40 through there.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Initially what I wanted to
43 do was to travel to Koyuk with Clifford and meet with the
44 council and see if there was some way that we can initially
45 make -- do something immediately, but that never occurred
46 after I talked to Cliff. So it did not go any further.
47 But I've been talking with you about it so we will take
48 action on this. But I want to be able to hear what the
49 State's proposals are and where they are at and either
50 follow something similar or come up with new proposals of

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1 our own.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And we can.....

6

7 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair, I think that
8 we should act on this as an individual, from a Native
9 entity rather than mixing it up with another agency. I
10 think that's going to confuse the issue. But it should
11 come -- if it comes from a Native entity we should address
12 it on an Native entity level and then forward it to the
13 Federal Subsistence Board.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's what I'm suggesting
16 but I want to.....

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL:rather than co-
19 mingle.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, I want to hear.....

22

23 MR. MENDENHALL:I don't want to -- if
24 we co-mingle it then it will get lost in the wash. And
25 when they see it over there as co-mingled then they don't
26 know -- I mean it's an issue but we need to address it, I
27 think, directly back to the Native entity that had come
28 before us as Federal Subsistence Advisory Committee. And
29 then hers on agency level will be dealt on an agency level,
30 right?

31

32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: But what I wanted the
33 Council to hear when it is her turn, I asked her to be
34 prepared.....

35

36 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CROSS:for this dis -- to
39 give us -- let us know what her proposals were.....

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS:and addressing it
44 from the State level.

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: But.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Because part of the reason
49 why this came about is -- part of the reason why the State
50 proposals came about was as a result of the Koyuk

00019

1 situation.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: The Koyuk people have BLM
4 Native allotments there and that's what they're trying to
5 protect is their livelihood.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

8

9 MR. MENDENHALL:at the subsistence
10 level.

11

12 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

13

14 MR. MENDENHALL: I think we need.....

15

16 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, could I
17 continue, please?

18

19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, okay.

20

21 MR. OLANNA: Okay. I also sit on the
22 Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee which Kate is the
23 staff person out of Nome. And we have a proposal in the
24 Board of Game packet, Proposal 19, which reflects that
25 area. This is 22(B) overall, not just Inglutalik. But the
26 people's concerns is that Inglutalik River, which they have
27 been traditionally using for subsistence harvest of moose.
28 And Proposal 19 of the Board of Game packet is hunting and
29 bag limits for moose and the proposal is to reduce the
30 resident/non-resident season, eliminate the antlerless
31 moose season in 22(B). And I won't go into details about
32 the proposal but the proposal already speaks to
33 conservation concerns because the guides -- I mean the
34 hunters that are guided by Hannon are targeting breeding
35 bulls and -- and in regards to that this is a conservation
36 measure also, not only to Native concerns but also
37 conservation concerns that have already been addressed by
38 the State.

39

40 So my simple motion is for you, the Committee, to
41 draft a proposal to close the Inglutalik River, which is on
42 Federal lands, I believe it's on BLM lands for non-
43 subsistence harvest of moose. I'm talking about game
44 guides. But if you won't do it I'll go ahead and draft the
45 proposal and have Koyuk submit it, I believe we've got
46 until November to do that. But I felt that it would be
47 more supported by the Federal Subsistence Board if it came
48 from your Committee and that's why I chose to go this
49 route.

50

00020

1 MR. MENDENHALL: That's why it seems to be
2 behind their -- their letter that they submitted to us.
3 Are you going to draft that proposal and bring it back to
4 us this afternoon?

5
6 MR. OLANNA: Not this afternoon. No, I was
7 hoping your Staff could submit the proposal because you are
8 the people that are.....

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: We could also make a
11 verbal proposal.

12
13 MR. OLANNA:that are.....

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: I would like to
16 acknowledge Koyuk by making a motion to support their
17 efforts in regarding closing that river to non-subsistence
18 use hunters, which.....

19
20 MR. OLANNA: For the record it's Inglutalik
21 and I got the spelling here -- okay, well, I'll get it to
22 you but it's on BLM lands.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: It's on Page 18.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Page 19 is the proposal.

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: And to back up their
29 resolution that they presented to us.

30
31 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: So moved.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a second.

36
37 MR. KOBUK: I'll second the motion.

38
39 MS. DEGNAN: Seconded by Leonard.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: A motion has been made and
42 seconded. Discussion.

43
44 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'd like to direct the
47 Staff to make the proposal, Cliff, addressing this issue?
48 Any further discussion?

49
50 MS. DEGNAN: And this is a specific area,

00021

1 Madame Chair, that.....

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: It's on the.....

4

5 MR. OLANNA: Inglutalik.

6

7 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, it's a specific area and
8 it would be a recommendation to close it to non-subsistence
9 harvest.

10

11 MR. OLANNA: Harvest of moose and caribou.

12

13 MS. DEGNAN: Of moose -- so with this --
14 moose and caribou?

15

16 MR. OLANNA: Right.

17

18 MS. DEGNAN: So it would be.....

19

20 MR. OLANNA: Well, it'd be just moose right
21 now for the proposal.

22

23 MS. DEGNAN: For the proposal it would be
24 for moose for a specific specie for a specific location?

25

26 MR. OLANNA: Right.

27

28 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, and there's no, what do
29 you call, mention of the guides or individuals or anything?

30

31 MR. OLANNA: Right.

32

33 MS. DEGNAN: So it would be a non.....

34

35 MR. OLANNA: Non-subsistence harvest.

36

37 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, non-subsistence harvest.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: 22(B) on BLM lands.

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair, also to make
42 on discussion purposes, to have some studies done regarding
43 the moose population and the caribou migration, too,
44 because there's changes going on now.

45

46 MR. OLANNA: Right.

47

48 MR. MENDENHALL: So we need more of that to
49 be done by the Federal and State.

50

00022

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any further discussion?

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All is in favor of the
6 motion signify by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
11 sign.

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion passes. And Cliff
16 we'll direct you to make the proposal that we can address
17 tomorrow.

18

19 Thank.....

20

21 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, further on
22 proposals. I represent the Kawerak region which is the 22
23 villages on the Seward Peninsula and Shishmaref is one of
24 my villages, and I was born and raised here. Madame Chair,
25 recently, you know, people have been observing caribou in
26 our region up here in the Shishmaref, mostly along the
27 eastern coast. I do not have a draft proposal but I would
28 like to voice an interest by the people of Shishmaref to
29 open caribou harvest in portions of 22(E).

30

31 MS. DEGNAN: And you will submit that as a
32 proposal?

33

34 MR. OLANNA: I was hoping that you guys
35 would submit a similar proposal as you're doing with Koyuk.

36

37 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

38

39 MR. OLANNA: But if you need some
40 assistance, I'm pretty sure Shishmaref -- there's
41 representatives.....

42

43 MS. DEGNAN: I think.....

44

45 MR. OLANNA:from Shishmaref.

46

47 MS. DEGNAN: I think it would be very
48 helpful if it came from the -- the -- the.....

49

50 MR. OLANNA: IRA Council?

00023

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: IRA.....

2

3 MS. DEGNAN:council from Shishmaref
4 like Koyuk did.

5

6 MR. OLANNA: Right. Right, and we'll.....

7

8 MS. DEGNAN: And then we have a format that
9 we use for proposals and have them submit it there and
10 we'll note that we're in support.

11

12 MR. OLANNA: Right. But for.....

13

14 MR. MENDENHALL: I think some of the fear,
15 too is that the caribou might make off with the reindeer,
16 that's the danger. Deering already lost all their
17 reindeer. So that's probably one of the reasons.

18

19 MS. DEGNAN: But if it's subsistence
20 there's no rule that they can't take it, is there?

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: I know that, but what I'm
23 saying is to be behind their purpose for hunting caribou in
24 22.....

25

26 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, please, may I
27 continue?

28

29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

30

31 MR. OLANNA: Like I said, there is a
32 noticeable amount of caribou that are observed on this
33 portion of the Seward Peninsula. Because the westerly
34 movement of the caribou are advancing further west every
35 year, seems to me, and I observed them myself. As a matter
36 of fact, I was one of the lucky ones to get caribou last
37 spring last year. But since this area does not have an
38 opening of caribou and the Reindeer Herders have observed
39 numerous caribou with their reindeer, and like Perry said
40 awhile ago, there's concern that the caribou -- which
41 already has happened in Koyuk, Shaktoolik, along the
42 migration route of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, they're
43 taking reindeer with them. And based on the information
44 that I have collected here in Shishmaref, the people of
45 Shishmaref have observed these animals and wish that they
46 could have an opening. And unfortunately the State does
47 not have an opening this year. There is a proposal to that
48 effect that was submitted by Shishmaref and I would
49 appreciate very much if you, the Board, would consider a
50 similar proposal as the one that was introduced to the

00024

1 State and support Shishmaref.

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: Okay, so Shishmaref supported
4 -- or submitted a proposal to the State?

5

6 MR. OLANNA: Yes, ma'am.

7

8 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, so I would move that
9 we.....

10

11 MR. ENINGOWUK: Fran.....

12

13 MS. DEGNAN: Oh, go ahead.

14

15 MR. ENINGOWUK: Fran, before we move on it,
16 I think we have several of our audience from Shishmaref who
17 wish to speak to the same issue.

18

19 MR. OLANNA: Speak to this issue, yes.

20

21 MR. ENINGOWUK: We should first hear them
22 before you make a motion.

23

24 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

25

26 MR. OLANNA: Yes, Madame Chair, if we could
27 defer that until after everyone's had a chance to address
28 you, I'd appreciate it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question. When
31 you're talking about portions of 22(D), are you looking at
32 specific locations or are you looking at the entire.....

33

34 MR. OLANNA: I'm talking about 22(E), which
35 is Shishmaref, the Bering Land Bridge is all 22(E).

36

37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

38

39 MR. OLANNA: I'm referring to that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So the entire Bering Land
42 Bridge.

43

44 MR. OLANNA: Right.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: In 22(D).

47

48 MR. OLANNA: 22(E) -- (E).

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: (E).

00025

1 MS. DEGNAN: (E).

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: (E), oh, no wonder I was
4 thinking, didn't make sense.

5

6 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair, I just want to
7 ask the question, how long has it been since there was
8 caribou up here in the most recent past that you know of?

9

10 MR. OLANNA: Okay. I cheat. I've got a
11 computer -- we get computer radio tracking information from
12 Nome, the Fish and Game agency. But in more recent years,
13 within the last four years, the caribou have been extending
14 further west every year. And unfortunately the hunting
15 pressure out of Nome have kind of stopped them in the
16 Kuzitrin area. And it's a known fact that to lead caribou
17 -- if you do not bother the front -- the leaders of the
18 caribou they could continue west. But like I said, there's
19 been hunting pressure on this expanding herd and that's
20 basically stopped them, where the hunting started -- where
21 the hunting starts they stop there. And it's, you know, I
22 observed it myself, and this is based on my personal
23 experiences.

24

25 But the people in Shishmaref, many years ago, they
26 used to have caribou that went as far as Wales. And
27 there's a lake near where my ancestors came from, Ikpek,
28 that they call, Tutoolik, which is where the Natives -- my
29 ancestors drove the caribou into that lake and actually
30 slaughtered them by using spears. So traditionally,
31 Shishmaref has always had, I believe, a C&T determination
32 for caribou and this is based on stories that are passed on
33 generation to generation.

34

35 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, because we have the same
36 thing in Unalakleet or place names, Pitiksquik, is where
37 they gather them and places where they coral them and they
38 hit them with their spears and those are what my mother
39 told me. And she said in her lifetime she didn't see
40 caribou until just before she died.

41

42 MR. OLANNA: Uh-huh.

43

44 MS. DEGNAN: And she died in 1994. So they
45 had been gone for many years but they are back.

46

47 MR. OLANNA: Yes, they are back. And
48 they're well into over half a million right now.

49

50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

00026

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Just back to up what Jake
2 has been saying. I camp up at Deering, you know, in the
3 summer time and there's also evidence that there's no --
4 the Carmens (ph) moved out, out of Deering, they never
5 moved out of Deering before but he had a big herd before
6 Gilbert -- Carmen and -- he -- he lost all his deer in that
7 deering area. And that's evident there that one herd is
8 gone already from Deering, the lost herd.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Jake.

11
12 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, to close, I just
13 was wondering if when you consider Koyuk's request that you
14 would do the same for Shishmaref. But like I said I'll get
15 -- or if you want to get with -- I'm not the only one
16 that's going to speak to this issue so if you could
17 possibly defer any action until you've had an opportunity
18 to hear the local people.

19
20 That's all I have Madame Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions?

23
24 MR. EDENSHAW: Just one comment regarding
25 Jake's comments regarding the caribou. And I didn't bring
26 enough reg books, but you know, what the Council may do is
27 they could submit a special action request to open up the
28 caribou hunt this year because what Jake's asking for, the
29 request for a proposal wouldn't get dealt with until next
30 May by the Board. And so the new regulations -- or new
31 policies that the Board has regarding extenuating -- new
32 information is that the Council could submit a special
33 action request to open up the caribou hunt in 22(E), and
34 maybe Jake and the other individuals who testify could, you
35 know, put down dates and bag limits for those and that
36 would be addressed in a matter of weeks.

37
38 MR. OLANNA: Based on the information that
39 I just received here, Madame Chair, I would -- instead of
40 the proposal, I would ask for a special action. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Robert Iyatunguk.

43
44 MR. IYATUNGUK: Thank you, Madame Chairman.
45 My name is Robert Iyatunguk, I'm originally from here in
46 Shishmaref. And I want to speak a little bit on
47 subsistence as to caribou.

48
49 I don't know exactly where or how do you draw the
50 line between the Federal Subsistence and state of Alaska as

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1 to the 1935 Reindeer Act. And I feel that the Act of 1935
2 is a little biased if you could look at it in that kind of
3 terms. Now, that if -- I'm a subsistence hunter, user and
4 provider, if I go out in the background where we're doing
5 all our subsistence hunting and yet you got another
6 individual that's with that Reindeer Herder's Association
7 stating that you can't use the meat that you're hunting.
8 Now, where do you draw the line between a subsistence user
9 and a reindeer herder as to subsistence?

10
11 Now, reindeer herder could turn around and sell the
12 meat. Now, the subsistence user is using the meat. Now,
13 the reindeer herder is turning around and selling the meat
14 to the community, which I don't know how you draw that line
15 either but, you know, I think this is a bit of a conflict
16 of interest between the Reindeer Herder's Association and
17 the subsistence as to caribou. Now, I don't know if this
18 is going to take an act of Congress to amend the 1935
19 Reindeer Act, it may have to do so as to the subsistence
20 way of life, the way we do our subsistence here as to
21 caribou.

22
23 Now, I'd like to see this 22(E) as to caribou get
24 opened on an emergency basis as to what's been going on
25 here in Shishmaref, our meat's been getting taken away from
26 us, it's been getting garnished by the Federal or the
27 VPSO's here in the community and yet where is that meat
28 going? We don't know. And who is using it? We don't
29 know. Now, you know, most of us here in Shishmaref can't
30 live on chicken and hamburger all our lives, we're not used
31 to that. Obviously, I'm pretty sure all of you are not
32 either. But we got to come to a clear standpoint, exactly
33 where do we stand as to our rights as to caribou and
34 reindeer. Obviously there's a number of us that do hunt
35 caribou and we know the difference between a caribou and a
36 reindeer.

37
38 Now, I can't understand this, if caribou goes on to
39 a grazing on the Reindeer Herder's, it's automatically the
40 Reindeer Herder's Association property or the reindeer
41 herder property. Now.....

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: It becomes a reindeer -- a
44 reindeer.....

45
46 MR. IYATUNGUK: It becomes a reindeerbou --
47 bou -- or boudeer or whatever you call it. It's two
48 different terms.

49
50 I never tasted a caribou deer before or whatever

00028

1 you may call it. I don't know if they cross-breed or not.

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: It's a rainbow.

4

5 MR. IYATUNGUK: Whatever, you may cover the
6 terms on it. But it's getting to a point to where I think
7 this is creating a bit of chaos here in Shishmaref because
8 people are going against each other on this issue here, you
9 know. They're taking the meat away from the subsistence
10 user. And I feel that we're being discriminated against,
11 our own way of using our way of life.

12

13 I'd like to see some kind of action taken on this
14 type of subsistence as to caribou and reindeer. You know,
15 I'd like to see this emergency subsistence on 22 open
16 immediately.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That would be a call for a
19 special action that we were talking about earlier. Did
20 Jake recommend that we do.....

21

22 MR. OLANNA: Right.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions for Mr.
25 Iyatunguk or comments?

26

27 MS. DEGNAN: I have.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions or comments?

30

31 MS. DEGNAN: I have a question. You say
32 that you get your meat confiscated if you go out and shoot
33 a four-legged deer?

34

35 MR. IYATUNGUK: Right.

36

37 MS. DEGNAN: And who does the confiscation?

38

39 MR. IYATUNGUK: Well, it all depends if
40 you're going to turn yourself in or the reindeer herder is
41 going to turn you in; I don't know exactly how that falls
42 out but it's going on here in town.

43

44 MS. DEGNAN: And are people winding up in
45 jail for it?

46

47 MR. IYATUNGUK: No. I didn't hear of
48 anybody going to jail or hear of anybody getting a warning
49 or there's nothing ever been done on it. Now, exactly
50 where or who -- where do you draw the line if a reindeer

00029

1 herder is turning somebody in? Who is he working for? Is
2 he an agent? Is he an undercover agent? Is he getting a
3 bounty for turning in subsistence users? We don't know.

4
5 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You're talking about
8 taking a caribou?

9
10 MR. IYATUNGUK: Right.

11
12 MS. DEGNAN: But it's a very real issue?

13
14 MR. IYATUNGUK: This is a big issue. This
15 is going to create a lot of war, you know, this is coming
16 to community chaos here in Shishmaref.

17
18 MS. DEGNAN: And it's because you don't
19 have an open season for the taking of caribou?

20
21 MR. IYATUNGUK: Right, yes, ma'am.

22
23 MS. DEGNAN: Kate Persons.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Kate.

26
27 MS. PERSONS: Can I ask if.....

28
29 REPORTER: Kate, could you please come up
30 to the microphone? Thank you.

31
32 MS. PERSONS: I'm curious whether you feel
33 it's necessary to open all of Unit 22(E) or would there be
34 a portion that you could describe where the caribou are and
35 where most of the reindeer are, where it might be possible
36 to, you know, do an emergency opening in just a portion of
37 the unit so people could hunt there but the herders could
38 make an effort to move their deer out of the way where
39 hunters were?

40
41 MR. IYATUNGUK: Well, I think it would be
42 open to the entire 22(E) because if it's open to the entire
43 -- if we try to open it just for Shishmaref it's going to
44 create chaos for another community so we might as well just
45 open it to the whole entire 22(E).

46
47 MS. PERSONS: And so it wouldn't help, say,
48 to just open the eastern part? Or where are the caribou?

49
50 MR. IYATUNGUK: They're migrating all over

00030

1 back here.

2

3 MS. PERSONS: They're all over? All over?

4

5 MR. IYATUNGUK: You know, this has been

6 going on for two or three years that the caribous are

7 coming back here.

8

9 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh. Do you have any

10 feeling for how many caribou we're talking about?

11

12 MR. IYATUNGUK: No idea. I don't have any

13 idea exactly the number of caribou that are back there.

14

15 MS. PERSONS: Okay, that's all I have.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Kate. Any

18 further comments or questions for Mr. Iyatunguk?

19

20 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

23

24 MR. SEETOT: One of the things that I

25 thought of, a restricted zone, you know, where the reindeer

26 herders would have use of their grazing land, you know, for

27 the animals. They have contracts with the, I think with

28 BLM and with other agencies, to use land for grazing.

29 Caribou are nomadic animals. If this Board or another

30 organization can find an area that is restricted only, you

31 know, to the caribou use or close to caribou hunting in

32 that area, then I think that would be one of the solutions

33 that this body can look into.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anything further?

36

37 MR. IYATUNGUK: No, that's about all I

38 have.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

41

42 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you.

43

44 MR. IYATUNGUK: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Richard Kuzuguk.

47

48 MR. KUZUGUK: Thank you, Madame Chair. I'd

49 like to thank the committee for opening the floor for

50 comments. I'd like to make my own opinions about the

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1 caribou subsistence and I have no -- I don't understand the
2 procedure on how -- who decides when the caribou season is
3 opened or closed. The way I understand it the decision was
4 made by Reindeer Herder's Association; is that correct?

5
6 MS. DEGNAN: No.

7
8 MR. KUZUGUK: No. Okay, my concern is the
9 caribou, according to Reindeer Herder's Association, once
10 they cross over to a reindeer herder's grazing ground,
11 they're considered reindeer herder's property. And I don't
12 agree with that, they're two different animals. Reindeer
13 and caribou are two different species. That's -- to me
14 that's too much power given to this -- there's what
15 thousands and thousands of caribou and to just -- them
16 caribou to Reindeer Herder's Association is too much
17 because there's traditional -- we can prove that there was
18 traditional hunting of caribou in Serpentine as well as the
19 coast near Ikpek, all the way up and down the coast. Like
20 they mentioned they used to push them into ponds and get
21 their seasonal kill from there.

22
23 And to me, it's not right for the reindeer herder's
24 to sell caribou meat when they kill caribou in their herd.
25 A lot of them -- I hate to say this but a lot of the
26 reindeer herders, they'll just shoot a caribou. Once they
27 recognize it in their herd, they'll shoot it and they won't
28 even put the meat -- they won't even salvage the meat
29 they'll just leave the caribou laying there. And I don't
30 know if they can get away with that and some of us -- some
31 of the elders, they've been going all the way to Deering
32 and Buckland to hunt caribou from Shishmaref, Deering and
33 then Buckland and they could do that here if it was open.
34 From what I understand, the reindeer herders, they ought to
35 be more appreciative about the caribou hunters because the
36 elders foresee that the caribou will come back -- right now
37 they're having problems with the caribou taking away
38 reindeer, you know, there's a whole bunch of reindeer
39 herders that lose their deer already, and here we have our
40 reindeer herders turning in our people for killing caribou.
41 To me there's no justification there. I mean who's doing
42 worse, the people that are willing to subsist the meat or
43 the reindeer herders that are just shooting caribou just to
44 get rid of them out of their herd?

45
46 I think this is what I feel about Reindeer Herder's
47 Association, I think -- I feel that Reindeer Herder's
48 Association is -- the purpose is already gone. When they
49 first started Reindeer Herder's Association it was for some
50 kind of stable meat for the people, and it's -- right now

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1 it's too expensive to buy reindeer. I believe that's what
2 the Reindeer Herder's Act was passed for, to provide meat
3 for the villages. And it's too expensive. It's become a
4 private business. It doesn't benefit Shishmaref. And
5 that's just my own -- my own opinion. Because we have
6 elders going all the way, like I said, to Deering and
7 Buckland to hunt caribou and they talk about wanton waste,
8 and -- and I've been turned in as one of the people that
9 shot caribou on a closed season and I'm willing to pay the
10 consequences for that.

11
12 But my point is that the elders want to subsist
13 caribou and that's just -- I don't know who decided that
14 caribou become private property of the Reindeer Herder's
15 Association; I don't think that's right. Can somebody
16 address that?

17
18 MS. DEGNAN: Well, in the regulations it
19 says your area is closed to caribou hunting, so basically
20 what Jake has recommended and our Staff, Cliff, has stated
21 is that we can do a special action to remedy that. So we
22 can do that so that you won't have a situation where you --
23 were you cited by the law officers?

24
25 MR. KUZUGUK: No, I was cited by one of the
26 reindeer herders.

27
28 MS. DEGNAN: But it wasn't taken to the
29 next step?

30
31 MR. KUZUGUK: No, I don't want to discuss
32 that.

33
34 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, okay, but the thing is,
35 the reason for that is that there is no Federal open season
36 for taking of caribou and I'd like to ask Kate, is there a
37 State?

38
39 MS. PERSONS: No, not in 22(E), as in your
40 case it can be opened by emergency order but it has not
41 been.

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: So I would recommend to you,
44 in Shishmaref, to request also the State to consider a
45 special action.

46
47 MR. GRIERSON: I have a question, can you
48 tell me why is there not a season for 22(E) for caribou,
49 simple?

50

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1 MS. PERSONS: Prior to 1996 there were
2 virtually no caribou present in Units 22(D), (C) or (E).
3 And since then, since caribou have started coming to the
4 western part of the Seward Peninsula the Board of Game gave
5 us authority to open those areas by emergency order when
6 significant numbers of caribou entered those units. In
7 22(D) for the last three years there have been emergency
8 order openings when we found large numbers of caribou. In
9 22(E), we have not found large numbers of caribou. We've
10 radiotracked, we've never found collars, we've never found
11 tracks or large numbers of animals. And it's our
12 understanding, that the animals that have been here have
13 been mixed in with reindeers and have just been very small
14 groups of caribou. Quite frankly, nobody has ever called
15 our office and asked for an emergency order opening in
16 22(E) and it wasn't until two days ago that I heard about
17 this situation. And believe me, when I get a chance, I'm
18 going to go flying out there and look around and see what
19 we see.

20
21 I guess I'd love to find some way to figure out
22 where it is that most of these caribou are and open that
23 area so people can go there and hunt caribou and then it
24 would be the reindeer herder's responsibility if they have
25 deer in that area then they can move them and get the deer
26 out of there and leave the caribou for people to hunt. I
27 mean I'd love to be able to come up with some kind of
28 solution where everybody could win.

29
30 MR. GRIERSON: The people in Shishmaref
31 could tell you where they are.

32
33 MS. PERSONS: Well, I want to hear that,
34 yeah.

35
36 MR. KUZUGUK: The main point is that I
37 don't like the idea of reindeer herders claiming caribou
38 just because they're on their grazing land because their
39 boundaries are, from what I understood, from Nuluk to Wales
40 is Ontwazik (ph)-- and then Wales to Serpentine is
41 Willwanas (ph), and then Serpentine to the Glenn River is
42 Goodhopes (ph). That's -- I mean technically all the
43 caribou belong to Reindeer Herder's Association, they
44 became quite the -- according to the summary they said that
45 they become private property and.....

46
47 MS. PERSONS: Let me speak just a second to
48 that. There is this Federal Reindeer Act of 1937 that
49 Robert mentioned which does state that caribou that are on
50 reindeer range -- that the herder -- it doesn't actu -- I

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1 don't think it says that they become the property of the
2 herder but the herder may kill those caribou and may sell
3 them. The State does not recognize that but there's never
4 been a court case to settle it. I mean as far as the State
5 is concerned, the sale of caribou, whether it's on reindeer
6 range or not is not legal. But there's a conflict between
7 the State law and the Federal law and it's never been
8 resolved in court. So I don't know what to tell you there
9 but there's a difference there.

10
11 MR. ENINGOWUK: Kate, I have a question.
12 One comment I heard previously from Shishmaref, is that,
13 the herder gets rid of the reindeer -- I mean the caribou
14 off their herds and just leaving the meat to rot, they
15 don't make an attempt to bring the meat back or -- my
16 understanding is they just leave them there to rot and kind
17 of like a little -- it sounds like waste is being done by
18 the herder when his -- when that act says that they're to
19 bring those meat back to the villages and sell the meat or
20 take care of the meat but not just go out there and just
21 kill them off the herds.

22
23 I think that's where a lot of the misunderstanding
24 is. Is that the reindeer herder can do this, why can't we,
25 as our own people do it for -- we take care of the meat?

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The gentleman back there.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: We might hear some more
30 of.....

31
32 MR. E. OLANNA: Seeing that you're from the
33 Seward -- okay, I'll come up there.....

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: Is his name on the list?

36
37 MR. E. OLANNA: Okay. Hello, I really
38 appreciate you council members being here because of
39 subsistence.

40
41 REPORTER: Could you state your name for
42 me, please?

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Could you state your name
45 for the record, please?

46
47 MR. E. OLANNA: Edward Olanna and I'm from
48 Shishmaref. I have a good question here that might concern
49 maybe -- if there's such an entity in the NANA region,
50 advisory council, from the NANA region, maybe the Seward

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1 Peninsula and the NANA region, same type of council members
2 could get together to see if they could fix this issue on
3 caribou hunting on their region because we're talking about
4 two different regions here.

5
6 And as far as -- I'm sorry if I bucked the line or
7 anything, you know, there might be some other people back
8 there that might want to put out some issues, but the
9 reason why I came up here to talk is because I take a look
10 and the only reason why the State couldn't settle this
11 fisheries issue is because they more or less kept it like
12 fish being a source of money. Monetary. Monetary reasons.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Mr. Olanna.

15
16 MR. E. OLANNA: Yes.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'll -- can I interrupt
19 you, can we have Mr. Kuzuguk finish first and I'll call you
20 next?

21
22 MR. E. OLANNA: Okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, thank you.

25
26 MR. E. OLANNA: Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Mr. Kuzuguk, please
29 continue.

30
31 MR. KUZUGUK: Yeah, I was going to point out
32 that maybe, you know, I just wanted to say that some of the
33 problems that we probably have is the moose population is
34 going down in a lot of areas. I know that's happened in
35 Golovin, they lost about 40 percent of their moose
36 population and they got a good idea to have an emergency
37 opening for caribou since they're moving in. It would be a
38 good idea for the whole village of Shishmaref, as well as
39 the other villages, because like I said, nobody could
40 afford to buy reindeer meat, and there's a number of
41 caribou coming in. And to me it seems like it would help
42 everybody out in the long run, even -- it would even help
43 the reindeer herders. Because -- because all the hunters
44 in town, they know the difference from a caribou and a
45 reindeer, they're two different animals. And I just can't
46 stress enough that I don't like the idea of Reindeer
47 Herder's Association claiming the caribou as private
48 property.

49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions for Mr.

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1 Kuzuguk? Thank you. Jake, I have a question for you. I
2 seem to hear -- before we go any further I have a question
3 for you. One of the issues that is coming up is the -- it
4 sounds like there's conflicts between the subsistence
5 hunters and the Reindeer Herder's Association. Do you
6 think that if Kawerak Reindeer Herder's Association would
7 have a meeting with the local hunters some kind of
8 resolution could develop? Perhaps in conjunction with the
9 National Park Service or somebody.

10
11 MR. OLANNA: Jake Olanna, Kawerak Natural
12 Resource. Madame Chair, I couldn't tell you if it would be
13 something the Reindeer Herders would address but they do
14 have an annual meeting every spring. And I'm a former
15 director of the Reindeer Herder's Association, and based on
16 the testimony I just heard a while ago, I would like to
17 make a clarification, that caribou that wander into a herd,
18 we're talking about into a herd is considered reindeer.
19 But it's vice versa, too. If reindeer walk into a herd of
20 caribou they are considered caribou. So that's where that
21 distinction lies. But as far as caribou wandering into a
22 range, they're still considered caribou until they mix with
23 the reindeer. They have to be in with the reindeer herd to
24 become the property of the reindeer herder.

25
26 But in the range rules, the caribou are considered
27 predator in the same category as wolves, bears and so
28 they're -- I know in their budget they have predator
29 control monies that they go out to use to spot caribou.
30 But that's where that distinction lies and I hope that will
31 answer Mr. Kuzuguk's question as to ownership.

32
33 And I wanted to point out to you, the Board, that
34 like I told you earlier, there is a proposal in the Alaska
35 Department of Fish and Game, Board packet, Proposal 15,
36 that speaks to this very issue. And it's hunting seasons
37 and bag limits for caribou. Amend this regulation in Unit
38 22(E) to provide the following. The new regulation would e
39 the same seasons and bag limits for caribou in 22(E) as
40 exist in 23. This would allow us to hunt year-round except
41 during calving and have a five caribou a day bag limit in
42 22(E). So this is already in the form of a proposal, and I
43 would support your Committee to adopt this proposal to
44 piggyback the one that is going before the Board of Game in
45 Barrow the latter part of this month.

46
47 I'll be traveling to Barrow to appear before the
48 Board of Game and I'll be -- Kawerak has supported this
49 proposal and we will continue to support this issue. And
50 if it comes before you, then, of course, you have Kawerak's

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1 blessing.

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair, wouldn't it be
4 appropriate to support caribou hunting in Units 22(C), (D)
5 and (E) so that we could cover the whole region rather than
6 just one or two of the three that are -- don't have a
7 caribou season?

8

9 MR. OLANNA: It's up to you. Madame Chair,
10 I wanted to point out this was proposed by the Native
11 Village of Shishmaref IRA.

12

13 MR. KUZUGUK: I just want to make a comment
14 that the reason why I brought up the claims on caribou was
15 because I was told by one of the reindeer herders after
16 shooting a caribou that the caribou that were in grazing
17 lands belonged to Reindeer Herder's Association so that's
18 what I was told.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

23

24 MR. OLANNA: Okay, and Dick, I pointed out
25 that the caribou would have to mix with the reindeer herd
26 to become caribou-- I mean to become reindeer. Just
27 because you're grazing on a portion of -- anybody's grazing
28 land does not mean they're in there.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jake.

31

32 MR. OLANNA: So Madame Chair, the Reindeer
33 Herder's Association, like Mr. Seetot mentioned earlier,
34 they are given permits by this BLM, the State and the
35 Native corporations to graze on those lands. And that's
36 one of the range rules that they do that, and this is a
37 State policy and a Federal policy, that they seek approval
38 from the land manager, wherever the range may be located
39 on.

40

41 Like I said, I couldn't speak for the Reindeer
42 Herders, Rose Fosseck is their director. I would urge
43 anyone in the public or you, the Board, to contact her at
44 Kawerak at (907)443-4728.

45

46 But, Madame Chair, I just wanted to make sure that
47 you are aware that the Board of Game is considering
48 Proposal 15. I'm hoping that Kate might have an extra
49 packet -- do you have an extra packet with you?

50

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1 MS. PERSONS: They all have them.

2

3 MR. OLANNA: Okay, great. So it's in the
4 State packet and I would urge your Committee to review
5 this. Yes, that's it, you have them, very good. Review
6 that and if need be, draft a similar proposal. I'm pretty
7 sure Shishmaref would be willing to submit it with you, but
8 as a special action I believe you can do this.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jake.

11

12 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Luci Eningowuk.

15

16 MS. L. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair and the
17 rest of the Federal Subsistence Advisory Board. I'd like
18 to thank you for coming to Shishmaref and hear from our
19 people here in Shishmaref on our subsistence concerns.

20

21 I'm Luci Eningowuk, Executive Director for the
22 Shishmaref Native Corporation, and I'm in support of the
23 special action for opening the caribou hunt in 22(E). We
24 are and have been traditionally subsistence users in
25 Shishmaref. We are now experiencing some traditional
26 hunting that are returning, especially the caribou, which
27 was a traditional hunt, which includes Inupiat names of
28 caribou hunting. This time of the year, the caribou, if it
29 had an open season for hunting, would provide meat which is
30 needed at this time of the year.

31

32 And the question I have, after hearing from Jake
33 Olanna, is what about when a caribou is by itself or just a
34 caribou herd; is -- can that be -- is there any type of
35 regulation to where you cannot hunt them if they are by
36 themselves or on their own, as a herd, just a caribou?

37

38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Not according to the regs
39 right now -- with the Federal regs.

40

41 MS. L. ENINGOWUK: What with the -- okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's why we were going
44 to be requesting for a special action to be.....

45

46 MS. L. ENINGOWUK: So then it would be
47 possible if the special action was in place?

48

49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: If that's granted, yes.

50

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1 MS. L. ENINGOWUK: Another thing I want to
2 express my concern is the muskox which is now available for
3 hunting which was introduced a few years ago to the
4 Shishmaref area and they multiply real fast. And their
5 population rate is enormous even to the point where we, the
6 Native subsistence users, have to try and beat the muskox
7 from eating what we like to pick and eat, especially the
8 sourdock. And this type of food that muskox eat, we also
9 go after, too, so I would be in support of more limits or
10 bag limits for -- or increased -- people of Shishmaref,
11 Wales, Teller and Brevig getting more muskox than now
12 because we have to continuously fight them for the food,
13 especially in berries and greens.

14
15 That's all I have, thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions for Luci.

18
19 MR. ENINGOWUK: I just have a comment. I'm
20 also on the board of the Bering Straits -- Shishmaref
21 Native Corporation. We also provide work with the local
22 reindeer herders and provide for grazing permits to those
23 herders so I'm hearing this as a board of director for
24 Shishmaref Native Corporation. And if I may ask, Luci,
25 what percent of our lands are licensed to reindeer herders
26 as grazing permits?

27
28 MS. L. ENINGOWUK: I'm not sure about the
29 percentage but from Serpentine all the way about -- about
30 Sinuk is for the Goodhope herd. And from Serpentine to
31 about -- before you get to Sitnasuak, that's a small
32 portion that goes the Willwanas herd's grazing area, within
33 the Shishmaref Native Corporation lands. And the only
34 thing that is required of the reindeer herders to allow
35 them to graze in those lands is that they provide reindeer
36 to the feasts that are held annually, which is usually
37 Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: So you want to up the
40 limit, uh?

41
42 MS. L. ENINGOWUK: For muskox, yeah.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Luci, would you be in
45 support of a proposal that would remove restrictions
46 between the six muskoxen that is taken by NPS lands and six
47 from BLM lands? Remove that restriction so that 12 can be
48 taken anywhere? Right now there's that restriction where
49 people have to travel to BLM lands to get six of them and
50 some of -- excuse me, NPS lands.

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1 MS. L. ENINGOWUK: I wouldn't be able to
2 answer that question. If the number of muskox that can be
3 taken from one certain area versus another area, I don't
4 know how much effect it would in lessening the population
5 of muskox.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So you're looking for
8 increase in kill then, more?

9
10 MS. L. ENINGOWUK: Yeah.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, thanks Luci.

13
14 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you, Luci.

15
16 MR. ENINGOWUK: Grace, just a comment on
17 the muskox. As villagers from Shishmaref, we seem to see a
18 lot of muskox during berry picking time. Evidently these
19 muskoxens are going toward the wind, you have a little bit
20 of north wind that blows, a little bit of cool air from the
21 ocean, maybe trying to get away from the mosquitos and so
22 forth, that they're abundant on the mainland, so like the
23 reindeer and the moose do, every once in awhile we'll see
24 all those -- those herds that get close to the shoreline.
25 And I'm thinking that we see a lot of these muskox at our
26 camps that are close to the navigable waters that are
27 surrounding our berry picking, so I'm presuming that I
28 would support the fact that restrictions be closed so that
29 most of those muskoxen could be taken in close proximity to
30 Shishmaref so that they don't have to go all the way to the
31 Bering Land Bridge to get their muskox because we do see a
32 lot of them during the berry picking in the fall.

33
34 (Applause)

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: What's the present limit
37 on them now?

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Six in BLM lands and six
40 in NPS lands?

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, we'll probably get a
43 report from them.

44
45 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, and I believe you
46 have a handout.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And then we have a State
49 report.

50

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1 MR. ENINGOWUK:of what the number of
2 muskox are taken in.....

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, they could make a
5 presentation, too.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Luci. Is
8 anybody in favor of taking a short break right now?

9
10 MS. DEGNAN: A 10 minute break.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Can we take a short break
13 right now, no less than 10 minutes -- I mean no more than
14 10 minutes.

15
16 (Off record)
17 (On record)

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Mr. Edward Olanna.

20
21 MR. E. OLANNA: Thank you, Madame Chairman.
22 My name is Edward Olanna, and I'd like to welcome you all
23 again to Shishmaref for this meeting. I was going to state
24 earlier the only reason I think why the subsistence issue
25 over the fisheries management where the whole state of
26 Alaska didn't get passed is mainly because of monetary
27 reasons.

28
29 And that being said, the only reason why there's
30 been a crash on some areas on the fish population is
31 because of commercial fishing. And that's the main reason.
32 There are other reasons that it could not -- you could
33 blame like bears and other species of animals that like to
34 pick on fish but that's just not even a -- if you take a
35 look at how much fish a bear might eat to keep alive it'd
36 be just about the same as us people when we're collecting
37 fish for sustenance during the winters, and it's just about
38 the same. But the main reason why this subsistence issue
39 hasn't been passed over the past years is because it's
40 simply because they -- the State turned it into a monetary
41 issue instead of something other than that.

42
43 If you take a look back into when the first people
44 started coming around from the Lower 48, they came here
45 because of money, you know, gold. Gold was discovered.
46 And that's just their way of thinking. Something always
47 has to equate into some type of monetary use. That's just
48 my personal opinion. It might offend a whole bunch of
49 other people but I'm sorry that's just the way I see it.

50

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1 And then this thing about extension of Secretary
2 jurisdiction for a Federal subsistence priority. If you
3 take a look at yourselves, you've been voted into this
4 advisory council yourselves, how long a term do you have to
5 serve? Two? Three? Well, how long does the Secretary of
6 Interior have to serve? You get the gist of what I'm
7 trying to say now. A change of hands in the Federal
8 government, like the president serves four years and then
9 he has to get voted so somebody else gets picked. It's
10 probably the same way with this entity. So we -- I guess
11 we'd have to sort of keep an eye on who -- what type of
12 persuasion the next person will get, whoever got picked,
13 different administrations over the years do things
14 differently. They might be talking about the same thing
15 but you'll see that they get -- they approach the same
16 subject through different points of view. And I'm sort of
17 questioning the power that we might put to whoever the
18 Secretary of Interior we put to because administrations
19 change, like I say, serving just four years. We might get
20 a real nice cooperative guy for so many years and then the
21 Federal administration or whoever picks this Secretary of
22 the Interior will pick another one that might oppose our
23 way of thinking altogether, and we might have to watch
24 that. If we're going to be doing this right politically,
25 we might want to have some sort of a stricter policy.
26 Because right now who is it, it's Secretary of Interior,
27 Bruce Babbitt and we already have had a few conflicts of
28 interest against him but we straightened him out.

29
30 And I guess for now, Secretary of the Interior
31 Bruce Babbitt is going to be okay, but how long is his
32 term. If future administrations pick another Secretary of
33 Interior and he has policies that oppose our own, what will
34 happen next? That's just one of my opinions. I just
35 wanted to point that out to your people.

36
37 I guess that's all I had to say for now. Thank you
38 for your time and attention.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you very, very much.
43 Tommy Obruk. Tommy Obruk is representing the Native
44 Village of Shishmaref.

45
46 MR. OBRUK: Thank you members of the Board.
47 There is some other members from the IRA and the Native
48 Village of Shishmaref, too. I was going to point out that
49 the caribou hunting season and bag limits was submitted
50 sometime in August and a couple of weeks ago -- last week,

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1 I went to a meeting in Nome for that advisory committee and
2 they're in support of presenting to the Federal [sic] Board
3 meeting in Barrow, I've got it here on paper -- or the
4 Alaska Board of Game, Fall 1999 meeting October 25 to 29th.
5 So it will be supported and passed, you know, as soon as
6 possible. Since more and more of our people are getting
7 into a spot where they take away the meat that they shot
8 knowing that it's caribou.

9
10 Most of the time we're always told that it's
11 reindeer grazing land, you know, and telling us that we
12 cannot hunt there or the places that we want to go, up
13 mainly towards the hot springs area or the whole area of
14 Serpentine. Because we know -- we observe that caribou do
15 cross in large numbers, especially in the fall time and
16 some don't return back, you know.

17
18 The proposal is Proposal 15. My question I would
19 like for State and Federal to define, my following
20 question: When is reindeer herder not a reindeer herder
21 anymore, is it when they stop having coral or is it when
22 they stop caring for their reindeer?

23
24 They're planning more proposals in the future, too,
25 concerning muskox and brown bears. I know there's a
26 growing number of brown bears, you know, and they are a
27 danger to our families, you know, when we leave them up in
28 the country while camping without a boat or any men around.
29 And most of the women and kids don't know how to use the
30 high powered rifles. So I hope that your Board will be
31 supporting brown bear hunting in other areas, maybe the
32 brown bears will start going to their areas, you know,
33 afterwards.

34
35 That's all I have.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: In reference to muskox,
38 were you interested in seeing the number of muskoxen kills
39 be increased or.....

40
41 MR. OBRUK: That would be good. There's
42 over 500 people in the village of Shishmaref now and I
43 think we're -- the numbers have increased yearly but not
44 the bag limits. And I have always observed muskox by my
45 camp this time of the year and large numbers during summer
46 time, especially the month of August, while people are out
47 camping.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions or comments
50 for Mr. Obruk?

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1 MS. DEGNAN: You currently don't hunt brown
2 bear?

3
4 MR. OBRUK: We do when they're open in May,
5 no, or they come up to our campground, you know, too close
6 for comfort kind.

7
8 MR. ENINGOWUK: I might comment on that,
9 Fran. Usually we're in Shishmaref when brown bears are out
10 there running around and we're locked into the village
11 here. We're -- the brown bear stays on the main land when
12 they're open, it's -- it becomes difficult to go out there.
13 Especially for the berry season.

14
15 MR. OBRUK: The best time to hunt them
16 would be in the spring, you know, when -- in which we can
17 go around with our snowmachines.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Spring time?

20
21 MR. OBRUK: Spring time.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair. Have you
24 made these same proposals to the State?

25
26 MR. OBRUK: What?

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: Have you made these same
29 proposals to the State?

30
31 MR. OBRUK: No. There are just my
32 comments. Just that the caribou hunting, see, we're
33 finally realizing how we can go about changing some of
34 these regulations about hunting and fishing.

35
36 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, could I respond
37 to some of the questions Tommy has on brown bear?

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Sure.

40
41 MR. OLANNA: There is currently in -- there
42 is a regulation that reflects brown bears in all of Unit 22
43 where subsistence hunters can take one bear from May.....

44
45 MS. PERSONS: September 1 through end of
46 May.

47
48 MR. OLANNA: September 1 through end of May
49 for one brown bear for subsistence. You don't need to buy
50 a \$25 tag fee, all you have to do is get a subsistence tag

00045

1 and they can get that from Walter. We included all of 22
2 in the Brown Bear Management Plan that was drafted in
3 Kotzebue area, and I asked the State to consider putting 22
4 in also so at their last meeting they supported to include
5 22, all of 22, in the Brown Bear Management Plan. Because
6 currently, the people in Kotzebue and now us, we are able
7 to harvest brown bear in the spring until September.

8
9 MR. OBRUK: Thank you. As you know, Jake,
10 I don't read my regulations too much.

11
12 MR. OLANNA: Thank you, Madame Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jake. Thank
15 you, sir. Karen Sinnok representing Native Village of
16 Shishmaref.

17
18 MS. SINNOK: Hi, welcome to Shishmaref.
19 I'm the president for the Native Village of Shishmaref. On
20 the Barrow meeting they had in October, we had the Proposal
21 15 that was regarding the caribou hunting. My
22 recommendation I would give to you is that you support it
23 in allowing us to get Federal -- to get the Federal portion
24 to help us be able to hunt in the Federal lands also.

25
26 We live in a village that really relies on
27 subsistence and having these hunters go out and hunt
28 thinking that they're going to just get what they need for
29 subsistence and having to come back home and find out that
30 their meat is taken away from them is a big issue around
31 here. It -- you hurt for that family. And I can't see
32 where -- why a reindeer herder should be able to have any
33 rights towards caribous in their area. I still find them
34 separate but there's got to be a way to control this
35 better. I mean why should our reindeer herders have any
36 rights to these animals when we're supposedly just going
37 out for subsistence reasons anyway.

38
39 The other thing I'd like to bring out is our Native
40 Village didn't put any proposals for the muskox permits.
41 In looking at the new season opening for Shishmaref, the
42 State permits is seven and the Federal is five. I'd like
43 to see how we can work with your Board into finding a way
44 how we can up this permit in both areas or if there's any
45 way where we can have these permits made available to our
46 village on an open basis, not just as a State and Federal
47 permit. When you go up there to our Serpentine area or any
48 area where we do subsistence you walk into every corner and
49 you bump into these muskox. And they're so used to you
50 there that it's just like they know they're shielded. They

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1 won't run away, they won't do nothing. And our people here
2 have to rush to their camp sites and everything and try to
3 go pick up their Native foods for their gathering before
4 the muskox take over.

5
6 The other concern I have is with the brown bear
7 problem, too. We do have a lot of brown bears around here.
8 I would like to see how this, you, the Board, to work with
9 our Native Village into getting this brown bear issue
10 resolved because it seems like they're going everywhere.
11 And to see if -- how we can, at least, make this brown bear
12 open, not only during these certain months. Some people
13 can't even -- really can't even go up and -- go camping up
14 and down the coast because of this problem. But along with
15 the caribou, most of us, we go down to Deering and Buckland
16 to do it, and it does get tiring to go far to do your
17 subsistence hunting when you, as a young adult, have to go
18 out and provide for your parents, your elders in your
19 village and you have to make two or three trips to make
20 sure that everybody has enough food for the winter months.

21
22 So that's all I have for you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions or comments
25 for Karen?

26
27 MS. DEGNAN: I have a question. Now, if
28 you go on your caribou hunting trips to Deering and
29 Buckland, do you get any complaints about the increased
30 hunting pressure from those areas from those people?

31
32 MS. SINNOK: No.

33
34 MS. DEGNAN: You don't?

35
36 MS. SINNOK: No. It's just -- it's time
37 consuming and it's kind of silly to be going all the way
38 over there when we do have it around here and making all
39 these extra trips to provide for your extended family and
40 your families, and our elderlies.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: On the brown bear issue,
43 right now the only way you can get a brown bear is by State
44 registration permit only. Would the Native Village of
45 Shishmaref be interested in submitting a proposal
46 requesting the Federal government to provide at least one
47 bear by Federal registration permit?

48
49 MS. SINNOK: Yeah, we can work with you on
50 that.

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Mr. Edenshaw is our
2 coordinator and would be.....

3
4 MR. ENINGOWUK: Grace, can I comment on
5 that? If you look at the brown bear season, it's already
6 September, it's October and the main land, the rivers are
7 starting to freeze in October. And if you look through the
8 winter they hibernate during the winter. And if you look
9 to the spring, we're land locked here, we can't go to the
10 main land. The bears are -- our spring is real late here
11 and they're up there but there's no way for us to get a
12 bear. We can -- we see them during berry picking time,
13 during the summer, I think it just needs to change the
14 season or the opening so that we have a chance to get bear.
15 Because there's no sense in trying to go hunt bear
16 September 1st, late in the season they're not there. But
17 it's a bad time for our hunters to go out bear hunting and
18 they're not open when they see these bears in the summer
19 time. We frequent those areas for berry picking, for moose
20 hunting in August, we try to moose hunt and you run into a
21 lot of bear. So the season is not right for Shishmaref.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What would.....

24
25 MR. ENINGOWUK: Mainly because we live on
26 an island and our lagoon here is still full of rotten ice
27 and you just can't make it up there in the spring time.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So what time period are
30 you -- right now, this.....

31
32 MR. ENINGOWUK: The time period has to
33 be.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS:is just by the State
36 regulation, they go September 1 to May 31st.

37
38 MR. ENINGOWUK: Maybe it should be open
39 year-round for -- if we're going to take only one bear
40 every four years, at least open it for the whole year.

41
42 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, no closed season.

43
44 MR. ENINGOWUK: It's -- and how many, you
45 know, we don't know. I haven't tasted bear because -- I've
46 seen them but they're not open so you got to give us a
47 chance to lessen the population of these bears because
48 they're getting to be a nuisance. And also for the safety
49 of our berry pickers that are out there, you know, in
50 August -- during July and August is when we see these

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1 bears.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: How about taking of a bear
4 by Federal registration permit, you're not interested in
5 that or are you just interested in asking the State to
6 change the.....

7

8 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think we understand that
9 if we want to hunt brown bear we can do -- at least get one
10 every four regulatory years if we just go to Fish and Game
11 and say, I'd like to get a bear; isn't that correct, Kate?

12

13 MS. PERSONS: Actually that's under the
14 general season hunt. Currently there are two ways that you
15 can get a bear. If you're under a general season hunt you
16 can get a bear once every four years and you have to buy a
17 \$25 locking tag. Or you can get a subsistence registration
18 permit which costs you nothing and you can get a bear every
19 year but that is for human consumption. You have to
20 salvage the meat for human consumption and if you tan the
21 hide or remove the hide from the Brown Bear Management area
22 then the skin of the head and the paws are removed. So
23 there are two ways right now that you can hunt bear.

24

25 MR. ENINGOWUK: It's a closed season, is
26 there a time period for the subsistence hunt?

27

28 MS. PERSONS: They're the same in 22(E).

29

30 MR. ENINGOWUK: They're the same?

31

32 MS. PERSONS: They're the same.

33

34 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah.

35

36 MS. PERSONS: It opens September 1 and it
37 goes through the end of May.

38

39 MR. ENINGOWUK: And I presume you
40 understand what I'm saying.....

41

42 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

43

44 MR. ENINGOWUK:that the season is not
45 right for.....

46

47 MS. PERSONS: Isn't appropriate for the
48 people of Shishmaref.

49

50 MR. ENINGOWUK:at least for

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1 Shishmaref.

2

3 MS. PERSONS: I understand, yeah.

4

5 MS. DEGNAN: It's just like the ptarmigan
6 season that Toby Anungazuk was talking about.....

7

8 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

9

10 MS. DEGNAN:further up here, it
11 should be earlier.

12

13 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

14

15 MS. DEGNAN: So it's the same thing with
16 the bear. So it's the same thing with bear, their season
17 up here, from the local knowledge, that the September 1
18 doesn't work, they would be better off probably the end of
19 July I would think.

20

21 MS. PERSONS: Well, what's your take on --
22 what would you like the season to be?

23

24 MR. ENINGOWUK: Well, if this fall,
25 Shishmaref's thinking we happen to relocate to the main
26 land it won't be an issue anymore. We'll be right in their
27 back yard. But you know, the season, I think, for
28 subsistence should be open year-round, especially June,
29 July and August. Even if you just open it for June, July,
30 August, then we could certainly get some bear if they're
31 there. And then like I said, if Shishmaref sinks this
32 fall, by the next storm, then the season will again be
33 right for us because we'll probably be on the main land.

34

35 MS. PERSONS: I understand where you're
36 coming from. I have to say I'm not very hopeful about
37 being able to get there under State regulations. We just
38 had a big go around about ptarmigan. There was a proposal
39 from Unit 23, up in the Kotzebue area where people wanted a
40 year-round ptarmigan season. The local staff supported
41 that but it was denied at the headquarters level in Juneau
42 and they are just not willing to look at year-round seasons
43 on things. They like to have a time when these species are
44 protected. I mean it may be worth a try. It may be worth
45 putting in a proposal and maybe you guys can get somewhere
46 with it but I think at the State level it's probably
47 unlikely.

48

49 MS. DEGNAN: I think there's a difference
50 in sports hunting and hunting for personal use and the

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1 difference between subsistence. And I think that if you
2 have no close season on species for subsistence only that
3 with local input in management, that you would not -- I
4 would be very positive in thinking that you would not get
5 abuse. But it's when you get the pressure and competition
6 between sports hunting, personal use, commercial uses and
7 subsistence -- subsistence always gets voted out because
8 it's really those who are in the other categories have more
9 access to dollars and whereas the subsistence hunting is --
10 basically it's a different type of effort. And in order to
11 feed a family and an extended family in the community,
12 you're not going to diminish or deplete your species simply
13 because that's what keeps your body intact with your soul.

14
15 MR. EDENSHAW: Madame Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Cliff.

18
19 MR. EDENSHAW: I was looking in the reg
20 book, but I'm not sure what the regs are looking in there
21 for brown bear but one example or option that down on
22 Kodiak Island, almost all of -- probably 98 percent of the
23 island and I'm not going to say it's 100 percent right, is
24 refuge or Federal land. And one option they examined was
25 they implemented a bear hunting -- brown bear hunting
26 season for four different communities, I believe it was
27 Ouzinkie, Old Harbor, Port Lions and one other one. And
28 what they did was push forth a proposal to have a community
29 harvest limit. Seeing this here on the Peninsula,
30 Shishmaref has a lot of Federal land, and I'm not what sure
31 what the regulation -- if Fran could look underneath there
32 for brown bear and what it has for C&T determination for
33 use, as well as what the bag limit and season is, and what
34 Johnson was saying, you know, maybe that's just something
35 that the Council could use, sit there and say, well, we
36 could make a motion to have a brown bear season this length
37 of time from June until September or however, and what --
38 what those communities did was -- were given an allocation.
39 They were given one of the villages, I recall, was given an
40 allocation of eight brown bear and that pertained to the
41 Federal lands and it was a subsistence hunt. So that was
42 one way that they wanted to have their allocation increase
43 because a lot of the brown bears taken on Kodiak were for
44 guided and sport use.

45
46 But you know, that's an option that the Council can
47 do or else they can look at it and have a liberal brown
48 bear harvest and submit a proposal and say one bear per
49 resident per season.

50

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1 Those are the two ways that I could look at. And
2 I'm not sure, maybe Fran could sit there and look under
3 Unit 22 and see what the C&T and seasons and bag limits are
4 for brown bear.

5
6 MS. DEGNAN: Brown bear is rural residents
7 of Unit 22, and then Unit 22(C) is no Federal open season,
8 remainder of Unit 22 is one bear by State registration
9 permit only, September 1 through May 31st.

10
11 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.

12
13 MS. DEGNAN: And that's all they have.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It looks like we need to
16 look a little further, community harvest, then.

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: Is that all she has to
19 say?

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: No, I was just talking
22 about.....

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: It's still her floor.

25
26 MS. SINNOK: That's it.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's it. Thank you. Do
29 we have any questions for Ms. Sinnok?

30
31 MR. SEETOT: One comment, Madame Chair.
32 Brevig Mission is allocated 16 muskox along with Teller
33 even though the population of Teller and Brevig are lower
34 than Shishmaref which has an allocated 12 muskox, the
35 number of muskox to be harvested are determined by the
36 population in the subdistricts. And there was a muskox
37 cooperators meeting a couple years ago where the harvest
38 rate was determined to be five percent of the population of
39 that subdistrict and that is the number that is being put
40 out by population census done by Alaska Department Fish and
41 Game and other Federal agencies. Even though the
42 population of Teller and Brevig are smaller than
43 Shishmaref, the harvest rate of the muskox is determined by
44 the population in the subdistrict. And that was the
45 comment that I had.

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair. Also this
48 Board sent me to the State Board of Game last year or so on
49 muskox and we got permission was for a test hunt. I think
50 we're still in the test hunt stage and I think we'll

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1 probably hear more from Ken Adkisson about this and also --
2 who's in charge on the State side, you, so I think that --
3 we're on a test hunt right now. We're going to get a report
4 from these two State and Federal people on that, where it
5 will be reviewed and probably looked at again to see
6 whether we need to up it.

7
8 But we figured, when we went to the State Board,
9 and plus with the Federal, that we would try to get five
10 percent but we settled for three because we figured that
11 would be passable. I don't know how it's going to turn out
12 in the wash after we hear these people, from the
13 biologists. So we're concerned about that, too, but when
14 we discussed it on a test hunt we wanted five because that
15 was a concern out -- of which you're just saying now, but
16 in order to get by the State Board we went three, just to
17 get it on the books, and now we're going to see how it
18 works. Like you're saying, they increased, what we, as a
19 Committee, we're aware of that, too. We were aware of that
20 when we went after.....

21
22 MS. SINNOK: It's still increasing.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: What?

25
26 MS. SINNOK: It's still increasing. I
27 would like to see that maybe it can be instead of a bull
28 maybe it can be a female type, too.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: But the fact that we're
31 hearing you now, it adds more ammo for us to go back to
32 that Board of Game and also the Federal Subsistence Board.
33 We had to start somewhere last year. We were lucky to get
34 it passed that time, last year, they almost -- it was a
35 borderline situation where -- at the State Board. And I
36 think these other -- they know that, they were at the
37 meeting. So we had to argue for it, okay.

38
39 MS. SINNOK: Well, that's all I have.
40 Thank you for coming and hearing our concerns.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Jake.

43
44 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, okay, Jake
45 Olanna, Kawerak. The Muskox Cooperator's Group is planning
46 to have a meeting here, hopefully, in July, this coming
47 July. Because we're doing a census of the muskox
48 population on the Seward Peninsula in March so these
49 numbers will be up -- I'm hoping that they'll be increased
50 because we're going to base the harvest of five percent.

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1 So that's why I wanted to make that aware to the people,
2 and to the Board that there is going to be a census this
3 coming March of the population of muskox on all of Unit 22,
4 including 22(E). Okay.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jake.

7
8 MR. OLANNA: And I'll be leaving now
9 because I'm getting ready to depart at 4:30 so I'll meet
10 you guys back in Nome.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, keep your ears open.
13 We might be leaving in the morning, who knows.

14
15 MR. OLANNA: Okay, well, I'll just get with
16 Fred when I get back to see where you're meeting. Where do
17 you plan on meeting in Nome, Cliff?

18
19 MR. EDENSHAW: Jake, I've asked Perry if he
20 could call SitnasuAk and use their board room tomorrow.

21
22 MR. OLANNA: Perry?

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: I'll have to call into my
25 board right now if you need it before 5:00 o'clock.

26
27 MR. EDENSHAW: All right.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: Where are we going to
30 place the call from, though?

31
32 MR. OLANNA: Right next door, the city
33 offices.

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: Do you want to do that?

36
37 MR. OLANNA: That's all I have, Madame
38 Chair. Thank you, and welcome to my hometown, although I
39 have to leave it myself, so welcome to Shishmaref.

40
41 MS. DEGNAN: You're filling the plane up.

42
43 MR. OLANNA: Thank you for hearing the
44 concerns of the people because that's why we're here,
45 right?

46
47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Right. Thanks.

48
49 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

50

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1 (Applause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We're going to take maybe
4 a five minute break while Jake goes to make a phone call so
5 we'll know where the meeting is.

6

7 MS. DEGNAN: Perry.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry, yeah.

10

11 (Off record)

12 (On record)

13

14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'll call the meeting back
15 to order. Hello. I'm calling the meeting back to order at
16 3:50, and our next speaker is Davis Sockpick.

17

18 MR. SOCKPICK: Thank you, Madame Chair,
19 Board members for the opportunity to voice our opinions and
20 concerns. Perhaps it will help you in determining setting
21 up some type of regulations after hearing our community
22 member's concerns. I've got nothing prepared so it's going
23 to be brief.

24

25 What I was going to point out was quoted by Kate
26 earlier. A couple years ago the State Fishing Board met in
27 Nome and I had a chance to testify in front of them on
28 three things we have around here, the caribou, the muskox
29 and the bears. I'll start out with caribous. At that time
30 there was a large number of caribous that entered
31 Unalakleet 22(D) -- 22(E), and prior to my testimony, the
32 Game Board did not know that there was caribou in this area
33 or that they started entering this area. So based on that,
34 the Game Board directed the State Fish and Game to set up a
35 hotline -- telephone hotline to Shishmaref that if the
36 caribous enters here then it would be up to the Fish and
37 Game to determine whether they should have an emergency
38 opening or not. I think after that they use now is the
39 number of caribous coming in, that should not be a factor
40 because the amount of caribou around this area fluctuates
41 every year. Sometimes years there'll be lots and some
42 years there won't be many. And that shouldn't -- they
43 shouldn't base that on that one. If there's caribous here
44 then they should have an emergency opening. It's
45 frustrating for the hunters here, subsistence users to see
46 these caribous running around our area and not being able
47 to hunt them.

48

49 Let me point out there was some testimony earlier,
50 too, about muskox which has a lot of bearing on some of our

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1 subsistence game that we enjoy in the past. Primarily or
2 we depend on moose in this area and ever since the
3 introduction of the muskox here, the moose backed -- the
4 numbers have gone down seems like every year. The reason
5 being is there are too many muskox in this area in summer
6 time. The study that -- the survey the Fish and Game does
7 every two years, they use that when the muskox are still in
8 their winter range which is your Brevig and Teller area.
9 And unless they have done it recently, summer range have
10 never been established, which, we feel in this community is
11 in this area, our area, because there's hundreds and
12 hundreds of them every year that interferes with our
13 lifestyle, subsistence lifestyle, not only berry picking
14 but moose. I haven't hunted in the past few years but a
15 few years ago me and my boys used to hunt -- moose hunt in
16 the areas that these moose hang around on, and once or
17 twice we saw something in the bushes so we started stalking
18 that thinking it's a moose and find out it was a muskox.
19 And it's not only me but there's other hunters that report
20 sightings and things like that, which I believe is
21 displacing the area that the moose usually hang around in.

22
23 Now, up north somewhere, I can't think of the name,
24 the community, years ago muskox were transplanted up there
25 and by that time those people were subsisting and depending
26 on caribou that migrates through their land. And after
27 these muskox were introduced up there and the population
28 increased it displaces the migration route of the caribou
29 then, which is the same we're experiencing here, not -- not
30 with caribou but the moose population that we have. So
31 let's support those people that testified earlier that
32 there should be more muskox bagged every year by the
33 community, not only because our moose population that we
34 subsist on is going down but also the large number of the
35 muskox that we see around here in summer time. So I'd like
36 to go on record and support that.

37
38 And concerning bears, I testified a little bit
39 about the bear problems that we have and I agree with
40 Johnson earlier about the -- that there should be a
41 different season where we can hunt them around here. Like
42 Johnson says, it's September now and they're open -- I
43 assume they're open 'til March but we can't go out there,
44 it's too cold right now and the rivers are freezing. By
45 the time they freeze the bears will be denning somewhere
46 and we got no access to them, we can't get to them. And by
47 April, it's usually the time that these bears come out from
48 hibernation and by that time there's a lot of water in our
49 lagoon and the snow is too soft for snowmachines to -- for
50 us to go after them at that time. So we're in a position,

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1 concerning bears, we are unable to hunt them. We want to
2 but we can't.

3
4 Now, under subsistence, I believe, you are required
5 to get a permit first before bagging a bear. I think what
6 would be more appropriate for this area is if that permit
7 system is taken away before the fact -- before you get the
8 bear, then -- because a lot of times these people are out
9 there boating and subsisting and they'll see a bear and
10 just go away from it knowing that they don't have the
11 permit to bag that bear. So based on that, I think what
12 they should consider is getting a permit after you bag the
13 bear which I believe can be worked out somehow.

14
15 So those are my concerns. And going back to the
16 caribou, I believe if there's an emergency opening in this
17 area for you guys and the State to work very closely with
18 the Reindeer Herders to protect their livelihood and ask
19 the Reindeer Herders to inform the community, the hunters,
20 and tell them where most of the reindeers are around so
21 that they will not be disturbed. But one thing we need, we
22 need an emergency opening or, if not, emergency, I would
23 like to see an opening for caribous at all times, both
24 winter and summer. Because both winter and summer, they do
25 come here now. Now, in the past our grandfathers had
26 relied on caribou. In talking with my dad, I used to -- he
27 used to do a lot of reindeer herding up in this area, and
28 below hot springs there's a little hill that in Eskimo that
29 they call Little Rock, he said there's a big pile of bones
30 up there that he run into one time where hundred -- or 200
31 years ago that where people have used those and split the
32 legs for the marrow and all that. And my dad is gone, I
33 don't know why I never asked him where the exact location
34 is but he said it's near that Little Rock somewhere. So
35 our ancestors have relied on caribou and it should be a
36 traditional so, you know, there's caribou here and I don't
37 see why there's no opening on them. We're about the same
38 as anybody, like in Buckland or other units where they got
39 access to them without being penalized by the State or
40 Reindeer Herders or whatnot.

41
42 That's my concerns that I'd like to point out. If
43 there's no questions, I thank you for.....

44
45 MS. DEGNAN: I have a question. When you
46 were talking about the muskox, the population today, you
47 said hundreds?

48
49 MR. SOCKPICK: It's in hundreds, yes. I
50 don't know -- last time I saw the survey, a copy of the

00057

1 survey done by Alaska Fish and Game was about two years ago
2 and I don't remember the exact number that they come up
3 with but these surveys were done through winter. Like I
4 said, the muskox's winter range, and I believe the summer
5 range has never been established up to now, that I know of,
6 unless it was recently. Shishmaref feel and pretty
7 positive that they use our area, or hunting area, for their
8 summer range because the large number of muskox that
9 hunters report. There seems like there's hundreds in one
10 bunch, they're all over. So based on that, I think that it
11 would be appropriate for the Board members to increase the
12 permit systems that come into the villages instead of where
13 the numbers are higher for hunters to take like in Brevig
14 and in Teller, because that's their winter range. And in
15 winter time they're no bother, but summer time it
16 interferes with not only our subsistence way of life but in
17 some cases -- some berry pickers were chased by these
18 muskox while they were picking berries and it's dangerous.
19 And we need to do something about that before something
20 serious happens. In order to do that we need to bring the
21 numbers down on these muskox that come in. That's the only
22 solution that I can see right now.

23
24 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Kate, has there been any
27 summer counts of.....

28
29 MS. PERSONS: No.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS:muskox in the region,
32 in this region?

33
34 MS. PERSONS: No. They're not visible
35 enough during the summer to count them.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Daniel
38 Iyatunguk.

39
40 MR. D. IYATUNGUK: First of all, I want to
41 thank all of you for coming over to our village because you
42 guys are hearing what we'd like to see happen. And I think
43 that when you take your meeting back to Nome that you will
44 know the concerns of the village is to open the caribou
45 hunt because it is something that has to be done. Because
46 when a reindeer herder is not a herder anymore you don't --
47 he probably don't go to these meetings where they call
48 Reindeer Herder's Association. If he still is speaking why
49 can't we speak? We don't have herds like the guy -- former
50 reindeer herder. So let me put that there.

00058

1 Right now I could say that all foods that are used
2 by this area, you know, like subsistence hunting, it should
3 be open to all Native people because this is a harsh area
4 in the winter time. And in this harsh area in the winter
5 time, I don't see why you could see caribou walking by --
6 walk four or five miles up the lagoon and then you can't go
7 out and hunt them? That is wrong. You burn a lot of gas
8 to get to Buckland, if you know the prices of gasoline we
9 have to pay for around this area. And they spend a lot of
10 money trying to buy gas and do a lot of things and I don't
11 see where it is wrong for a person to hunt caribou in our
12 area because it just makes law breakers out of us, you
13 know, these -- if these things continue. I'd rather have
14 the people go to their backyard and kill caribou than
15 reindeer.

16
17 In Deering not too long ago when they still had
18 reindeer herds there, the reindeer herder would welcome the
19 caribou hunters. They would say, come over, hunt caribou,
20 because they were keeping the caribou away from the herds,
21 you know, they said, come. And then they give them extra
22 for killing a wolf or something, the reindeer herder would.
23 But it seems like around this area it's the opposite.
24 They're trying to keep the hunter away. On top of that the
25 wolves come around with the caribou and then they kill the
26 reindeer also.

27
28 That's just about all that I would have but another
29 thing is bears and muskox, they're getting to become a
30 bunch of nuisance around this area. They go after the
31 subsistence berry pickers, you know, campers. And I guess
32 that's about all I have.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions for Mr.
35 Iyatunguk or comments? Thank you, Mr.....

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: You're one of the first
38 that said wolves there -- and I've been keeping track of
39 what was said.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes, thank you very much.

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Nora Kuzuguk. Frank
46 Ongtowasruk.

47
48 MR. ENINGOWUK: Ongtowasruk.

49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ongtowasruk, sorry.

00059

1 Sorry, Frank.

2

3 MR. ONGTOWASRUK: My name is Franklin
4 Ongtowasruk. I'm originally from Wales but I've lived here
5 for seven years now. We basically have the same problems
6 they have here except it's not so obvious as the migration
7 of the caribou. But we do get -- my mother has a reindeer
8 herd in Wales and we do get caribou mixed with our deer
9 down there, in our area. I feel for you people, you get
10 your meat taken away. But what my mom practices or urged
11 us boys to practice was to shoot the caribou and pass the
12 meat out to the elders in Wales, and that's what we always
13 try to do.

14

15 And another thing, on muskox, is, you know, we
16 don't have much fertile land on Wales area but they have --
17 when they do get permits they have to go about 40 to 60
18 miles away to get muskox when they get a permit. So we
19 share a lot of your problems here that they're facing here.
20 Lots of bears come around.

21

22 So another question I got is do you have meetings
23 in all the villages that you represent or just pick -- you
24 know, do you go around to the other villages you represent?
25 I noticed the island, Brevig, St. Michaels and Wales; how
26 are your meetings set up?

27

28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Since I've been on board
29 we've met in Unalakleet, Nome, Teller, and here, and some
30 of the people have been here longer. Elmer has been.....

31

32 MR. SEETOT: White Mountain.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elmer said we met in White
35 Mountain before, too, but I wasn't on the Board. But we
36 are attempting to go more and more into the villages.

37

38 MR. ONGTOWASRUK: Okay. That's basically
39 what I got to say so thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you very much.

42

43 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Kate.

46

47 MS. PERSONS: Can I ask you a question,

48 Frank?

49

50 MR. ONGTOWASRUK: Yes.

00060

1 MS. PERSONS: If caribou hunting were open
2 in all of Unit 22(E), would that present a problem to your
3 family's reindeer herding operation?

4
5 MR. ONGTOWASRUK: It's hard to answer right
6 now.

7
8 MS. PERSONS: Okay.

9
10 MR. ONGTOWASRUK: They're not that numerous
11 but you can tell the difference between a reindeer and a
12 caribou, caribou are taller and have longer legs, they have
13 a lighter coat. It would depend on if the hunter was able
14 to differentiate between a caribou and a reindeer.

15
16 MS. PERSONS: Thanks.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Frank. Nora.

19
20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She might be at the
21 Native corporation.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Pardon?

24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She might be at the
26 Native corporation, Nora?

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Uh-huh. We'll just hold
29 her until she gets back.

30
31 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, I want to ask the
34 Council if it would be okay if we move a couple of people
35 up while we're still in Shishmaref and that's Ken Adkisson
36 and Kate Persons.....

37
38 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS:so they can talk
41 about muskox and bears and caribous and what not?

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: Sounds good.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is that okay with the
46 Council, move Ken Adkisson and Kate Persons up.....

47
48 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS:while we're still

00061

1 here.

2

3 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think we should be able
4 to hear them here and probably the Nome people would like
5 to hear them, too.

6

7 MR. MENDENHALL: We could probably hear it
8 again then?

9

10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah. So we can have them
11 be heard here and then in Nome.

12

13 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, because I think they
14 need to hear.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL:they need to hear
19 what all the other agencies are working on.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, so can we move them
22 up now?

23

24 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: Where are we -- which
27 number is that?

28

29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ken Adkisson was under
30 Bering Land Bridge Preserve so the people here can hear
31 him. Mr. Adkisson, can you present your report and address
32 muskoxen issues?

33

34 MR. EDENSHAW: Excuse me, Madame Chair, can
35 I just ask one question? I just spoke with the office and
36 Tom Boyd and Donna Dewhurst and them, they weren't able to
37 catch a flight up from Anchorage to Nome because they're
38 all booked up, so what they said they would do is
39 teleconference to the board room and they needed a start up
40 time, what time the Council plans on starting tomorrow
41 morning.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What kind of Council plan?

44

45 MR. EDENSHAW: No, what time does.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, what time.

48

49 MR. EDENSHAW: What time are you going to
50 start, at 9:00?

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, what time do we want
2 to do tomorrow?

3
4 MR. EDENSHAW: Those flights that have been
5 made for individuals are still going to -- are still as
6 planned, so the latest -- or the earliest one going out is
7 at 1:00 o'clock.

8
9 MS. DEGNAN: Tomorrow?

10
11 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We can meet -- begin at
14 9:00.

15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: 9:00. I just needed a start
17 up time so I can go back there and call them and confirm,
18 so that Tom and Helen and Donna can be hooked up by
19 teleconference to do their presentation regarding fisheries
20 and training and the other issues that the Council had
21 deferred until tomorrow.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: How about 9:00 in the
24 morning, is that okay with the Council?

25
26 MS. DEGNAN: Okay, sounds good.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, 9:00 in the morning.

29
30 MR. ENINGOWUK: Here?

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: In Nome.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: Sitnasuak Board Room.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Sitnasuak Board Room.

37
38 MS. DEGNAN: So when are we leaving?

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: When.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We need to be out by 6:30
43 because their Bingo starts.

44
45 MS. DEGNAN: How are we going to get to
46 Nome?

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's a charter tonight.

49
50 MS. DEGNAN: Oh.

00063

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's supposed to be here
2 at 6:00 but we need to be out by 6:30 anyways. Mr.
3 Adkisson.

4
5 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, good afternoon, Madame
6 Chair and Council members. My name is Ken Adkisson. I'm
7 the subsistence program coordinator for Western Arctic
8 National Park lands, National Park Service. What I have
9 for you this afternoon was a very brief status report on
10 this years Seward Peninsula muskoxen hunt. You should all
11 have copies of it and I'll try to summarize it and then
12 perhaps answer questions.

13
14 As far as the hunt itself goes, the season opens
15 August 1st of this year and it will close March 15th next
16 year. The bag limit is one bull muskoxen by either Federal
17 or State Tier II permit. There were a total of 64 permits
18 available this year, 35 of those were State permits and 29
19 were Federal permits. You can see from the table, I won't
20 go through the table, but you can see how those permits
21 were distributed among the villages. With respect to State
22 permits those are scored on a point basis with cost of
23 living and prior success in hunting muskoxen as major
24 factors in adding points to the score. And so for village
25 residents, prior harvest success is very important for
26 residents, Federally qualified villages, and it can be a
27 deciding factor between who may get a permit and who does
28 not. And if you have questions on the Tier II system, I'm
29 sure Kate Persons will be glad to answer those.

30
31 Like last year, the Federal permits were used, in
32 part, to compensate for any imbalance among -- between the
33 villages so that the total distribution of permits was a
34 little more equitable than might have resulted without
35 that. Unlike last year, there were no Nome residents who
36 received permits. All but four of the total permits went
37 to the six Federally eligible villages. To-date we've had,
38 and my report says three animals harvested and I understand
39 there's actually a fourth one. Two of those animals were
40 taken by residents of Wales. One of the other animals was
41 taken by a resident from Brevig. I understand from Kate,
42 they just got a report of a fourth animal having been
43 harvested by a resident of White Mountain. All of those
44 four animals have been taken on State or private lands with
45 a State Tier II permits. To our knowledge, we have had no
46 Federal permits filled yet this year. And that basically
47 concludes the status report and I'd be glad to answer
48 questions.

49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Does anybody in the

00064

1 audience have any questions for Mr. Adkisson or comments?

2
3 MR. ADKISSON: Perry.

4
5 MR. MENDENHALL: Did we reach that three
6 percent harvest?

7
8 MR. ADKISSON: Well, actually we're not,
9 we're harvesting at five percent. I don't have copies to
10 give you but the current status is that as of the 1998
11 count, there's just a little over 1,400 muskox that we know
12 of on the minimal animal count on the Seward Peninsula.
13 The way the harvest is established is that the animals in
14 the spring are counted by subunits so 22(E) is a unit,
15 22(D), southern 23 and as a result of the cooperator's
16 meeting -- we started harvesting at three percent, as a
17 result of the cooperator's meeting that was raised to five
18 percent of the animals counted in the subunit. So that's
19 how the harvest is currently established. And for example,
20 at the cooperator's meeting, Shishmaref, especially, was
21 interested in a higher harvest rate, say six or seven
22 percent. The cooperators, including the representatives
23 from Shishmaref all agreed that they basically wanted two
24 things to happen. They wanted to see the animals grow in
25 numbers and spread in area, but they also wanted an
26 increased opportunity for harvest. And so the agreement
27 was that we would harvest at five percent and revisit
28 through the biannual census and that the actual harvest
29 quota could be adjusted up or down according to what was
30 going on with the population.

31
32 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair, you've heard the
33 Shishmaref residents talking about the muskox presenting a
34 problem to the berry pickers and campers and that -- or is
35 that a normal problem?

36
37 MR. ADKISSON: It's a frequently heard one.

38
39 MS. DEGNAN: So what can like the raspberry
40 picker or camper do, can they -- if they were going to be
41 harmed could they defend themselves?

42
43 MR. ADKISSON: I'll just share a story to
44 you that was told to me by an elder up at Kivalina where we
45 had a public meeting up in Kivalina to talk about the
46 possibilities of harvesting muskoxen up there. And they
47 said that basically they were seeing more muskoxen around
48 Kivalina and they saw muskoxen out in their berry picking
49 patches and they were occasionally frightened by them and
50 so forth. And if you've been around muskoxen, especially

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1 in groups, you'll find that they have a very -- a common
2 habit of bunching up or forming sort of a defensive group
3 or circle when they're frightened or threatened. And these
4 people were out at camp and encountered some muskoxen and
5 the muskoxen kind of looked at the people and the people in
6 the group looked at the muskoxen and neither one budged and
7 the muskoxen bunched up into a group and -- and the people
8 kind of backed off and they sat there and they watched each
9 other for awhile and then the people bunched up and moved
10 towards the muskoxen and the muskoxen moved off. So you
11 know, I mean that came to me from an elder at Kivalina.
12 Especially during rut, perhaps, bulls can be, you know,
13 really cranky and aggressive just like a bull moose or
14 anything else and they're fairly good sized animals and any
15 wild animal can, you know, pose a threat maybe, especially
16 if it's by itself or cornered or whatever. So I mean --
17 but, yeah, it's a commonly heard that, you know, they
18 frighten people and if people aren't used to them I
19 wouldn't be surprised if people aren't frightened. You
20 know, with all that hair and stuff they look really like a
21 big animal.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elmer.

24
25 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair. I was elected
26 by the community of Brevig to hunt under the Federal
27 permit. I received correspondence from U.S. Fish and
28 Wildlife or from one of the Federal agencies that lands
29 selected but not conveyed was eligible for -- or would
30 qualify as Federal land. Have you received any
31 correspondence or can you clarify anything on that? This
32 was a pretty recent letter that I got from one of the
33 Federal agencies.

34
35 MR. ADKISSON: That's correct. As of,
36 whatever it was, October 1, when the new regulations went
37 into effect, selected but non-conveyed lands within
38 conservation units are now part of the Federal program.
39 That does the folks in Shishmaref some good because, for
40 example, if you got the Federal reg booklet, I don't know
41 how many of you have right at hand, but if you open it up
42 to the map of the Seward Peninsula you'll see up in the
43 northwest corner of the Park at Cape Espenberg, you'll see
44 a little white block area there, that's over-selected and
45 overlap between NANA Region, Kikiptigruk (ph) Native
46 Corporation from the Kotzebue Village Corporation and some
47 other things. And that land has not been included in the
48 Federal program. As of October 1 it is now in the Federal
49 program but that does not apply to the general BLM lands.
50 Because that was a question I had from some of the program

00066

1 folks because it would have made a real difference for like
2 Brevig and Teller but unfortunately that's not the case.
3 The only BLM land that would come under that would be
4 something like over in Unalakleet where you have the Wild
5 and Scenic River because the regulations, apparently, are
6 specific to selected but non-conveyed lands within the
7 boundaries of the conservation unit. So that's a park, a
8 monument, a preserve, a recreation area or a wild and
9 scenic river. It doesn't include general public lands.

10
11 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair, I got a
12 comment. Maybe you might think of -- since we're dealing
13 with Federal permits on your part, could you think of the
14 idea that most of the Federal land here is in the Bering
15 Land Bridge, Brevig is close to the Bering Land Bridge,
16 Teller is close to Bering Land Bridge, can they come over
17 here to our area and lessen some of our muskox up here and
18 have no 22(D), 22(E) because it's all Bering Land Bridge so
19 that they don't have to travel all the way to the Bering
20 Land Bridge on that side to that little area they have in
21 their area, can they come over here? I would imagine that
22 Shishmaref and Wales would just say, yes, come on over,
23 they're part of our own same people. And just open the
24 whole Bering Land Bridge for Teller, Brevig, Wales,
25 Shishmaref and Deering. We don't have to worry about 22(E)
26 or 22(D) or whatever.

27
28 MR. ADKISSON: Johnson, the answer to that
29 right now is no.

30
31 MR. ENINGOWUK: I mean why do we have to go
32 to -- when we're dealing with Federal permits on Federal
33 lands, I'd welcome them here and I'm pretty sure Shishmaref
34 would too.

35
36 MR. ADKISSON: I guess the answer to that
37 is there's no perfect system.

38
39 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah.

40
41 MR. ADKISSON: And it's a process -- it's
42 an evolutionary thing. I'll give you the answer, we have
43 -- if you look in your reg book, if you look in your
44 Federal reg book for muskox you find that the C&T or
45 customary and traditional use determinations that the
46 Federal Board makes, was made in the case of muskoxen by
47 subunit. So for example, the only people that have
48 customary and traditional use for muskoxen in 22(E) are
49 residents of Wales and Shishmaref. The only people who
50 have customary and traditional use, positive customary and

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1 traditional use in 22(D) are residents of Brevig Mission
2 and Teller. The only people who have a positive customary
3 and traditional use determination for southern 23 are the
4 residents of Deering and Buckland. And so the Federal
5 permits go to those people with customary and traditional
6 use. Yes.

7
8 MR. MENDENHALL: My relatives from Deering
9 used to come down to Teller and Brevig and they used to --
10 and also Teller and Brevig used to go up there to hunt
11 caribou. So that's -- they did customary and traditional
12 routes, trading and hunting as well.

13
14 MR. ADKISSON: Oh, without a doubt.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: And fishing. Trade
17 routes.

18
19 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, without a doubt. I
20 think part of the logic that went into that was -- well, I
21 can tell you part of what the outcome would be, and there's
22 no perfect -- again, no perfect perhaps solutions but
23 muskoxen are fairly sedentary. They don't move a lot like
24 caribou do and so I think part of what went into the
25 customary and traditional use determination was the feeling
26 that those animals would have been primarily relied upon by
27 those people living closest to the resource and that you
28 wouldn't have had to travel long distances for muskoxen
29 like you might have had to do for caribou or other things.
30 The other factor probably that went into it was the fact
31 that if at the time with the number of animals and so forth
32 available, if you'd have had a wide open C&T determination
33 basically those six villages would have inundated by Nome
34 and others and you know, your chances of getting an animal
35 would have gone right down the drain. And so.....

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, I was just citing
38 customary and traditional that we had amongst ourselves
39 from tribe to tribe. Even White Mountain, we went up in
40 there, to the Buckland area and got their caribou.....

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: Sure.

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL:when they had the dog
45 teams. I mean it's traditional -- with dog teams before
46 the snowmachines.

47
48 MR. ADKISSON: Sure.

49
50 MR. MENDENHALL: Then when snowmachines

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1 came around, Uncle Bill used to say they went all the way
2 beyond Deering to Buckland.....

3
4 MR. ADKISSON: Oh, sure.

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL:into NANA area.

7
8 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, it's not a question of
9 where people traveled to. It's probably where was the most
10 likely place that they went to to get that specific
11 resource.

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: And then in that case they
14 were also putting their life on the line when they went by
15 snowmachine.

16
17 MR. ADKISSON: You bet.

18
19 MR. MENDENHALL: What I'm saying, all the
20 way from Shish all the way into Buckland, the other side of
21 Buckland, and they cited Buckland again from the areas,
22 from Koyuk and the whole Seward Penn almost went into that
23 area for their caribou.

24
25 MR. ADKISSON: And.....

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: By each village, you know.

28
29 MR. ADKISSON:it's not that they
30 didn't go into that area and that's why it's -- for example
31 you look at the caribou C&T, it's very wide. The moose
32 happens to be wide but that wasn't a problem. I mean if
33 you don't like the C&T determination, I think -- you know,
34 you are free to request the Federal Board perhaps for an
35 adjustment in it. You know, I think there's a process by
36 which C&T determinations are made and they can be, you
37 know, remade.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: And not only that my C&T
40 with my grandmother, you know, from Deering and Nome, said,
41 if you see one shoot it because we never seen one before, I
42 mean, you know they never had it for a long time. I
43 remember as a kid she did. And the State accepted my C&T
44 statement regarding that, that I had customary and
45 traditional use of muskox. The only reason I didn't was
46 because the gold miners killed them all. That's the way I
47 testified at the State Board.

48
49 MR. ADKISSON: I remember that, yeah.

50

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: So what I think these
2 villages are saying that customary and traditional, it's
3 not just Shishmaref, Wales and Brevig. These people used
4 to live away from here before the advent of schools and now
5 we categorize them as Shish, Brevig and Teller, in the
6 village sense, when they used to live all over this Seward
7 Peninsula.

8
9 MR. ADKISSON: Well, I can remember,
10 though, having discussions with Sheldon Katchetag talking
11 about basing C&T determinations on quote, traditional
12 tribal territories. I mean so, you know, it's a worthy
13 subject of discussion and looking at alternatives.

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: So you're saying no to
16 Shishmaref not having to -- to have people from other areas
17 coming to 22(E) for muskox?

18
19 MR. ADKISSON: Under the current Federal
20 C&T determinations, that's correct.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: So how could we change
23 this then? I think that's the question mainly.

24
25 MR. ADKISSON: Go back to the Federal Board
26 with a request to do so.

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: Go back to the Federal
29 Subsistence Board?

30
31 MR. ADKISSON: (Nods affirmatively)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: For a C&T determination.
34 Is there any more questions for Mr. Adkisson or comments?

35
36 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Adkisson.
39 Oh, there's a question back there or a comment?

40
41 MR. SOCKPICK: What's the definition of
42 customary use of muskox?

43
44 MR. ADKISSON: Basically an established
45 pattern, actually there's eight factors that they look at
46 when they do the C&T. They look at patterns established,
47 use of the resource over time. They look at continuity in
48 methods and means of harvest, access of the resource. They
49 look at the patterns of multiple resource use. They look
50 at community patterns of sharing of resources. They look

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1 at traditional patterns of sharing knowledge and passing on
2 knowledge to other generations. I see Jeff looking at the
3 book maybe he could show you -- well, I actually could give
4 them to you if you'd like, I brought a reg book along that
5 would outline these. But there's those eight factors that
6 they look at in making a determination.

7
8 MR. SOCKPICK: Well, you know, these
9 communities traditional -- established -- the community
10 members here are -- the hunters are not law abiding
11 citizens if they haven't read the book.

12
13 MR. ADKISSON: I'm sorry, I kind of missed
14 that, do you want to run that by me again?

15
16 MR. SOCKPICK: I'm saying that customary
17 opinions were established for hunters -- have not obeying
18 these rules by even the muskox around town here, you know,
19 they (inaudible - away from microphone) for consumption --
20 for their subsistence use (inaudible - away from
21 microphone).

22
23 MR. ADKISSON: Well, you know, that is a
24 really Catch-22 situation, and that was pointed out to
25 folks.

26
27 MR. SOCKPICK: I know it's not right but it
28 probably would be helpful in determining customary use, you
29 know, so people stop becoming.....

30
31 MR. ADKISSON: I don't encourage people to
32 break the law. Had they had a -- if they had a
33 demonstrated -- recent demonstrated history of use of the
34 animal.....

35
36 MR. SOCKPICK: Yeah.

37
38 MR. ADKISSON:that would have made it
39 a lot easier but unfortunately, that wasn't what the
40 decision turned on, and the Federal Board found a positive
41 customary and traditional use with that -- out that
42 immediate harvest pattern. So you didn't need to break the
43 law to get the C&T here, and there is an aspect in there
44 where there can be an interrupted period of use and it's
45 really not -- not result or whatever that causes the people
46 to hunt so, you know, it doesn't have to be a continuous
47 unbroken pattern of use.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any further comments for
50 Mr. Adkisson?

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1 REPORTER: Grace, I need everybody to come
2 up closer to the microphone for the record.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, if anybody else has
5 to speak please go to the microphone if anybody else has
6 anything to say to Mr. Adkisson.

7
8 MS. WEYIOUANNA: I guess I just have one
9 question. What does -- how does the Subsistence Management
10 Program work? What does that mean?

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What?

13
14 MS. DEGNAN: How does the Subsistence
15 Management Program work?

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Can somebody answer that
20 for her, what [sic] does the Subsistence Management Program
21 work and what does it mean? In reference to muskoxen, in
22 reference to?

23
24 (Pause)

25
26 MS. WEYIOUANNA: Does that mean they can't
27 go certain places to hunt any kind of animals or stuff like
28 that, like reindeer or caribou or -- reindeer, caribou,
29 seal or that kind, and ducks?

30
31 (Pause)

32
33 MS. DEGNAN: Well, basically we're here for
34 the Federal Subsistence Program. And then the State has a
35 program managing the hunting of animals. And there are
36 rules and regulations made by the Federal government and
37 made by the State government which we, as citizens, are
38 required to follow. And if we don't follow them that gives
39 them the grounds for denying us some of our freedoms. So I
40 couldn't answer you. I can answer you from the point of an
41 indigenous person. That means a person of the land. Our
42 subsistence rules and regulations are very much different
43 from what the government's rules and regulations are.
44 They're not the same. And what we have are unwritten rules
45 from our indigenous way of life and from the other way of
46 life, it's written rules, and they call it the law.

47
48 So Mr. Adkisson can tell you from where he's coming
49 from, what rules he abides by. Kate Persons can tell you
50 from what rules they have to operate under. Charlie Lean

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1 has the same, he's with Fish and Game. And then Jeff
2 Denton with Bureau of Land Management. And each one has
3 different sets of rules that they have to operate under.

4
5 MS. WEYIOUANNA: Okay, thank you.

6
7 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anybody else for Mr.
10 Adkisson? Thank you, Mr. Adkisson.

11
12 MR. ADKISSON: You're welcome. Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We might as well hear from
15 everybody like Jeff Denton -- Jeff Denton, we're going to
16 hear from everybody.

17
18 MR. DENTON: Okay.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Mr. Denton is with the
21 Bureau of Land Management.

22
23 MR. DENTON: My name is Jeff Denton. I
24 work with the Anchorage Field Office of the Bureau of Land
25 Management, which in this particular region covers the
26 Unalakleet, Golsovia drainages, there basically in the
27 southern part of 22(A). And today we have Randi Meyers
28 from the Fairbanks Field Office, too, she may be able to
29 answer some questions or cover some of the things that are
30 occurring more on the Seward Peninsula and in the northern
31 part of this region for BLM.

32
33 And some updates, basically, in BLM, we have a new
34 state director, our old state director retired. And in
35 recent months we have a new state director, he was the
36 state director for Montana, his name is Fran Cherry, and he
37 will be the person sitting on the Federal Board in the BLM
38 Chair. So you'll see a new face when the Board meets
39 again. And there's some new faces, apparently, that just
40 got to the Fairbanks field office that will be working with
41 you folks down the road here. They aren't here today, they
42 just came and -- got to Alaska, so they couldn't make it
43 here.

44
45 And just an update of what BLM has been doing. I
46 know you were interested, Grace, in those -- the Ducks
47 Unlimited projects with the satellite imagery and the land-
48 cover mapping projects and the status of those. This year
49 we did the second half of the two year project of all the
50 Nulato Hills and the Golsovia, Andreadfsky, Anvik, Innoko

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1 country and I think the Selawik Refuge was also part of
2 that. Randi can probably fill you in more on what exactly
3 was covered. It takes some pretty -- we've done on the
4 ground-truthing and the actual field work on those now for
5 actually an extremely large area, we're looking at about a
6 25 million acre area from the Susitna all the way to the
7 coast over here. And so it takes some pretty sophisticated
8 computer processing that the Ducks Unlimited folks are
9 actually doing for us to put all the land classification
10 cover categories and all -- I can't explain it all in
11 detail, but we're expecting those finished products, the
12 maps and all the computer processing things now, probably,
13 next spring around May. They're about a year behind
14 because of such a large mass of country they're covering.
15 So we had expected the first half of this project last May
16 but they are way behind so that's the status of that.

17
18 BLM, with Kawerak, and I think Fish and Game are
19 kind of combining on the North River weir. I think that
20 was operated this summer, I don't know with what success.
21 I think the Fish and Game folks here could probably tell
22 you a little bit more about that, Charlie or someone,
23 hopefully. In-stream flow gauge on the Unalakleet was
24 operational this summer relative to the in-stream flow
25 requirements that the State has. We're required to get in-
26 flow [sic] data there for a minimum of 10 years, and so
27 we're slowly working through that 10 year period with the
28 in-stream flow gauge and the variation of stream flow in
29 the Unalakleet River.

30
31 Let's see, one thing, I guess, Frances, we may need
32 some help from you or from this particular Council. Vern
33 Harvey has been our Unalakleet harvest reporting guy, it's
34 been kind of voluntary on his part and he's done a
35 wonderful job except he's about two years behind and we
36 can't seem to get any information from him.

37
38 MS. DEGNAN: His family is getting larger
39 so.....

40
41 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I know that but I call
42 him fairly regularly and he says it's in the mail or he's
43 got it or maybe his wife forgot to send it or whatever.....

44
45 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

46
47 MR. DENTON:but we haven't received
48 any for almost two years so.....

49
50 MS. DEGNAN: You sent him a letter because

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1 sometimes that does help?

2

3 MR. DENTON: Well, I talk to him on the
4 phone quite a bit.

5

6 MS. DEGNAN: Because.....

7

8 MR. DENTON: It's a pretty informal
9 agreement. We pay him so much per monthly report because
10 he's nice enough to do it for us so we go ahead and pay it.

11

12 MS. DEGNAN: Well, for myself I know it's
13 -- a letter in the mail to.....

14

15 MR. DENTON: Okay.

16

17 MS. DEGNAN:directly to the issue
18 would probably do it.

19

20 MR. DENTON: Okay.

21

22 MS. DEGNAN: Because it's easy when you put
23 the phone down for, you know, to go out of mind.

24

25 MR. DENTON: Well, what I might do, I'll
26 write him a letter and we'll see how it works and if not, I
27 may appeal back to you folks maybe to write him a letter or
28 something like that.....

29

30 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

31

32 MR. DENTON:to see if we can get it
33 off-center. If not, we may drop that reporting. But it
34 was some extremely good information that we were getting.

35

36 MS. DEGNAN: He's a reliable person.

37

38 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I think he's got it,
39 it's just a matter of getting it kickstarted again.

40

41 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

42

43 MR. DENTON: Other than that, we don't have
44 a whole lot going on up in this country right now. I have
45 been trying to do brown bear surveys, especially down in
46 the Unalakleet, Golsovia region and the Anvik country which
47 is out of this region. And I don't have that data together
48 yet this year, I was unable to do that. We couldn't get
49 aircraft up here and several other logistical problems got
50 in the way of getting it done.

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1 But other than that, I'm kind of open for questions
2 from you folks; if you have any concerns or, you know,
3 issues that maybe we should be aware of. I know, you know,
4 in Leonard's country down there a few years ago we were
5 having a lot of lower Yukon people coming up into that
6 country and creating some problems from you folks; is that
7 continuing? Is there a lot of wanton waste going on? We
8 haven't heard much from over there.

9
10 MR. KOBUK: Well, last year -- well, when
11 it first began, the villages of St. Michaels and Stebbins
12 because of the amount of wanton waste of the caribou and
13 the killing of the IRA reindeer herds, the villages had to
14 send a letter to all those villages like Kotlik, Emmonak,
15 Alakanuk, Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and the villages
16 on the Yukon up river, because they were killing too many
17 car -- more caribou than what they can take in their sleds
18 and leaving the rest or wounding caribou and then just
19 leaving them. So the villages, St. Michaels people got
20 kind of angry about it and so did Stebbins and they said if
21 they continue with what they were doing, that they were
22 going to put a restriction on their hunting in our lands.
23 So that's kind of fixed things up a little but occasionally
24 we do have that problem. Because they're coming out with
25 these .223, some of them people from that area come with 40
26 round clips and you don't need no 40 round clip to hunt
27 caribou.

28
29 MR. DENTON: Well, we'd appreciate, at
30 least, if you find that stuff going on if you can get good
31 locations of where it occurs, we do have enforcement people
32 that can, possibly, if we can get out there in time to look
33 into it. And then if nothing else, it gives us a
34 documented record that there's some things going on that
35 you folks are concerned about so we can address it through
36 this forum or like you guys have done with letters, but
37 it's good to get that -- get a hold of me or whatever, and
38 at least, I can at least trigger some kind of action
39 somewhere and see what we can do to cut it off in the bud
40 basically.

41
42 MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

43
44 MR. DENTON: So we'd greatly appreciate it.
45 You know, a couple three years ago you folks called me on
46 several occasions.

47
48 MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

49
50 MR. DENTON: So I appreciate it. Anything

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1 else?

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Did you have any response
4 to that one on Koyuk, that proposal?

5

6 MR. DENTON: Yeah, I looked into that.
7 Cliff sent me that letter and it's out of my area of
8 jurisdiction.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

11

12 MR. DENTON: But what I did is I first went
13 to our recreation specialist who administers outfitter
14 permits and, of course, he isn't responsible those are
15 issued out of the Fairbanks office. I didn't get much
16 action there so I went to our enforcement officer and he
17 went ahead and contacted the enforcement officers up in the
18 Fairbanks office and they basically kind of looked into the
19 records in our file on that particular individual, Mr.
20 Hannon, and we didn't have any reports. You know, they
21 need to have some documented reports that there's a
22 problem, it was investigated, so on and so forth, and we
23 didn't have anything on -- nobody's called us. They
24 contacted the Troopers. The Troopers didn't have anything
25 either. So there isn't a very good line of record other
26 than, you know, just what people have said but nothing's
27 ever been called in, turned in, and make part of a record
28 as part of his file record. Because we pay pretty close
29 attention to that sort of thing. If we've got a bad apple
30 we usually find a way to get rid of it. But we have to
31 have substantial evidence and it's got to be good evidence,
32 you know, how law enforcement sorts of things are, you
33 know, it's got to be substantial and solid evidence for us
34 take action.

35

36 And some of the things that the -- the allegations
37 would be, you know, trespass on Native Corporation lands is
38 totally out of our jurisdiction, we don't have anything to
39 say about that whatsoever, you know, that's a private land
40 issue. And so that's kind of between the corporations or
41 the Native allottees, maybe with the assistance of BIA to
42 assign their lands, and basically, you know, educate the
43 individual that may be doing trespass. So that's kind of
44 how -- we looked into it, at least, to some degree and we
45 just didn't find much to carry it out much further. So --
46 and maybe Randi could look a little further into it. I
47 don't know about his operations this year, if he's even
48 operating this fall? If he operated last spring for bears?
49 I don't know. So that's all I know about him.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, Mr. Lean.

2

3 MR. LEAN: The one thing Jeff failed to
4 mention is that the Salmon Lake fertilization project, and
5 that's one-quarter BLM funded project and BLM has been very
6 generous in their support of that and it's a five year,
7 ongoing project, this year was the third year in that
8 project. BLM has contributed essentially the boat and the
9 fertilization equipment to run that project.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

12

13 MR. MENDENHALL: Nome thanks you.

14

15 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, I have a
16 question. You said the BLM, I mean.....

17

18 MR. DENTON: Yeah, it's State selected but
19 it's still BLM jurisdiction, it hasn't been conveyed. So
20 most of the Golsovia drainage is BLM land now under our
21 jurisdiction.

22

23 MR. KOBUK: So any hunting and trapping and
24 stuff like that, game, if there's any violation we just get
25 a hold of you?

26

27 MR. DENTON: Well, where it's State
28 selected, the violations would be State jurisdiction there,
29 that's under State management because it is selected. The
30 stuff, like the head of the South River and the Big Ridge
31 just to the west of the South River is all non-selected BLM
32 land. Violations there would be, in terms of subsistence
33 things would be both State and Federal jurisdiction. You'd
34 get a hold of us on those for sure. But we'd appreciate
35 knowing anyway and then we can make the contacts with the
36 State if there's an issue there or whatever. You can get a
37 hold of whoever you want to, I guess.

38

39 MR. KOBUK: All right.

40

41 MR. DENTON: In most of those cases there.

42

43 MR. KOBUK: The reason I ask that question
44 is because we do a lot of our hunting in that area for
45 caribou, trapping of wolves, wolverines, martens, moose.

46

47 MR. DENTON: Yeah, it's a real interesting,
48 real neat productive piece of country there. It's pretty
49 unique.

50

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1 MR. KOBUK: That's all I had.

2

3 MR. DENTON: Okay, is that it?

4

5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Denton.

6

7 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's been a request for
10 a short break, so I'll take a five minute break, I guess.

11

12 (Off record)

13 (On record)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'll call the meeting back
16 to order, and we'll be hearing from Randi Meyers. She's
17 from BLM-Kotzebue.

18

19 MS. MEYERS: Greetings. My name is Randi
20 Meyers. I work with BLM in Kotzebue and I usually go to
21 the Northwest Arctic Federal Subsistence meetings. And
22 because we are short two wildlife biologists in Fairbanks,
23 the office that I'm connected to, and I think maybe some of
24 you might remember Ann Morkill who was from Fairbanks from
25 the Northern Field Office and she attended these meetings,
26 and she has transferred to Fish and Wildlife Service and we
27 have replaced her -- actually two new wildlife biologists
28 and I'm not sure which one is going to be coming. Tim
29 Craig is one name, and he comes in from Idaho and has been
30 a wildlife biologist for a number of years but not with
31 BLM. He worked with the Forest Service and then was an
32 independent contractor for Environmental Services. And
33 then the other person who may show up at these meetings is
34 Jeannie Cole. And she is a BLM person and she comes up
35 from Nevada. And so the next meeting you folks have this
36 fall, one of those two people will be here and will be kind
37 of long-term, you know, you'll see them, their face. But
38 in the meantime I was asked to come so I've been taking
39 careful notes and I'll be able to brief the new wildlife
40 biologist on what happened at the meeting today and they'll
41 talk with Jeff and Jeff will give them the background, too,
42 so they'll be able to kind of slide in here and hopefully
43 be real effective.

44

45 I wanted to say a little bit more about the
46 vegetation mapping because I know that you were interested
47 and Jeff talked a little bit about it and I know in your
48 meeting in March he mentioned it as well. I was part of a
49 crew that worked in the Buckland River Valley and the
50 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, the Nulato Hills, the

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1 Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge so that was about eight
2 million acres, and so this is continuing the process of
3 taking satellite photos that the Ducks Unlimited people
4 look at and then they identify specific points on the
5 ground that are confusing when they look at the satellite
6 pictures. So they're not quite sure what the vegetation is
7 like at various different spots, and so they send us in by
8 helicopter to take a look and we take notes and then they
9 go back to those satellite images and they plug in that new
10 information about those confusing places. The satellite
11 images are in lots of different colors and blends of colors
12 and so then they can interpret them a lot more accurately
13 once they have that ground-truthing information so I was
14 working on one of those projects on -- partially on the
15 Seward Peninsula and partially to the east. So that's an
16 ongoing effort and within a year or two we should have some
17 good vegetation maps of an area you're involved with and
18 they'll certainly be made available.

19
20 About the Bob Hannon situation. I wasn't aware of
21 this, but I think some of the responsibility does rest with
22 the Fairbanks BLM office and I'm a part of that office even
23 though my own little office is in Kotzebue. And so there's
24 a person there, Larry Field, who works with Bob Hannon, he
25 has the case file for Bob Hannon's special recreation
26 permit, and I'll talk with him and find out -- we have a
27 five year renewal cycle for special recreation permits and
28 so I'll find out when Bob Hannon would normally need to
29 renew his permit. And part of the permit renewal process
30 would be to look at his past performance. And with that
31 letter from the Koyuk IRA Council, you know, we can start
32 asking him some really searching questions. And I honestly
33 don't know, if based on that letter, we can deny his
34 permit. But it certainly is something that we will take
35 into very serious consideration when we look at his permit
36 renewal. And like I say, because I came into this without
37 knowing about that letter I didn't do any research on Bob
38 Hannon so I don't know what year his permit is due to be
39 renewed, but I certainly will stay in touch with Grace on
40 this problem and let you know what I find out and we'll
41 keep going.

42
43 That's all I had to say unless there are any
44 questions.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Randi. Nora
47 Kuzuguk is here now and we'll hear from her.

48
49 MS. KUZUGUK: I had to write down the
50 things I wanted to say so I wouldn't forget. I talked to

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1 some elders last night over the phone, I talked to four
2 elders and all of them said, this is not good when local
3 people start turning in their people, so they said I should
4 say something so even though it's already addressed, it
5 will be a voice.

6
7 Three elders agreed that according to our ancestors
8 they hunted caribou in the spring and summer around and
9 behind Igloo and Dunu Lakes (ph), Dunu is the one we call
10 Back River. And I would like to see caribou hunting open
11 in our area for subsistence use because we have two
12 reindeer herders in the immediate area that would benefit
13 from caribou subsistence hunting. At least their reindeer
14 would be safer.

15
16 One of the elders even said there was a place near
17 Wales called Potato Mountain that Wales people would hunt
18 caribou from -- that was -- Potato Mountain was their look-
19 out place.

20
21 And also muskox, there's too many and we hardly
22 have any use for them. So they are just taking up grazing
23 land. Also there's too many bears like everybody is
24 saying.

25
26 That's all I wanted to say, thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any comments or questions?
29 Thank you.

30
31 MS. KUZUGUK: Uh-huh.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Kate Persons. I got lost.
34 She's with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

35
36 MS. PERSONS: Kate Persons, Wildlife
37 Biologist, Fish and Game in Nome. I'm thinking that I
38 could be most helpful to you by going through the various
39 proposals that have been submitted both by the Department
40 of Fish and Game to address population concerns and issues
41 that we have, and then also the proposals that have been
42 submitted by the public that the Board of Game will be
43 considering at their meeting in October in Barrow. And by
44 going through these proposals, I'll be touching on
45 absolutely every issue that we've talked about today. So
46 if that seems like a good plan with you guys, that's how
47 I'll proceed.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

50

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1 MS. PERSONS: And I suppose you should be
2 thinking, if any of these things are things that you guys
3 really agree with then maybe you want to work on parallel
4 regulations but also if any of these things are things that
5 you really disagree with you might want to submit your
6 comments to the Board of Game just opposing some of these
7 proposals.

8
9 And I'll be referring to things in this blue
10 proposal book. The first one is Proposal 14 -- actually
11 Proposal 14 and 15 are very similar and they're about this
12 caribou and reindeer issue. Proposal 14 would establish an
13 open season for caribou hunting in Unit 22(D) and Proposal
14 15 would establish an open season for caribou hunting in
15 22(E). And on both of these proposals, the Department of
16 Fish and Game is making no recommendation. It's not a
17 biological issue. The Western Arctic Herd is nearly half a
18 million animals. There are plenty of caribou. It's a user
19 issue. And so it's going to be up to the public and the
20 reindeer herders to present to the Board their position on
21 these things and the Board will decide whether or not there
22 should or shouldn't be an open season. Presently, the way
23 it stands is that if caribou move into these closed areas,
24 (C), (D) and (E), the Department can open them by emergency
25 order. And as I mentioned earlier, that's happened for the
26 last three years in 22(D). In the first year we opened all
27 of 22(D) and then the last two years, at the request of the
28 Reindeer Herder's Association, we figured out an area where
29 most of the caribou were present but there were hardly an
30 reindeer, and so we opened just a portion of 22(D) to allow
31 hunting but yet at the same time protect most of the
32 reindeer.

33
34 That's all I have to say on those two.

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: You got to exclude St.
37 Lawrence Island, though, right?

38
39 MS. PERSONS: What's that?

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: You have to exclude St.
42 Lawrence Island?

43
44 MS. PERSONS: Oh, I guess, so, yeah. Yeah,
45 that's right. Okay, any questions on those two?

46
47 MR. SEETOT: I overheard a comment that
48 Unit 22(A) and (B) are open to caribou hunting, they do
49 have reindeer herders there. I think also in 22(D), there
50 was about, I think four herders that have reindeer in

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1 subunit 22(E), whereas I think two or three of them are
2 pretty much stable but one lost his reindeer herd
3 completely. If the regulations in these subunits are to be
4 constant then I don't think that the Department of Fish and
5 Game should kind of discriminate residents in Unit 22(D)
6 because this is a grazing ground, you know, for some of the
7 reindeer herders. There are also reindeer herders in 22(A)
8 and (B), and they are open seasons, but that's pretty much
9 their wintering range.

10

11 MS. PERSONS: Right.

12

13 MR. SEETOT: And I think that's kind of
14 discriminatory to the residents of 22(D) just because
15 Reindeer Herder's Association said that reindeer are the
16 private property of the owner. The owners are the ones
17 that are pretty much gaining financial, you know, rewards,
18 from sale of antlers, sale of meat.

19

20 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

21

22 MR. SEETOT: And the only time that the
23 communities can kind of benefit from reindeer is pretty
24 much during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

25

26 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: And then that was one of the
29 things that I kind of overheard was that the residents of
30 22 are being discriminated in the fact that there are
31 reindeer herders in.....

32

33 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

34

35 MR. SEETOT:22(A) and (B).....

36

37 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, that's a good point.

38

39 MR. SEETOT:(C) and also (D).

40

41 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: And that's one of the
44 restrictions that is being placed on the regulations
45 because there are owners that, you know, have herds in Unit
46 22(D).

47

48 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

49

50 MR. SEETOT: And that's one of the things I

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1 think that Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff and
2 Board should know to consider when they are making
3 proposals for caribou.

4
5 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, I think the reason that
6 there isn't an open season in (C), (D) and (E) is just
7 because until three years ago caribou really hadn't moved
8 to the western part of the Peninsula. They have been
9 traveling down through (A) and (B) for quite some time now.
10 And the Board of Game had this proposal in front of them
11 two years ago and they opposed it. They didn't allow an
12 open season in (C), (D) and (E) because at that point
13 caribou had only been coming into 22(D) for one year, but
14 now we have a history of three years when they have come
15 and we -- I mean the Department believes that chances are
16 they will continue to come unless the herd declines. So
17 you know, it's -- I think the Board, this time around, is
18 more likely to consider an open season.

19
20 Okay, so shall I move on to the next one? And it's
21 Proposal 35, and you'll find that.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Just a minute, Kate, who
24 had their hands raised?

25
26 MR. SOCKPICK: Let me comment on you
27 mentioned something about Reindeer Herder's Association and
28 the Board adopted -- something to make a decision on
29 (inaudible - away from microphone).....

30
31 REPORTER: Could you come a little closer
32 to the microphone please so I can pick you up better?

33
34 MR. SOCKPICK: There's a number of reindeer
35 herders in the area, some (inaudible - away from
36 microphone) a few reindeers up in their range and have no
37 control over them now simply because the caribou are there.
38 You know, caribou is dominating the movement of those
39 reindeers a little bit (inaudible - away from microphone)
40 -- Reindeer Herder's Association about opening 22(E), you
41 should have the testimony being heard today from the areas,
42 and that alone should outweigh the opposition of the
43 Herder's Association who oppose the opening seasons for the
44 caribou. Because it seems that --might -- might not
45 because they're the only ones that benefit from these
46 caribous (inaudible - away from microphone) range where
47 they use for the Federal government or whoever gave them
48 that range for (inaudible - away from microphone) benefit
49 from that vote for meat for their table and also for their
50 income in this whole area. It should not be -- we're all

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1 people, everybody, should have access to the renewable
2 resources out there, if they're available. But right now
3 our hands are tied. You know, these areas are closed and
4 we can't hunt them lawfully. I mean even if they say
5 that's law abiding, Fish and Game observed the (inaudible -
6 away from microphone) just in the past few years, in order
7 to feed their family and their children and all, some
8 hunters go take a caribou or two from this closed areas and
9 a lot of times they're penalized for it. Not only do they
10 have to turn the meat over to the State, there's a
11 possibility of like criminal charges being filed against
12 them by the Troopers or the Fish and Wildlife, they become
13 criminals simply because they're trying to feed their
14 family.

15
16 So those are the things that should be considered,
17 weighed in opening a hunt for animals for renewable
18 resource. So that's my comment.

19
20 MS. PERSONS: You know, one thing that
21 would be really good, I should have mentioned this earlier,
22 but all of you people who feel this way should just -- it
23 doesn't have to be a long thing but just write out a very
24 quick statement and send it to the Board of Game as public
25 comment. They really encourage the public to let them know
26 what you think about things.

27
28 MR. SOCKPICK: Okay.

29
30 MS. PERSONS: And I got the address for
31 you. The more testimony that comes into them, you know,
32 the better chance you have.....

33
34 MR. SOCKPICK: It's important to
35 subsistence. I'm assuming that these meetings are taped or
36 recorded so then they have -- people have access to those
37 (inaudible - away from microphone) got there. Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Mr. Kuzuguk.

40
41 MR. KUZUGUK: I was wondering how.....

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: Grace, microphone.....

44
45 MR. KUZUGUK:the -- what the
46 decision-making process is, like what the weight is on
47 public comments where the public requests versus Reindeer
48 Herder's Association?

49
50 MS. PERSONS: I think they'll be equal.

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1 They're going to be asking questions of both sides and
2 they'll try to weigh it out and I -- I don't know, I'm not
3 on the Board. I think they're going to try to make a fair
4 decision.

5
6 MR. KUZUGUK: My concern is whether or not
7 a majority of the decision is going to go to the Reindeer
8 Herder's Association because it's going (inaudible - away
9 from microphone) pretty sure the public is going to lose.

10
11 MS. PERSONS: Well, you need to get your
12 public comment in and I've got the address over there of
13 where comments should be sent. I really encourage you to
14 send testimony because the Board does consider what the
15 public has to say about these issues. And in this case
16 it's going to be entirely a matter of public testimony
17 because Fish and Game is not making a recommendation, we're
18 just -- it's going to be matter of the public and the
19 Reindeer Herder's Association presenting the two sides and
20 the Board will try and figure out what to do about it.

21
22 MR. SOCKPICK: Also.....

23
24 REPORTER: Wait, Grace, I really need to
25 have people move closer to a microphone.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: She's unable to -- the
28 tape recorder is unable to pick you up, can you move up
29 here by the microphone.

30
31 REPORTER: Just a little bit closer,
32 please, that way we get a better record.

33
34 MR. SOCKPICK: I'm sorry to keep barging
35 in, but I think what would probably work, too, is public
36 support, the public -- summary of testimony here is for
37 Native entity here, which is the IRA, can make a resolution
38 supporting the testimony and comments that were made here
39 today. Their job is to look after us that are enrolled in
40 there, you know, probably that would be helpful if it's
41 done that way, too. So any resolution presented to any
42 organizations easily have a lot of power in them because
43 it's a united -- like the community members are the ones
44 that make them. So do you think that would be helpful?

45
46 MS. PERSONS: It would be helpful but it
47 would also be helpful for them to hear from individuals,
48 themselves.

49
50 MR. SOCKPICK: Yeah.

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1 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, but definitely a
2 resolution would be good. But this proposal came from your
3 IRA so they already know that your IRA feels strongly.

4
5 MR. SOCKPICK: Oh, okay.

6
7 MS. PERSONS: I believe.

8
9 MR. SOCKPICK: I don't have a copy but
10 whatever the IRA decided for presenting, you know, should
11 benefit the community.

12
13 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, this proposal was from
14 the Native Village of Shishmaref and the Shishmaref IRA.

15
16 MR. SOCKPICK: Thank you.

17
18 MR. ENINGOWUK: Go ahead, Kate, do you want
19 to continue?

20
21 MS. PERSONS: All right. The next proposal
22 is Proposal 35 and you'll find that, I believe, on Page 32.
23 And you may not even be aware of it but in Unit 22, the way
24 that people hunt caribou on snowmachines is not legal. To
25 use a snowmachine to chase caribou or move caribou is only
26 legal in Unit 23 up in the Kotzebue area. And this
27 proposal would make it legal to hunt caribou using a
28 snowmachine in Unit 22 as well as Unit 23.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I hate to interrupt the
31 meeting but Bering Airplane is going to be here at 5:30,
32 it's now 5:25, the big one that is going to be moving
33 equipment.

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: So do you want to recess?

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We'll have no more
38 equipment.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: What?

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The recording equipment is
43 to go in the big plane.

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: So do we want to recess?

46
47 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, yeah, we'll recess
50 the meeting until tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. -- excuse

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1 me, tomorrow morning at 9:00. I'm very sorry for having to
2 cut this short for the people of Shishmaref.

3

4 MR. ENINGOWUK: Before you leave I'd like
5 to thank you for coming to Shishmaref on behalf of the
6 Native Village of Shishmaref, and the Native Corporation
7 and the city of Shishmaref. You're always welcome to have
8 a meeting here. I was hoping that it would turn foggy and
9 we wouldn't leave out of here. It was foggy this morning
10 and we were kind of happy you were not going to come but
11 you're here. I thank you for coming up to Shishmaref and
12 having our people.....

13

14 MR. MENDENHALL: You want us back here?

15

16 MR. ENINGOWUK: Well, I think we would like
17 you back here.

18

19 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I thank everybody that
22 came here today and testified. We learned a lot from you.

23

24 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you for all your
25 participation, that's what we come here to hear.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, meeting adjourned at
28 5:30.

29

30 MS. DEGNAN: Recessed.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Recessed.

33

34 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

35

* * * * *

