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1 SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
2 PUBLIC MEETING

3
4 February 23, 2000
5 9:00 a.m.
6 Katimavik
7 Unalakleet Alaska

8
9 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 10
11 Grace A. Cross, Chair
12 Frances A. Degnan, Secretary
13 Perry T. Mendenhall, Member
14 Leonard Kobuk, Member
15 Peter G. Buck, Member
16 Preston Rookok, Alternate
17
18 Helga C. Eakon, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 9:18 a.m.)

CHAIR CROSS: I'll now call the meeting to order. Today is the 23rd of February, 19-- excuse me, 2000. It is now 9:15 -- 9:18 a.m., and we'll be doing -- we're under new business, proposals to change federal subsistence regulation on taking of wildlife on federal public land. And I believe Donna Dewhurst is on the lead, is she? So, Donna?

MS. DEWHURST: Well, actually the first proposal -- I think -- are we doing statewides first?

CHAIR CROSS: No, we're doing.....

MS. DEWHURST: That was what you had.....

CHAIR CROSS:52.

MS. DEWHURST:on this list.

MS. EAKON: We're going to -- well, the way they're arranged in then book is the order we're going to do them.

MS. DEWHURST: Okay.

MS. EAKON: Seward Pen first, and then statewide and then 41.

MS. DEWHURST: Okay. Okay. Because I was looking at this.

CHAIR CROSS: So we're doing 52 first.

MS. DEWHURST: Okay.

CHAIR CROSS: Proposal 52 in 22(E) brown bear, extending the season.

MS. DEWHURST: Okay. Well, this one -- I wish we had -- we have two proposals that are kind of dealing with the western part if Seward Pen, and I wish we had.....

MR. MENDENHALL: Madam Chairman?

MS. DEWHURST:any of those folks.

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: Are we following Robert's
2 Rules of Orders first or not?

3
4 CHAIR CROSS: We are.

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay. Then we need to
7 make a motion to accept Proposal 52, and then hear the
8 discussion on it, then vote on it to either reject or --
9 that's the norm for Robert's Rules of Orders.

10
11 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: 'Cause it's going to take
14 -- this is an action item.

15
16 MS. EAKON: Yep. If you make sure you
17 follow the proposal procedure, but I see your point. If
18 you put it on the table with a motion, then conclude with
19 your recommendation, that will do it, right.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: Right. That's the proper
22 way for Robert's Rules of Order.

23
24 MS. EAKON: Okay.

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm just going by what the
27 English people have put on us.

28
29 MS. EAKON: Okay. Go ahead. Okay.

30
31 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. So is there a
32 motion.....

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: It's a matter of
35 government procedures.

36
37 MS. DEGNAN: I'll move.

38
39 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Fran.....

40
41 MR. KOBUK: I'll second.

42
43 CHAIR CROSS: Fran Degnan moved, there is a
44 second. Is there a section?

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, he -- Leonard just
47 seconded it.

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: Yeah, I know.

50

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

2
3 MR. BUCK: Discussion.

4
5 MR. MENDENHALL: Now discussion.

6
7 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Discussion.

8
9 MS. DEWHURST: As I started to say, I would
10 have liked to have had somebody from the western portion of
11 the Peninsula, but it's the way it works. We didn't get
12 Johnson or Daniel or Toby here. We have two proposals that
13 are dealing with the western portion. There's a brown bear
14 proposal, and then a caribou proposal. So I guess we'll
15 just have to all kind of figure it out without their help.

16
17 This one, they're basically requesting a year round
18 season, but the bottom line is it's a summer season. They
19 have a bear season the rest of the year, so there would
20 extending their season from the end of May through the end
21 of August, and the questions on this, if you look in -- oh,
22 I'm sorry, everybody should be in tab H, and we're on page
23 five, to make sure everybody's kind of following along, and
24 I'm kind of marching along to page six. We're dealing with
25 22(E).

26
27 If you look at the table on page seven, you could
28 see that the bear population in that area is doing okay.
29 It seems to be stable. And the issue of adding a little
30 additional harvest really isn't a big issue, so that isn't
31 really a concern as far could it support those extra three
32 months of subsistence harvest.

33
34 We went to a couple of different things from there
35 is we went to look at the history, and there's several
36 different subsistence studies we could look at, and it
37 shows that there was some bear harvest historically, but in
38 very small quantities, but we couldn't find any evidence of
39 anybody ever harvesting brown bears in the summer, which
40 was the question we had. And traditionally, in a lot of
41 parts of the state, brown bears are considered, at least
42 the meat is considered inedible during the summer months,
43 until the bears actually get on berries and kind of flush
44 their systems out. a lot of times brown bear meat tends to
45 be kind of rank in the summer when they're eating fish, and
46 they're eating marine mammal carcasses. But that's a
47 generalization. That's not true everywhere. So that was
48 one concern.

49
50 Another concern we were balancing was during --

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1 when I went back through the testimony from the fall
2 meeting, there was a lot of mention of protecting berry
3 pickers, protecting camps, and it almost sounded like what
4 they really wanted was DOP bears in the summer. And there
5 was some confusion in our minds when we were looking at
6 this, whether it was really a DOP issue or a subsistence
7 issue, or what exactly. That's why we really would have
8 liked to have had Johnson and some of those folks here to
9 answer those questions, because we wondered if -- it's
10 probably not well know, like, for example, with DOP bears,
11 if you take a bear in defense of life and property, you can
12 keep the meat, and I think a lot of people don't realize
13 that. They think if you shoot a bear in defense of life
14 and property, you have to skin it, take the head off, send
15 that to the state, and leave everything else. But you can
16 actually salvage the meat from a DOP bear, and I think a
17 lot of people don't realize that. And we weren't sure if
18 that's what they were getting at, that they were -- wanted
19 to shoot bears and protecting their camps in the summer,
20 which is actually DOP, but they wanted to be able to eat
21 them, and they didn't realize they could keep the meat, or
22 if they just really wanted to go out and subsistence hunt
23 brown bears in the summer, so there was a lot of questions
24 we had.

25
26 And based on the based evidence, the historical
27 evidence, it didn't show any past harvest in the summer of
28 brown bears, so based on that, you know, our preliminary
29 conclusion was to reject this proposal, because we felt
30 that it seemed like they -- what they really were asking
31 for was DOP harvest, and that they can salvage the meat,
32 they can keep the meat from DLP right now under the State's
33 rules, and we wondered if there was some miscommunication
34 there. So the preliminary conclusion at this point, or the
35 preliminary staff recommendation is to reject this proposal
36 at this time. But we open to hear other testimony and
37 other discussion, and this is not -- I guess what we're
38 saying is it's not a hard and fast rejection at this point.
39 This is just our initial, from the evidence we have, and
40 I'll open the floor at that point.

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: Madam Chair?

43
44 CHAIR CROSS: Perry?

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: In the area around there
47 where the gold miners used to be, and natives as well, they
48 used to hunt bear. And there were stories of hunting bear
49 up there in the springtime, and also falltime basically,
50 because their meat is consistently like bacon, you know,

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1 fat meat and it's like bacon consistency. That used to be
2 their form of bacon for both miners and the natives up
3 there years ago, and the way through the 50s, before
4 statehood. And I think with the population explosion and
5 economic depression, I think there might be a movement
6 perhaps that could possibly go back to that, where it used
7 to be their source of bacon in a way. And their
8 dependency, more trying to decrease the cost of living is
9 making that like a subsistence food for their -- for
10 themselves. They used to have -- they used to cure them as
11 well, and keep them up, and they used to have where they
12 cured that kind of meat, hang it up. So I think it's a
13 practice that's going to be probably a gradual rebirth. I
14 can see it as a nutritional thing for people up there,
15 'cause it's open, you know, September through -- almost
16 year round, that's what is proposed.

17
18 MS. DEWHURST: Well, that was the question.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

21
22 MS. DEWHURST: I guess the real issue, we
23 don't have any question that people had harvest bears up
24 there. That's not.....

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

27
28 MS. DEWHURST:an issue at all.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

31
32 MS. DEWHURST: The issue is whether or not
33 bears are even harvestable in the summer months, in.....

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, yeah, that's.....

36
37 MS. DEWHURST:June, July, August.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: I could see that in the
40 summer, yeah.

41
42 MS. DEWHURST: And that's the question, and
43 that's what they're asking for. And our question is, are
44 bears even edible at that point as a subsistence resource?
45 And we weren't real sure if that's -- if they really wanted
46 them as food, or if it was more an issue that they wanted
47 -- that they felt they wanted to be able to shoot them to
48 protect their camps and berrypickers and that sort of
49 thing, but then if they shot one to protect their camp,
50 they wanted to be able to take the meat. And we wondered

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1 if there was a miscommunication, that they didn't
2 understand that they could right now keep the meat.

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, they -- I think they
5 also realized at Kivalina, Kotzebue, they tend to do that.
6 They hunt bear, normally hunt it and then use it. And I
7 think they're learning that from up there. They're having
8 more contact, you know, with people from Kotzebue area, as
9 they used to in the past themselves.

10
11 MS. DEGNAN: Madam Chair, I agree with
12 Perry, because in the earlier years before statehood we
13 used bear meat down here, and it was a nutritional issue,
14 because there was less, you know, other game to harvest.
15 And I remember eating both brown bear and black bear, and
16 that was during the summertime. And it was simply just an
17 issue for survival. And it was -- and I'm thinking that
18 since in the testimony that they like their polar bear up
19 north, that there may be less and less of that available to
20 them, and so you turn around to a like source animal, too,
21 and you know that it's edible, and so it's a nutritional
22 issue. And I don't think that -- I'm really thinking that
23 they understand the defense of life principle, where they
24 could shoot a bear and salvage meat, if that's, you know,
25 what's needed. But I think that -- but only they can
26 affirm that, but I know that from our history, we have used
27 both types of bears, black bear and the brown bear.....

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: And.....

30
31 MS. DEGNAN:down here.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

34
35 MS. DEGNAN: And, you know, there was no
36 turning up your nose at food, because it was necessary when
37 all the other resources are down, and sometimes it's your
38 only form of.....

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: My -- yeah.

41
42 MS. DEGNAN:meat outside of fish.

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: My relatives at Deering,
45 they caught -- they do bear hunting every spring when the
46 bears come out, and they get bear. But they -- they're
47 picky, they know which bear to get, which one not to get,
48 so it happens every year. I hear stories from my relatives
49 at Deering, hunting bear out of caves -- I mean, out of
50 their dens, as soon as they come out of their dens. They

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1 do that every spring. And I always want them to get the
2 bear next to my cabin up there, though, too, but they
3 won't. So it's a practice, you know, up in Deering area,
4 and I think Sishmaref's probably, you know, have relatives
5 in Deering, too. The Itungaks and the Carmins and those
6 people were closely related to Shishmaref. And I think --
7 and Wales and Brevig, so they're learning that practice,
8 too. And I think they're learning from the others, because
9 it's a ready source of meat now, especially when you've got
10 young bears around. So I think they're learning from other
11 villages, like Deering, Candle, and Kotzebue to go -- to
12 use that bear meat.

13
14 MS. DEWHURST: Well, the spring hunting is
15 presently legal right now. They can spring hunt and fall
16 hunt.

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

19
20 MS. DEWHURST: Basically the only months
21 that are off limits are the June, July, August, and that's
22 what they're asking for. And the concern is, in most areas
23 we don't have summer hunts, and people are quite content
24 with that, because they say the bears are inedible during
25 the summer. And the question was when we went back through
26 the testimony, I believe it was Johnson, but I'm not -- I
27 think it was Johnson that said that he had never actually
28 tasted bear in the summer, so we're not sure if -- when --
29 in the request if they knew whether they're edible or not,
30 or if they just want the opportunity. And that's quite
31 possible, they just may want the opportunity to try.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, yeah, it's kind of a
34 learning experience for them.

35
36 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah.

37
38 MS. EAKON: Madam Chair, for the record,
39 Helga Eakon, coordinator. I did communicate with Johnson
40 Eningowuk and Toby Anungazuk of Wales. I sent them a
41 letter. I sent them copies of the maps and then a
42 testimony form, and I said -- I explained the issue, and I
43 said if your people hunt brown bear in the summer months
44 for subsistence purposes, you need to document that. And
45 Johnson said that there were elders in Shishmaref that he
46 was contacting, and that he would have testimony forms from
47 them by the time of this meeting. At the Anchorage
48 training in January, I reminded him of this, and he said,
49 yes, I'm going to bring those testimony forms to the
50 Unalakleet meeting. And unfortunately we -- our office and

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1 myself have been unable to communicate with Johnson this
2 week for some reason or another. I just wanted to say
3 that, he did say that he was working on testimony that
4 people did hunt brown bear in those summer months, and they
5 wanted the opportunity to do so for subsistence.

6
7 CHAIR CROSS: Well, just a minutes. Two
8 issues that I heard when I was there. One was that people
9 were testifying about how hard it is to travel to where the
10 bear is in the falltime, because of the weather conditions.
11 The rivers and the sea is starting to freeze, and -- but
12 there's not enough snow to travel with snow machine. And
13 in the springtime they couldn't go hunting, because
14 everything was melting, and the means of transportation to
15 get to where the bears were were not -- were almost
16 impossible. That was one of the testimony that I -- that
17 was the way that I understood some of the testimony to say,
18 that at the time that they were -- that they had means of
19 transportation to get to the bears was in the summertime
20 and that was one reasons why they wanted to open a bear
21 season.

22
23 And the other one were complaints about the bears
24 being a bother -- being bothersome in the summertime. I
25 believe there's two issues in it. One would be that there
26 are people out there that would like to hunt bears in the
27 summertime, and there's another issue where people are
28 wondering what should we do with the nuisance bears. These
29 are two issues that are there.

30
31 I'm kind of inclined to say that we need to hear
32 more from the people in order to proceed with this
33 proposal, but Charlie Lean had his hand up there.

34
35 MR. LEAN: Yeah, it's not really related to
36 the issue, but the phones are failing this time of year.
37 It's an annual event with the satellites, that the land
38 loses sun, and so the -- it doesn't, and that's why you
39 can't reach Shishmaref, and so it's -- Shishmaref can make
40 short calls out, but they can't call back. And it's kind
41 of a medical problem with the hospital I'm involved with,
42 so it's just in Mr. Eningowuk's defense, it's not his
43 fault.

44
45 CHAIR CROSS: Now, I have a question since
46 this is just my second year. If we need to vote on the --
47 on what we have first, right? And what if -- what is the
48 procedure for deferring the.....

49
50 MS. EAKON: Okay. If you follow the

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1 procedure as laid out for the proposals, that way you
2 follow the public process. That way ADF&G gets to weigh
3 in, if any other agencies want to weigh in, if any members
4 of the public want to weigh in. Then step seven, then you
5 make your recommendation and the reasons why. That's when
6 you would -- if you wanted to defer it.

7
8 MS. DEWHURST: But I think your question
9 is, how long would it defer it or what.....

10
11 CHAIR CROSS: My question -- two questions.
12 I wanted to know the procedure, so we have a procedure
13 already written.

14
15 MS. EAKON: Yes.

16
17 MR. McCABE: The second question is that do
18 we need to vote on the motion prior to -- okay. That
19 answers it. Mr. Boyd. Oh, I'm sorry.

20
21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch with
22 the Park Service.

23
24 CHAIR CROSS: Sandy Rabinowitch, I'm sorry.

25
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: I would point out that
27 there has have -- in the past there have been councils
28 that, you know, had an issue like this, and they needed
29 some testimony from somebody who wasn't available. One of
30 your options is to vote to simply defer the proposal. And
31 what it effectively does is it brings it back around to you
32 next year. So that's an option. I mean, you can favor
33 them, you cannot favor them, you can also defer them, and
34 just seek additional testimony when people are available.

35
36 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. So it would take Perry
37 to amend his motion to defer it, okay. So we'll just
38 continue now. Dona?

39
40 MS. DEWHURST: Really that was it. The
41 only thing we had thought, if we had testimony, which we
42 were anticipating testimony that we were going to get, that
43 there was indeed an interest would be to offer maybe to try
44 in the first -- you know, try initially August instead of
45 the full summer, because blueberries usually are available
46 around the end of July, beginning of August a lot of times,
47 and so bears can start getting on berries by August. And
48 one of the functions of.....

49
50 MR. MENDENHALL: Flush out their system,

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1 yeah.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST:berries is it flushes
4 out their system.....

5

6 MR. MENDENHALL: That -- get that fish.....

7

8 MS. DEWHURST:and makes them edible.

9

10 CHAIR CROSS: Perry?

11

12 MR. MENDENHALL:taste out of there.

13

14 MS. DEWHURST: So that's what we were
15 thinking, that maybe we could -- you know, as a compromise,
16 or as something that might be an initial start would be to
17 say, well, let's extend the season into August. And the
18 bears are probably edible in August, but there's a real
19 question about the edibility of the meat in June and July,
20 because they feed more on fish and carcasses.

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, they -- also the
23 salmon berries are there, besides the blueberries. I mean,
24 they eat tons of that when it.....

25

26 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah.

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL:blackberries, and all
29 the berry season, they eat it all.

30

31 MS. DEWHURST: And that's what we're
32 thinking.....

33

34 MS. DEGNAN: And they eat roots.

35

36 MS. DEWHURST:by August the berries
37 are out.....

38

39 MS. DEGNAN: Roots and.....

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

42

43 MS. DEWHURST:and they're getting on
44 berries by August.

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: Because I think that's
47 basically when they're out there, when they're hunting
48 moose, and then there happen to be a bear during the moose
49 season, then pop either one, and then they still have their
50 subsistence meat supply. And that's what I think -- in my

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1 mind, if I don't vote that way, all my relatives from
2 Deering to Nome will be against me on the coast. So I'm
3 kind of bounded by relationship to those villages to vote
4 yes on this.

5

6 MS. DEGNAN: And it seemed.....

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: 'Cause they have their --
9 'cause they don't just basically shoot it just for the sake
10 of shooting it. A lot of work.

11

12 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh. And.....

13

14 MR. ADKISSON: Madam Chair?

15

16 CHAIR CROSS: Yes, sir.

17

18 MR. ADKISSON: Council members, Ken
19 Adkisson, National Park Service. We've heard some talk
20 about DLP versus hunting and things, and I think maybe we
21 need to clarify one thing in relation to some practices.
22 Folks may not actively hunt brown bear in the summertime in
23 the sense that I am going to go out and hunt a brown bear.
24 But they may well be out in camp, especially towards the
25 latter part of the summer, and a bear may present itself
26 around the camp. And tech- -- in the mind of a villager
27 let's say, that's not necessarily a DLP situation. But
28 given that opportunity, if the bear presents itself, they
29 may well want to take it. In fact, that may be the right
30 thing to do. But it's not DLP, and it's not actively
31 hunting the bear. And so it's really a matter of
32 opportunity and the presence of the bear that are important
33 in that situation. So I just thought I'd bring that up to
34 sort of separate out the DLP from the other aspects of it.

35

36 MR. MENDENHALL: And -- yeah.

37

38 CHAIR CROSS: Fran, you were going to say
39 something?

40

41 MS. DEGNAN: Well, it seems to me that the
42 season up in that area is later than the season -- I mean,
43 the actual weather patterns and stuff are later than what
44 happens down in this part of the country, and I would think
45 that they have less -- the bears have less opportunity for
46 the salmon up in that area, and they may not be the same
47 kind of taste as what you get further south.....

48

49 CHAIR CROSS: That.....

50

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: No, there's lots of fish.

2

3 MS. DEGNAN:and it just may be.....

4

5 CHAIR CROSS: I agree with you.....

6

7 MS. DEGNAN: There's lots of fish?

8

9 CHAIR CROSS:but that's

10 something.....

11

12 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, lots of fish.

13

14 CHAIR CROSS:else that we have

15 not.....

16

17 MS. DEGNAN: Lots of salmon?

18

19 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, lots of salmon.

20

21 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

22

23 CHAIR CROSS:we don't have much

24 information on as to the weather factors.....

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: Of course, you could

27 look.....

28

29 CHAIR CROSS:in that area at

30 that.....

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL:over here,

33 they're.....

34

35 CHAIR CROSS:time of the year. When

36 is summer?

37

38 MR. MENDENHALL:twice the density of

39 the other parks.

40

41 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: The bear population is

44 twice. It should be -- also your study said that there's

45 twice density of that in that area than it is up at the

46 other federal lands. What is the comment in here about

47 density. I forgot where I read that.

48

49 MS. DEGNAN: It's on the first page, right

50 down here.

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: Oh, on page five of draft
2 staff, the Seward Pen brown bear density are almost twice
3 as found in Noatak. I mean, you have lots of bear compared
4 to on the Noatak. And I think that's an issue, too, that
5 the village people see, and they counted more bear as well
6 during their hunts, moose and caribou. So I -- and just
7 like I believe what Ken said is an opportunity, so I --
8 even your report says there's more bear than normal, than
9 the other part.

10
11 MS. DEWHURST: That's for over-all Seward
12 Peninsula.

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

15
16 MS. DEWHURST: 22(E) has one of the lower
17 densities of the Peninsula. There are less bears when you
18 get out toward the coast versus more in the interior.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, there's usually
21 about 15 bears to me up there, when I'm up there, so that's
22 quite a bit.

23
24 MS. DEWHURST: And the other concern, when
25 you mentioned, just to clarify, the -- why I was saying
26 that a lot of times the bears on the coast tend to be
27 inedible in June and July, one of their first food sources
28 on the coast is marine mammal carcasses.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: Right. Uh-huh.

31
32 MS. DEWHURST: And, boy, a bear that's been
33 on.....

34
35 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, rotten.

36
37 MS. DEWHURST:feeding on marine
38 mammal carcasses usually tend to be pretty.....

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I don't think
41 they're going to pop them in June. That's for sure,
42 because they're out there busy doing their own seal hunt
43 and.....

44
45 MS. DEWHURST: Right.

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL:marine mammal hunt,
48 so the villages are already out on the water.

49
50 MS. DEWHURST: Well, that's why we were

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1 thinking maybe August would be something that would be
2 really -- instead of saying the whole summer, maybe saying
3 let's extend the season through August. It was just a
4 thought that August would be feasible as far as the bears
5 probably being on berries by then, and cleaning their
6 systems out.

7

8 MS. DEGNAN: Well, but we've never tasted a
9 bear from up there during the summer.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: They're good. They're
12 good.

13

14 MS. DEGNAN: So, you know, I'm looking at
15 coming from the subsistence user, their request from them
16 in terms of what's available to them, and their ability to
17 get out to harvest. And you may not get a very large
18 harvest, you may get just one or two, but that's a one or
19 two that is important to some of the families, because not
20 every family has access to a year round job that pays, or
21 they're not -- you know, with all the programs shrinking,
22 that it becomes -- subsistence foods become more important.

23

24 CHAIR CROSS: It seems reasonable to me
25 that like I stated before, I think there are two issues
26 here that needs to be addressed, and I guess we can all
27 speculate as to what the reasons are, but I feel that we
28 really need to hear from them, to get more information from
29 the local people, and I think we need -- I think that if we
30 talk about seasonal changes, for example, you know, like
31 definitely in August, what's happening is Unalakleet is not
32 exactly happening in Shishmaref either. Or Wales. Because
33 we're talking about two different -- completely two
34 different weather areas. So I think we need more
35 information in this.

36

37 But let's continue. Do you have anything further?
38 Kate? Oh, wait just a minute. Peter?

39

40 MR. BUCK: If this proposal was for my
41 district, I'd support it, because in our area our elders
42 weren't able -- eliminating the bears in the area. If they
43 did find even tracks of bears, they'd track it down and
44 kill it. I think that one of the things Johnson was saying
45 was that they didn't want that population of the -- they
46 have a healthy population, and they didn't want the
47 population to grow any more, and I think that's one of the
48 reasons that he wants the seasons extended. Ken was saying
49 that the -- i the opportunity came up where they can take a
50 bear, they wanted this extended period to harvest the bear.

00144

1 If it was for my area, I'd support the proposal. I don't
2 know if this is going to be.....

3
4 MR. ROOKOK: I have question. You were
5 stating that it can -- I'm hearing this issue and another
6 issue here is that you're willing to -- it seems like
7 you're willing to let us extend the season to August
8 on.....

9
10 MS. DEWHURST: Well, actually back into
11 August is what I'm saying, yeah.

12
13 MR. ROOKOK: Or back into August.

14
15 MS. DEWHURST: That's -- well, we're saying
16 that's a possible compromise we were looking at.

17
18 MS. DEGNAN: Well, that sounds like a good
19 way to do it.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: What?

22
23 MS. DEGNAN: Just start it around August.

24
25 MR. ROOKOK: And what I'm thinking is, can
26 we extend that and defer this for more comments from the
27 local in that area for next year? This proposal? Can we
28 extend their season until.....

29
30 MS. DEGNAN: The first of August.

31
32 MR. ROOKOK:August and see what comes
33 out of it this year, this season, and defer.....

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: A test hunt?

36
37 MR. ROOKOK:this proposal so -- until
38 we get more comments, public comments from that area E.
39 Will that work, or is that another issue?

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: From August 1 to May 31st,
42 that would work.

43
44 MS. DEWHURST: What -- I think that would
45 work.

46
47 CHAIR CROSS: No, from August 1 to August
48 31st.

49
50 MR. MENDENHALL: That's what I meant,

00145

1 August 1 to.....

2

3 CHAIR CROSS: May 31st, yeah.

4

5 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. What I think the --

6 procedurally what.....

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: To June.

9

10 MS. DEWHURST:instead of deferring,
11 was what you would effectively do is say that right now
12 you're supporting a modification of the proposal for August
13 and then instead of saying you're deferring it, then just
14 next fall, if they wanted to, they could re-bring up this
15 same proposal and resubmit it in the fall saying we want
16 June and July, if they want to do that. So you wouldn't
17 actually defer it, but the effect is the same, just at your
18 fall meeting you could -- if Johnson or Toby or those folks
19 are there and say, well, we still really want June and
20 July, they could resubmit the proposal in the fall.

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh. But we could act
23 on August 1 through May 31st.

24

25 CHAIR CROSS: May 31st.

26

27 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, so I'll withdraw my

28 motion?

29

30 MR. MENDENHALL: No, you just need to.....

31

32 CHAIR CROSS: No, there's a motion on the
33 floor.

34

35 MR. MENDENHALL:amend it. Just need
36 to amend it.

37

38 MS. DEGNAN: Oh, amend the motion.....

39

40 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

41

42 MR. BUCK: Amend the motion.

43

44 MS. DEGNAN:to reflect.....

45

46 CHAIR CROSS: We still -- yeah, we still
47 need to continue.

48

49 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

50

00146

1 CHAIR CROSS: We're still following
2 procedure, and.....

3
4 MS. EAKON: Yes.

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move that we amend
7 the motion.

8
9 CHAIR CROSS: We're still moving.....

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

12
13 MR. BUCK: Wait. Wait.

14
15 CHAIR CROSS: We're still following
16 procedure.

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I know that, but we
19 could also amend it though.

20
21 CHAIR CROSS: Donna, is there anything?
22 Kate?

23
24 MS. PERSONS: Kate Persons with Fish and
25 Game, Wildlife Conservation. The State's position is
26 opposing a year-round season for bears. And the State
27 opposes year-round seasons for, well, sort of on general
28 principle, that it devalues the animal, or that it just
29 isn't respectful of the animal.

30
31 But that being said, there is certainly a healthy
32 brown bear population in 22(E). It's the only part of Unit
33 22 where the actual harvest is less than what was estimated
34 to be the sustainable harvest. There's no biological
35 concern with increasing harvest some. In fact, this fall
36 at the Board of Game meeting, a couple changes were made.
37 One applies to 22(E), the number of nonresident brown bear
38 permits was increased for that area from five to eight, and
39 that's something that the people of Shishmaref and Wales
40 supported.

41
42 And then the other change that affects the entire
43 Unit 22 is that the Board of Game eliminated that \$25 tag
44 fee for hunting brown bear under the general season. And
45 so now people can go out during the open season, which
46 right now is September 1 through May 31st, and they don't
47 need to have a \$25 tag to sport hunt. And they can just do
48 it opportunistically. If they run into a bear, they can --
49 and they haven't harvested one within the last four years,
50 they can take a bear.

00147

1 I guess I kind of like the idea of extending the
2 season, have it start first of August. I know from
3 answering the phone, talking to people complaining about
4 bears that August is one of the times when bears are a
5 problem to people. It's something that our regional fish
6 and game staff have talked about doing for our subsistence
7 brown bear hunt. It hasn't -- we haven't done it yet, but
8 the idea of starting that season in August is something
9 that we are thinking about for the state subsistence hunt
10 as well.

11
12 CHAIR CROSS: Anything further?

13
14 MS. PERSONS: That's all.

15
16 CHAIR CROSS: Are there any other agency
17 comments? Fish and game advisory committee comments? Or
18 do we have anybody here? No.

19
20 MS. PERSONS: There's no one here, but they
21 did vote to support this proposal.

22
23 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. And, Helga, we have no
24 written comments as you stated earlier?

25
26 MS. EAKON: Madam Chair, there were no
27 written public comments.

28
29 CHAIR CROSS: And we have nobody available
30 for public testimony, so we're at step seven, regional
31 council deliberation, recommendations, and justifications.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, based on just what I
34 heard from Kate, I would leave the proposal as is, because
35 I think the people there are the best judges of that --
36 their situation, and I won't want to be reading into their
37 intent of what they had for year round.

38
39 CHAIR CROSS: I'm inclined to have the
40 proposal amended to read that bear season would be from
41 August 1 to May 31st at this point, and then if that's not
42 satisfactory for the people within that area, they can
43 resubmit the proposal at our fall meeting.

44
45 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh. I think that would
46 work

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: But, see, the proposal is
49 presented as such, and I'm defending the proposal as it is
50 based on.....

00148

1 MR. ROOKOK: It was submitted by them.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL:based on what I just
4 heard from the state, which has more land than the federal,
5 you know, in that -- on 20 -- within 22 itself.

6

7 CHAIR CROSS: But the state is leaning
8 towards having the bear season extended from May 31st to --
9 excuse me. Yeah, from.....

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: Year round.

12

13 CHAIR CROSS:May 31st to August.....

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

16

17 MS. DEGNAN: No, they don't want year
18 round.

19

20 MR. MENDENHALL: Oh, they.....

21

22 CHAIR CROSS: What am I saying?

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: From August 1st.

25

26 CHAIR CROSS: August 1st to May 31st.

27

28 MS. PERSONS: Well, let me clarify that.
29 There has been some discussion.....

30

31 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

32

33 MS. PERSONS:about doing that for the
34 subsistence. Only for the subsistence.....

35

36 CHAIR CROSS: Subsistence hunt.

37

38 MR. MENDENHALL: Year round.

39

40 MS. PERSONS:brown bear. No,
41 not.....

42

43 MS. DEGNAN: No.

44

45 MS. PERSONS:no, not year round.

46

47 MR. MENDENHALL: No? Okay.

48

49 MS. PERSONS: The State will never, never
50 support a year round bear season I don't think.

00149

1 MR. MENDENHALL: All right. Then I just
2 misread you then I guess.

3
4 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. No, what they support
5 is starting the season August 1st, and going through.....

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: May 31st.

8
9 MS. PERSONS:the end of May. Yeah.

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

12
13 CHAIR CROSS: Another thing that I see, I
14 can see if we approve the proposal as is, I can see it not
15 passing in the federal level when the proposal are
16 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. At least.....

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: Which one?

19
20 CHAIR CROSS:if we -- the Federal
21 Subsistence Board. I can see them not approving a year
22 round bear hunt. I can see the possibility from August 1
23 to May 31st being approved, and if the people of Shishmaref
24 decide that we really need a year round hunt, they can do
25 that in the fall. In the meantime, the legwork of getting
26 public testimony together.....

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

29
30 CHAIR CROSS:and documentation
31 together can be done in those communities and presented at
32 our fall meeting.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: So this is your proposal
35 that you want changed, so I'm just trying to see how you're
36 imposing your proposal onto Shishmaref in that aspect.....

37
38 CHAIR CROSS: It came.....

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL:and then now you want
41 it changed. So I'll concur with the changes then on August
42 1 to May 31st.

43
44 MS. DEGNAN: There's Ken.

45
46 CHAIR CROSS: Pardon?

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: So we change your proposal
49 over to reflect that, would be great.

50

00150

1 MR. ADKISSON: Grace, kind of a procedural
2 thing I guess. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.
3 You're actually the one on record here as proposing
4 this.....

5
6 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. ADKISSON:not Johnson or not the
9 Shishmaref IRA, so you folks can amend this proposal now,
10 and as amended, it will go to the federal board for
11 consideration in May.

12
13 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: You can collect additional
16 testimony or additional information from Shishmaref, if you
17 can, in the meantime, and you will be at the, I think, the
18 federal board meeting, and based on that, you could
19 recommend further amending it at that point.

20
21 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

22
23 MR. ADKISSON: You don't have to defer or
24 wait until the next fall -- until the fall RAC meeting.

25
26 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, that's a good point.
27 Okay.

28
29 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. That's a good point,
30 Ken. Who -- you made the motion.....

31
32 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, I made the motion.....

33
34 CHAIR CROSS:so if you amend your
35 motion.....

36
37 MS. DEGNAN:so I'll amend my motion
38 to have the dates be August 1 through May 31st.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: With the second
41 concurring.

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: And.....

44
45 MR. KOBUK: Yes, I'll second that.

46
47 MS. DEGNAN: Leonard.

48
49 MR. MENDENHALL: Concur.

50

00151

1 MR. KOBUK: I'll concur with that.

2
3 CHAIR CROSS: So it's from August.....

4
5 MS. DEGNAN: But I think that's a very good
6 idea, rather than going that.....

7
8 MR. MENDENHALL: Judgment call.

9
10 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: That's a judgment call.

13
14 MR. ROOKOK: Rather than deferring it for
15 next season for that area.

16
17 CHAIR CROSS: So now we can vote on the
18 issue. All that's in favor.....

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: I call for question on the
21 motion.

22
23 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. The question has been
24 called. All those in favor of the amended motion on
25 Proposal 52, signify by saying aye?

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed same sign?

30
31 (No opposing votes.)

32
33 CHAIR CROSS: Motion carries unanimously.

34 Okay.

35
36 MS. DEGNAN: And now we go to the main
37 motion?

38
39 MR. MAGDANZ: Madam Chair?

40
41 CHAIR CROSS: Now we'll go to the main
42 motion.

43
44 MS. EAKON: Yeah.

45
46 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz.....

47
48 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

49
50 MR. MAGDANZ:Fish and Game. One

00152

1 issue that would be worth thinking about is consistency
2 from unit to unit in regulations. Thus if this proposal is
3 adopted, then you will have a brown bear season in Unit (B)
4 and (A) that are shorter than the season in 22. Just
5 something to think about, and also, you know, it's
6 something to solicit additional comments from on -- from
7 the public or members, just the differential seasons in
8 adjacent units.

9
10 MS. DEGNAN: Looking at the weather,
11 they're still feasting.

12
13 MR. ROOKOK: The weather is a big factor in
14 that area, too.

15
16 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

17
18 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. It is. So we'll go
19 back to the main motion. The main motion was to support
20 Proposal 52 as it was before.

21
22 MS. DEGNAN: As amended now.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: It's been amended.

25
26 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

27
28 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. It's been amended, but
29 we have -- we didn't vote on the main motion either.

30
31 MR. MENDENHALL: I know that, I'm just
32 saying it's been amended now. You've got to read the
33 motion as it's been amended.....

34
35 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL:to that main motion
38 that was changed.

39
40 CHAIR CROSS: I'm lost.

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: Re-read the motion as
43 changed, because the main motion basically has been amended
44 now.

45
46 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. Yeah, I realize. So
47 we don't need to address the main motion?

48
49 MS. DEGNAN: We should pass the main
50 motion.

00153

1 MR. MENDENHALL: It's already passed.....

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, okay.

4

5 MR. MENDENHALL:as is, but you've
6 still got to go back to the main motion though as amended.

7

8 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. So we'll need to
9 revote on the.....

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: Because this -- her motion
12 earlier with him concurring, I mean, well, there's a
13 concurrence and that became the main motion, and you voted
14 on it already. We changed it totally and then it passed as
15 is, so you don't need to. But if there's an amended motion
16 to the -- to that, then you need to restate the -- how the
17 change to that motion was, but everybody -- since you two
18 concur, that made the main motion the amended motion.

19

20 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

21

22 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

23

24 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay?

25

26 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: So it's already done,
29 taken care of when we voted.

30

31 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

32

33 MR. MENDENHALL: We don't need to call the
34 question to the main motion.

35

36 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Well, somebody
37 mentioned the main motion, so I wasn't.....

38

39 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIR CROSS:exactly sure what to do
42 with it. Procedurally, I'm not.....

43

44 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh. I'm just going
45 through my AFN rules.

46

47 CHAIR CROSS: Well, procedurally I'm not
48 that familiar with proced.....

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. Uh-huh.

00154

1 CHAIR CROSS:you know, Robert's Rules
2 of Order.....

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: I know, but since we.....

5
6 CHAIR CROSS:so you need to correct
7 me.

8
9 MR. MENDENHALL:are governed by
10 Robert's Rules of Orders, we have to concur with that on
11 the federal.....

12
13 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. So let's continue on
14 with our.....

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

17
18 CHAIR CROSS: So we are now going to move
19 on to Proposal.....

20
21 MS. DEGNAN: It's time for the phone call,
22 too.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: A phone call coming
25 through in five minutes.

26
27 MS. EAKON: Yep. Supposedly at ten.

28
29 CHAIR CROSS: So we will go on to.....

30
31 MR. ROOKOK: Let's just wait.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: 53.

34
35 CHAIR CROSS: 53.

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: Which Jake is going to
38 call on, right?

39
40 MS. EAKON: Yes.

41
42 CHAIR CROSS: So while we're waiting for a
43 phone call, shall we take a short break until the phone
44 call comes in? A five-minute break?

45
46 MR. ROOKOK: Yeah, that would be a good
47 idea.

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: So let's take a five-minute
50 break, and the phone should be -- hopefully the phone call

00155

1 will be here then. It's now 9:59. Let's take a five-
2 minute break.

3
4 (Off record - 9:59 a.m.)

5
6 (On record - 10:15 a.m.)

7
8 CHAIR CROSS: We are back from our recess.
9 It is now 8:15. We are going to start on Proposal 53,
10 and.....

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. I'll make a motion
13 for accepting Proposal 53 for purpose of discussion.

14
15 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

16
17 MS. DOWNING: Who seconded? I'm sorry.

18
19 PM MR. MENDENHALL: Paul. Peter.

20
21 CHAIR CROSS: Peter did.

22
23 MS. DOWNING: Thank you.

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: And the proposed

26 regulation.....

27
28 MR. ROOKOK: Discussion.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. The proposed
31 regulation states a snow machine may be used to position
32 caribou to select individual caribou for harvest, provided
33 that the animals are not shot from a moving show machine.

34
35 CHAIR CROSS: Wait, I need to go to 53.

36
37 MS. EAKON: Madam Chair, for the record, on
38 page 13, the executive summary for Proposal 53, the staff
39 recommendation is wrong there. Actually the staff
40 recommendation is to support with modification, so you
41 might want to make a note of that. Also, since this
42 overlaps with Northwest Arctic Regional Council.....

43
44 MS. DEWHURST: And North Slope.

45
46 MS. EAKON: And North Slope. What did
47 North Slope do with this?

48
49 MS. DEWHURST: They supported.....

50

00156

1 MS. EAKON: They supported.

2
3 MS. DEWHURST:the proposal.

4
5 MS. EAKON: Okay. Just for the record.....

6
7 CHAIR CROSS: With the staff -- do you mean
8 with the modification?

9
10 MS. DEWHURST: Northwest Arctic is meeting
11 next week, so they haven't met yet.

12
13 CHAIR CROSS: Donna?

14
15 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. This was your
16 original proposal, your regional council's. As Helga
17 mentioned, because of the extension into Unit 23, this also
18 is going to the councils of Northwest Arctic, and it has
19 already gone to North Slope last week, so North Slope did
20 discuss it.

21
22 This has a long, convoluted history which we're not
23 going to get into, but it -- basically this all started
24 with changes in state recommendations, and then we -- then
25 the proposal was made to parallel the changes on the
26 federal side. So this change has already been made for
27 Unit 22 and 23 by the State Board of Game. The question is
28 whether or not we'll make the change in federal
29 regulations.

30
31 Everybody recognizes that use of snow machine has a
32 customary and traditional use with caribou hunting.
33 Nobody's disputing that whatsoever. We've even heard
34 testimony that it's just a stem off of at one time they
35 used dog sleds and now we use snow machines. So that's
36 acknowledged. That's -- nobody has any question about
37 that.

38
39 One of the things that we have requested, and one
40 of the things we're doing all three councils is to try to
41 solicit testimony from the councils to help us in the
42 clarification that -- this proposal reads that we're using
43 snow machines to position caribou to select individuals.
44 That's the way this proposal reads, and that's right from
45 the state language. The problem we have that's a little
46 different than the state is we have other regulations,
47 which are on page 18 that talk about national wildlife
48 refuges, national parks, BLM land, snow machines can't be
49 used to, and language will say things like herd, drive,
50 harass and on and on. And those regulations are already on

00157

1 the federal books. And those are countrywide regulations.
2 They're not just for Alaska. Those are for the whole
3 U.S.....

4
5 MR. MENDENHALL: Nationally you mean.

6
7 MS. DEWHURST:national regulations.
8 The problem we run into is -- nobody has a problem between
9 positioning and harassing, that's a clear cut difference,
10 you know. If you chase a caribou at 120 mile an hour with
11 a snow machine, you know, ten miles across the tundra,
12 that's obviously harassing. That's -- you know, nobody has
13 a question, that's pretty clear cut.

14
15 Where we're having the problems is differentiating
16 between positioning and herding, and that's where if --
17 what we're trying to do is get any testimony anybody can
18 give us to explain to us how using a snow machine to
19 position caribou to select individuals might be different
20 than using the snow machine to herd caribou, because if we
21 can make that distinction, we don't have to change those
22 other regulations. We can leave them alone.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: You might shoot somebody
25 else from -- during the movement.

26
27 MS. DEWHURST: And that's what we're
28 hoping, is we can get some testimony that can help us make
29 that distinction, and it would make everybody's life --
30 this -- make this proposal go through a lot smoother.
31 Right now we are supporting the proposal, but in the back
32 of our minds we still have this potential conflict with
33 these other regulations there, so that's what we're looking
34 for is.....

35
36 CHAIR CROSS: I have a quick question.
37 What is the proposal that you are supporting with
38 modifications?

39
40 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. The proposal is to
41 put this language in, that snow machines in Unit 22 and
42 Unit 23, and the reason 23 was added is because what the
43 state amended, so we're paralleling exactly what the state
44 did, that snow machines can be used to position to select
45 caribou, to select individual caribou for harvest,
46 providing the animals are not shot from a moving snow
47 machine.

48
49 And there -- this -- the one modification that we
50 made, and that's the other thing that this RAC needs to

00158

1 discuss is the possible exclusion of BELLA, of the Bering
2 Land Bridge. And the reason -- people have asked us, why
3 did you exclude Bering Land Bridge? Well, that was
4 actually in consideration of Unit 22(E), the Shishmaref and
5 Wales folks. In the next proposal we'll be taking up,
6 we're concerned about caribou just now moving into that
7 area. You know, the caribou were -- it's taken over 100
8 years for the Western Arctic Herd to start filtering back
9 into that western part of the Peninsula, and the concern
10 was that if we suddenly allow a lot of snow machine use in
11 that area, chasing caribou -- we're not chasing caribou,
12 but moving caribou around, that it might impede the
13 progress of that filtering into that area. You know, if
14 you have a group and they're trying to decide which way to
15 go, and, you know, they're sitting there in valley, and
16 they're trying to decide which way to go, and then you've
17 got a snow machine come at them from this way, well, then
18 they'll probably move this way, so.....

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, they always move
21 back to where they calve, so.....

22
23 MS. DEWHURST: And that's -- but the
24 problem is, they haven't calved in that area. That's not a
25 calving area, this is a wintering area, and.....

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: I know, but sometimes they
28 change and they happen to drop then, too, you know. That's
29 how it happens.

30
31 MS. DEWHURST: But that was -- I'm just
32 trying to explain the reasoning why we.....

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: But.....

35
36 MS. DEWHURST:initially recommended
37 possibly excluding that area, is because if you look on the
38 map where Bering Land Bridge is, when the herds move --
39 when the western Arctic herd moves down towards Wales and
40 Shishmaref, it generally passes through that Bering Land
41 Bridge area. And so it was a thought. Now, you don't have
42 to support it, I'm just saying this was our thought was
43 that maybe what -- if -- even though we support this use of
44 snow machines, that might be an area where for now we might
45 want to say it's off limits to really be conservative and
46 let those caribou alone and let them get a chance to filter
47 back down into that area, because it's a touchy -- when
48 you're right on the edge of a fringe of a range or the
49 fringe of a situation, it's real touchy, and so we were
50 just being conservative. But that's the other issue. So

00159

1 there's two issues we need to discuss.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: The only one probably.....

4

5 (Phone rings)

6

7 MS. EAKON: Cassandra, this is Helga.

8

9 MR. OLANNA: Helga, this is Jake Olanna of

10 Kawerak.

11

12 MS. EAKON: Okay. Jake Olanna, you have
13 reached the public meeting of the Seward Peninsula Regional
14 Council, and here's Grace.

15

16 CHAIR CROSS: Hi, Jake.

17

18 MR. OLANNA: Hi, Grace.

19

20 CHAIR CROSS: We are ready to take public
21 comments from you right now since you're on the phone. So,
22 Donna, excuse us.....

23

24 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

25

26 CHAIR CROSS:we'll go ahead and
27 proceed with Jake and his party. We're ready for you,
28 Jake.

29

30 MR. OLANNA: Thank you. Thank you, Madam
31 Chair. With me is Roy Ashenfelter, and unfortunately I
32 wasn't able to connect with the Shishmaref individual that
33 was supposed to provide testimony also.

34

35 The proposal that I'm testifying to, Ms. Chair, is
36 proposal 53, and that has to do with the -- taking snow
37 machine -- caribou from a -- shooting from a snow machine,
38 that particular proposal.

39

40 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. Yes.

41

42 MR. OLANNA: As you all remember, I
43 questioned a proposal to kind of mirror the current state
44 regulation that was drafted and passed. I drafted that
45 particular proposal with the Board of Game, and when they
46 had their meeting this fall, they passed the regulation.
47 Now it's a state reg that allows taking caribou from a snow
48 machine that is stopped. And I had requested the staff
49 from the Federal Subsistence Board to kind of mirror that
50 state proposal, to reflect the concerns that we have up

00160

1 here, because of the conditions that we hunt under,
2 sometimes does not allow taking -- actually getting off the
3 snow machine as the past regulation was, to get off the
4 snow machine and to shoot these animals when we're out
5 hunting caribou. There are some spots that are dangerous
6 to practice this and traditionally Shishmaref people, where
7 I'm from, Shishmaref, have always hunted caribou by going a
8 long distance to the migration route and mainly near
9 Buckland and Deering area when caribou are passing through.

10
11 So I was hoping that the committee, your committee
12 would support this proposal, because it's hard for me to
13 under -- it's hard for me to explain to people why there is
14 hunting allowed by snow machine on one side of the line,
15 that dividing line between the Bering Land Bridge and the
16 state lands, and vice versa on the other side, it's
17 disallowed currently. And I just thought it would be
18 appropriate that the Federal Subsistence Board recognize
19 this concern and adopt that particular proposal.

20
21 And Kawerak's stand has always been to support the
22 subsistence user, and that's why I wanted to testify on
23 this particular proposal, because there's traditions and
24 customs that have been in place where many, many years ago
25 in Shishmaref, where people would -- actually people, not
26 -- but they did use dog teams during the winter to
27 basically separate animals from the weak and the healthy
28 ones. And, of course, the subsistence user are always
29 targeting the healthy animals, and the method that my
30 ancestors used was to drive caribou by walking to a lake.
31 And there are several lakes in my part of Alaska where
32 they're perfectly -- almost perfectly round lake, and the
33 natives would take camps and pack them to that particular
34 lake while people were -- people would walk those animals
35 into that lake, and bring them in there. So that was a
36 method of harvesting caribou. And, you know, it hasn't
37 changed. Now we have snow machines. And with snow
38 machines, it's a lot harder now to be, you know, very
39 particular on what animals to take, because caribou tend to
40 run when they hear a snow machine, but in past experiences,
41 I've watched and I've observed, and I've done this practice
42 where a lone snowmachiner might drive those like
43 stragglers. A lot of times that I've hunted, we never came
44 across the main herd, but a lot of times we come across
45 stragglers that we're able to turn by using a snow machine
46 to potential hunters, I mean, the takers of the caribou.

47
48 So that's why I'm in support of this proposal, and
49 like I told you earlier, it's kind of hard to have two
50 regulations that say separate, I mean, different to the

00161

1 harvest of caribou. With that, Madam Chair, I'll have Roy
2 give a testimony, too. Is there any questions?

3
4 CHAIR CROSS: None so far.

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: That's -- you did a good
7 job, Jake.

8
9 MR. OLANNA: Thank you, Perry.

10
11 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you, Jake.

12
13 MR. OLANNA: Yes, and Roy's here, too. He
14 wants to speak to this issue, also.

15
16 CHAIR CROSS: Roy?

17
18 MR. ASHENFELTER: Madam Chair, this is Roy
19 Ashenfelter with Kawerak in Nome. I'm not speaking to this
20 issue. What I'm speaking to, what I'd like to ask a couple
21 questions on has the RAC committee discussed proposal, or
22 agenda item F yet on your agenda? It has to do with the
23 update on federal subsistence fisheries management progress
24 report.

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: Last night.

27
28 MR. ASHENFELTER: Has that.....

29
30 CHAIR CROSS: Would you.....

31
32 MR. ASHENFELTER:come up on your
33 agenda yet?

34
35 CHAIR CROSS: Could you repeat that again?
36 You were kind of breaking up.

37
38 MR. ASHENFELTER: Your agenda, on tab F,
39 old business, 7.C., update on federal subsistence fisheries
40 management, progress report on the.....

41
42 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, we did.

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: Last night.

45
46 MS. DEGNAN: We did.

47
48 MR. ASHENFELTER:implementation plan.

49 Has.....

50

00162

1 CHAIR CROSS: Yes.....

2

3 MR. ASHENFELTER: Has there been a report
4 yet on that?

5

6 CHAIR CROSS: Yes, we have. There has been
7 a report and we've discussed it.

8

9 MR. ASHENFELTER: Who gave the report?

10

11 MS. DEGNAN: Tom Boyd.

12

13 CHAIR CROSS: Tom Boyd.

14

15 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. I don't know, how
16 do we proceed from here? I have several questions in
17 regards to the report. The first one is, in the report,
18 did it discuss any criteria for how the plan will identify
19 projects to be funded?

20

21 MR. MENDENHALL: He's on the local advisory
22 board, fish and game.

23

24 CHAIR CROSS: Hang on a minute, Mr. Boyd is
25 coming.

26

27 MR. BOYD: Roy, this is Tom Boyd, can you
28 hear me?

29

30 MR. ASHENFELTER: Yes, I can.

31

32 MR. BOYD: Your question had to do with --
33 would you repeat your question so I have a better
34 understanding of it?

35

36 MR. ASHENFELTER: The question is, you
37 know, I was looking at the report for tab F, and it just
38 shows a page and a half, and kind of surprised that the
39 information Kawerak had requested in our draft letter to
40 the federal management asked several questions, and one of
41 them was about criteria needed to determine projects for
42 funding. Is -- has there been a criteria developed so that
43 when someone submits a project to be funded, if it's a
44 project of, let's say, for example, here in Norton Sound,
45 our projects would be of serious concern because we have
46 depleted chum stocks here. We have a Tier II fishery here
47 in Nome. We have closed fisheries here in Nome in regards
48 to Tier II. And then there are other places in the state
49 of Alaska that are being funded by these 17 fisheries
50 projects that are basically maybe study, not necessarily

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1 any type of concern for the fishery, just figuring out
2 whether there's a relationship, at least the ones I've
3 seen, relationship between current stocks and people taking
4 them. So I'm wondering what type of criteria is there for
5 determining funding projects?

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: Roy, this is Perry. Last
8 night when we discussed this, we told them that we would go
9 back to our agencies to present the criteria, and to -- so
10 that they could make recommendations by Fish and Game,
11 Kawerak, Nome Eskimo, Sitnasuak, so there will be
12 opportunities for that, but Rick here has developed those
13 criterias in a simple form -- format that would be easy for
14 people to do that.

15
16 CHAIR CROSS: For year 2001

17
18 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. What is the
19 criteria, and why didn't we receive a copy?

20
21 MR. CANNON: Roy, this is Richard Cannon,
22 and there will be a mailing out to all of the regional
23 associations and the tribes, all the interested parties
24 here, as soon as we can get the materials together, and
25 providing that information and an opportunity to identify
26 issues and information needs that people for the region
27 would like to have projects developed. And this is the
28 first step in this process. And this information will all
29 be gathered together in a report written on -- just on the
30 needs and the issues, and then after that step, after --
31 that will be after March, we'll begin to work with groups
32 like Kawerak on trying to develop projects. So there will
33 be several steps in the process.

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: So they come back.....

36
37 MR. ASHENFELTER: Madam Chair, I have kind
38 of a concern here. We've got a project here that -- they
39 have funded 17 projects so far. Information you're looking
40 at or providing to Kawerak, anyone for that matter, is
41 behind or later than the 17 that are -- how did those 17
42 get funded? And the other question I have is, is -- I
43 think there's another deadline, isn't there, in April here
44 for proposal for 2000 or 2001?

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: That's where your.....

47
48 MR. ASHENFELTER: If that information comes
49 in late and it's provided to people in Norton Sound, well,
50 they miss out again, or we will miss out again on further

00164

1 funding projects that are needed for our area for our
2 fishery.

3

4 CHAIR CROSS: Well, one of the criticisms I
5 had was that each region should have had a representative
6 when all this was being planned, and only two were selected
7 out of the -- by the federal -- by the feds to be
8 representatives of all the state. And Willy Goodwin was
9 our representative, and it's kind of obvious where the
10 priorities were, so in a sense we missed out because we
11 actually didn't have somebody from our region representing
12 it. However, where was the timeline on this?

13

14 MR. CANNON: We're trying to have that
15 altogether on the 2001, the.....

16

17 CHAIR CROSS: Yeah, the 2001 that we were
18 discussing.

19

20 MR. CANNON: That would be -- try to have
21 the issues and needs identified and a report sometime in
22 March.

23

24 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. What is the
25 proposal deadline due for those projects? Is it in April I
26 heard? Is that still correct?

27

28 MR. CANNON: There's two things going on at
29 the same time, Roy. One is that for the funding for FY
30 2000, for projects that would be started this summer, there
31 is a process of looking at projects that are identified by
32 the state, by different groups, by federal agencies, and
33 that's kind of a quick process to get some high priority
34 things started this year. Now, those 17 projects you're
35 talking about were those kinds of projects that there was
36 already planning, or there -- and we also wanted to look
37 for projects where there wasn't funding. There were --
38 there was a need, but there wasn't an alternative source of
39 funding for it, because we didn't want to double dip, you
40 know, where some other agency was going to fund it, then
41 that was fine. Let them fund it, and we would save the
42 money for something else. So those projects are going
43 forward. And by April the Federal Subsistence Board will
44 decide on those things that will start this summer. But at
45 the same time we are looking at projects that will be
46 planned, and there will be local consultation that -- and
47 going on this year, and the projects won't start until the
48 field season in 2001. So there are two processes going on
49 at the same time.

50

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: At this point, too, it
2 seems adequate -- that these forms will be sent out, and
3 there will be adequate time for us to review it come this
4 fall when it's been processed through Rick's office. So
5 the important part is trying to get your material and
6 suggestions in by April 1.

7
8 CHAIR CROSS: Actually it's March 30th.
9 Prioritizing management issues and information needs.
10 During winter council meetings, subsistence users, public,
11 tribes, ADG&F, federal agencies, regional council review
12 management issues and information needs. Regional council
13 recommended priorities for the coming year, technical
14 oversight committee reviews, and recommends annual
15 information needs priorities to Federal Subsistence Board.
16 And that goes on from February 13th to March 30, 2000.
17 That's the first project. And developing project proposal
18 goes from April 1 to June 30, 2000. And that is when
19 there's preproposals are submitted by tribal organizations,
20 et cetera, and then the preproposals are evaluated by the
21 staff and technical oversight committee. Three successful
22 partners are asked to develop full proposal. July 1
23 through August 30, developing the draft annual resource
24 monitoring plan. September 15th to November 30th, review
25 the draft annual resource manag -- monitoring plan. In
26 December of 2000, subsistence -- Federal Subsistence Board
27 decision, and then December 2000 to March 1 -- March 2001
28 implementing the annual plan.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I'll be going in
31 tonight and I'll be able to xerox some of that material for
32 you, Roy, so you could have it immediately tomorrow.

33
34 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. Just one other
35 concern I'd like to point out is that, you know, we do have
36 a regional planning team here in Nome, and it consists of
37 all -- one representative from the villages. We have an
38 aquaculture association that consists of one representative
39 from the villages. Excuse me, I need to switch that
40 around. We have a regional aquaculture association that
41 consists of one representative from each village plus a
42 staff person from ADF&G, a staff person from BLM, and I
43 don't know what other organization belongs to the
44 aquaculture association. There's also a regional planning
45 team, that is a part of the regional aquaculture
46 association. And the reason for the regional aquaculture
47 association and the regional planning committee was to come
48 up with a process where we would discuss all fisheries in
49 the Norton Sound district, all the way from Unalakleet all
50 the way up the coast to Shishmaref. We've been meeting for

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1 three or four years figuring out projects that have fishery
2 problems, where are they most consistent at, and then
3 trying to come up with a way to get those projects funded.
4 We've been meeting for three years now, and so we've met a
5 lot of the criteria already that requires consultation,
6 local consultation and federal or Fish and Game input to
7 these projects. In fact, they're voting members of this
8 process.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: Well.....

11
12 MR. ASHENFELTER: So we do have several
13 projects on board that could and should be reviewed by the
14 RAC committee, should be reviewed by the Federal
15 Subsistence Advisory Committee, or whoever is part of this
16 process. I think our letter to -- from Kawerak to the
17 Federal Subsistence Board on this explains some of those,
18 and asks for their -- request of information and things
19 that Grace has just read, we've been asking for for
20 months.....

21
22 CHAIR CROSS: Well.....

23
24 MR. ASHENFELTER:and trying to get so
25 that -- trying to get that information so that, one, we
26 could determine which projects we have here that aren't
27 funded to be submitted so that they can get funded, and
28 hopefully reviewed for this summer's projects. So with
29 that I'd -- you know, we are very concerned here about the
30 process that's been going on, why we have been left out,
31 trying to get ourselves back into it, into this process.
32 We have several projects that are in need of funding. And
33 again, without understanding the criteria and why some of
34 those projects out there that are funded, basically study
35 projects, and those having maybe more input over what I
36 kind of gave an example of our fishery where it's a
37 catastrophe, and why that isn't being looked at. So I'd
38 like -- I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

39
40 CHAIR CROSS: Roy?

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: Roy, last night Charlie
43 Lean also identified possibilities of funding requests for
44 certain rivers within the region I think following with
45 your planning on your groups and I think Charlie identified
46 those possible funding sources for -- from RAC here, from
47 the RAC here for the Norton Sound area. And I think that
48 having this information has helped us, too.

49
50 CHAIR CROSS: Roy, it's another one of

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1 those that the plans that are already formulated falls upon
2 your lap the day of the meeting. But I thank you for your
3 comments. Are there any questions for Roy or any responses
4 to Roy?

5
6 MR. BOYD: This is Tom Boyd. Roy, can you
7 hear me?

8
9 MR. ASHENFELTER: Yes.

10
11 MR. BOYD: I'm trying to pick upon a couple
12 of things you said. Let me just first say that the
13 concerns you raised concerning the Norton Sound fisheries
14 issues were raised very clearly to us last night, so that
15 -- I just wanted to reassure you that the council had your
16 interests at heart, and we captured those concerns. And as
17 they stated earlier, they also -- we also offered the
18 opportunity to provide the additional time to gather
19 additional information from the local organizations such as
20 Kawerak. So that will be in play.

21
22 You indicated also that you had sent -- and let me
23 get some clarification on this. Did you send in a list of
24 projects and -- that you wanted to have in the funding mix
25 for 2000? Did you send that to our office, the Office of
26 Subsistence Management, Fish and Wildlife Service?

27
28 MR. ASHENFELTER: No, we did not send out.
29 The letter from Kawerak says we have existing projects,
30 much of which are in the state management -- managed
31 rivers.

32
33 MR. BOYD: Okay.

34
35 MR. ASHENFELTER: However, we have an
36 escapement monitoring project we'll -- we were trying to --
37 the dilemma that we were stuck with, when we received the
38 letter from the Federal Subsistence Management Board, is we
39 had less than a week to respond to that letter to try.....

40
41 MR. BOYD: Right.

42
43 MR. ASHENFELTER:and get some of our
44 concerns about projects that we have been working on, and
45 that's the earliest we could do is just make a statement
46 that we have been working on projects here in the Norton
47 Sound Region, and that we're -- with that we're hoping that
48 we would be able to submit those, but not understanding
49 where and how and who's going to be reviewing them and how
50 do we get our -- someone there at those meetings to

00168

1 emphasize those projects, too.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, the.....

4

5 MR. BOYD: Okay. Let me -- I'm not sure I
6 can respond to this, but if you have some things ready to
7 go, some information, you know, please provide them to us,
8 to the office -- to our office in Anchorage. I don't know
9 if you have the address. I think we can consider them. I
10 think -- I won't guarantee a success at this stage. We're
11 in a real scramble right now to get a program put together
12 quickly here for 2000, and also look out to 2001 as Rich
13 Cannon has explained. But if you could send those to us,
14 we can certainly get them in the mix to consider them. I
15 certainly don't want to turn any ideas away, because we've
16 been obviously in a pretty short time -- operating in a
17 pretty short time frame, and with a scramble to try to put
18 this part of the program together and get off and running
19 on it.

20

21 But I guess I also want to assure you that even
22 though first year funding -- even though during the first
23 year some projects may not make it, we are going to be
24 doing this on an annual basis. We want to start a process
25 that -- you know, that identifies issues, and keeps them in
26 front of us, so that as we continue this program, we can
27 address those issues. And we do have a set of criteria. I
28 don't know them off the top of my head, so I would probably
29 not be a very good person to explain them, but obviously
30 they're oriented toward meeting subsistence needs,
31 conservation needs. There has to be a nexus to federal
32 jurisdiction. And we're learning a lot as we go in
33 identifying these projects and what needs to be done. But
34 we wanted to get something off the ground quickly, so as
35 Rich said, we looked at trying to pull projects in this
36 year that already had a foundation in planning, that had
37 some partners identified, and that we didn't have to do a
38 great deal to get them up and running this year and be
39 successful. And those were the keys for the first year,
40 given the short time frame that we had to get these things
41 going.

42

43 So that may not be an adequate explanation to you,
44 but it's the best one I can give you at this time. So I'll
45 just say again, if you've got some project proposals that
46 your planning group has already been developing, and they
47 tend to fall along the lines that I've stated, just mail
48 them to us, and we'll try to get them in the mix.

49

50 CHAIR CROSS: Are you there?

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1 MR. ASHENFELTER: Yeah, I'm here. I heard
2 him.

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: It should be noted that
5 two folks from Koyuk fishery were -- Koyuk River are here
6 from the Village of Koyuk. They made a trip down here for
7 this RAC meeting. And, of course, we've got representation
8 of rivers on the RAC, too, the council.

9
10 CHAIR CROSS: Roy, is there anything
11 further?

12
13 MR. ASHENFELTER: No, thank you.

14
15 CHAIR CROSS: Is Jake still there?

16
17 MR. OLANNA: Yes.

18
19 CHAIR CROSS: Jake, the other.....

20
21 MR. OLANNA: Yes, I'm here. Yes?

22
23 CHAIR CROSS: Jake, regarding the other
24 individuals or individual that was going to be testifying
25 today that you were unable to find, would you please get
26 the testimony in writing for us?

27
28 MR. OLANNA: Okay. I'll ask him if I can
29 locate him.

30
31 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Thank you very much.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: Wait. Wait.

34
35 CHAIR CROSS: Wait. Wait. There's --
36 Perry wants to say.....

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: You need to give a sense
39 to Jake as to the amendment to this proposal.....

40
41 CHAIR CROSS: Oh, okay.

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL:because we did take
44 action on it. Or was that it? Not.....

45
46 CHAIR CROSS: No, we haven't.....

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL:this one, no, that
49 was on.....

50

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1 CHAIR CROSS: No, we're just starting on
2 53.

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: That was 52, yeah.

5
6 CHAIR CROSS: Yeah.

7
8 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay. 53.

9
10 CHAIR CROSS: We're just doing 53 right
11 now. We had started on 53, and so if there's anything --
12 if there's nothing further, we thank you very much for your
13 -- for being part of our RAC meeting.

14
15 MR. OLANNA: Madam Chair, and just want to
16 reiterate that Proposal 53 is a proposal that I drafted for
17 our region, because, you know, it was legal in Unit 23, out
18 of this being April, I thought that this proposal was good,
19 and like I said -- stated earlier, I would urge you, the
20 committee, to support 53, and hopefully somehow this board,
21 if you have any influence to change the park regulations to
22 affect the concerns that I had, you know, as far as hunting
23 from snow machines, because times have changed, and I sure
24 do thank you, ma'am.

25
26 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you very.....

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: We're also looking at
29 ANILCA, that supports the subsistence hunt, type of
30 hunt.....

31
32 MR. OLANNA: Right.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL:with snow machine.

35
36 CHAIR CROSS: Well, thank you very much,
37 Jake, and thank you, Mr. Ashenfelter.

38
39 MR. OLANNA: Thank you. 'Bye-bye.

40
41 CHAIR CROSS: 'Bye-bye. Helga,

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: Recognizing Weaver?

44
45 CHAIR CROSS:you're ordering? Hello,
46 Mr. Weaver Ivanoff?

47
48 MR. IVANOFF: Hi.

49
50 CHAIR CROSS: Welcome to our RAC meeting.

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1 MR. IVANOFF: Thank you. It's nice to be
2 here. Welcome to Unalakleet.

3
4 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you.

5
6 MR. KOBUK: Thank you.

7
8 MR. MENDENHALL: IRA or.....

9
10 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, IRA.

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: IRA.

13
14 MS. EAKON: If I may, Madam Chair, I'm in
15 the process of pizza, and is everyone interested in staying
16 and kind of having pizza here, so we can finish our meeting
17 today?

18
19 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

20
21 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

22
23 MS. DEGNAN: Sounds good.

24
25 CHAIR CROSS: That sounds good.

26
27 (Discussion regarding pizza)

28
29 CHAIR CROSS: So we will now go back to

30 Donna.

31
32 MS. DEWHURST: Let me recap since we kind
33 of got off the subject. It's kind of -- I'm going to try
34 to -- we were kind of wandering around. I'll try to pull
35 it back into a nutshell. It's kind of assumed that the
36 regional council is going to support this proposal. That
37 was kind of our assumption. Going from that, stepping from
38 that, there's two things that we could use some additional
39 information on. One of them was the issue of can you give
40 us any possible clarification on this -- and I know this
41 might be wordsmithing, and -- but we're trying to find a
42 way of getting around the fact that we have these national
43 regulations that say you can't do this. If we can figure
44 out some language that positioning is different, then we
45 don't have to worry about changing those other regulations.
46 So that's the one issue.

47
48 The other issue is the issue of do we want to keep
49 Bering Land Bridge as an exclusion or not. So those are
50 the two issues we need to talk about.

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: In my travels to
2 Shishmaref, I know that they -- I have -- this is mid 70s
3 on that they have indeed travelled by snow machine, before
4 that, dog team, toward -- on that land bridge to get
5 caribou. Bill Barr, my -- Gideon Barr and other family
6 members in my -- in Shishmaref would actually do that
7 travel by snow machine and hunt -- to hunt caribou. That
8 was in the 70s. And also -- and it's also protected under
9 ANILCA for subsistence, customary and traditional use. And
10 I could testify to that, because I've eaten caribou at
11 Shishmaref when they hunted on Bering Land Bridge.

12
13 MR. KOBUK: I would also like to support
14 this, because from the time that the first snow machine
15 came into Alaska, we've always had to use it. When the
16 snow machines came around, we used that to go after the
17 caribou, because now the caribou, just like all animals,
18 they get pretty smart. As soon as they see you coming, they
19 start running, and you can be a mile, two miles away, and
20 then you have to go after them, to try to herd them to a
21 position where you can catch. So I'm in support of this
22 proposal here, because if the feds don't agree to it, then
23 we don't want to be lawbreakers for trying to support our
24 families. And it's used by both St. Michael and Stebbins
25 and the surrounding villages also.

26
27 CHAIR CROSS: I can see the difference
28 between positioning an animal that an individual wants to
29 take versus herding a group of animals, to take a group of
30 them. What I understand Jake to be saying, and the rest of
31 the people that we have heard is that they are seeking to
32 get a healthy animal. The healthy animal may be in the
33 middle of a group, so what they're doing is they're seeing
34 a way to position that, to single out that animal, to get
35 that, versus herding five or six of them to a given place
36 and then shooting them, to killing them. I see that
37 difference.

38
39 MR. KOBUK: One thing I forgot to mention
40 also, once these caribou start running, they run pretty
41 fast, and you've got to practically go full speed with a
42 snow machine to catch up to them. And they can go up a
43 mountain and down a mountain at the same speed they're
44 travelling there. So that's one of the reasons why we've
45 always done it, and.....

46
47 CHAIR CROSS: And the way.....

48
49 MR. KOBUK: And again in the same thing,
50 we've had problems, too, in our region with the wanton

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1 waste from other villages tat come in, but we've taken a
2 stand against that, and the other villages now supper what
3 we're trying to do, because we don't go hunt an animal just
4 to waste it. We hunt it to -- for our families and
5 relatives that don't have any snow machines, that can't
6 afford to go out.

7
8 MR. MENDENHALL: In the territorial days,
9 they used these airplane things, too, to chase them down,
10 hunt them. What do you call those, ski planes?

11
12 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, ski planes. And
15 they used to hunt and then provide meat for people. I
16 mean, that's before snow machines. So that was used in the
17 territorial times.

18
19 CHAIR CROSS: In looking at 22(D) where
20 Bering Land Bridge -- where the open area of hunting,
21 caribou hunting for 22(E) is, I don't know if everybody got
22 them. Did everybody get a map?

23
24 VARIOUS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

25
26 CHAIR CROSS: There's not that much state
27 land I don't think that's involved in it. It goes right
28 into Bering Land Bridge, so if we exclude 22(E), we're
29 talking about a very small portion where the residents of
30 22(E) would be able to --that would be affect- -- that
31 would be able to utilize this proposal if it goes through.
32 The state land is not that much. Most of the area is in
33 Bering Land Bridge.

34
35 MR. MENDENHALL: Also, there's caribou --
36 when I'm up there in June, July, I see caribou right around
37 my camp on Adam Creek. So they're around there. Imachuk.
38 So -- in the summertime. But that's in the summer.

39
40 MR. MAGDANZ: Madam Chair?

41
42 CHAIR CROSS: Yes?

43
44 MR. MAGDANZ: If I may, could I speak for a
45 moment to the Board of Game's deliberations on the
46 selection of the word position? Would that be useful?

47
48 MS. DEGNAN: What's the word?

49
50 CHAIR CROSS: Position.

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1 MR. MAGDANZ: Position.

2
3 CHAIR CROSS: It would be.

4
5 MR. MAGDANZ: I'm Jim Magdanz, ADF&G,
6 Subsistence Division. I was in Barrow a long with Kate and
7 Nick Olanna and several advisory committee representatives
8 from Unit 23 when this Board of Game proposal was
9 discussed. The original proposal was simply to exempt Unit
10 22 from the general prohibition against using snow machines
11 to take caribou, that it was to take would be legal in 22
12 as it was in 23. And for the Board and for the staff,
13 concerns were raised about taking caribou in ways that were
14 not safe and were not humane, that is, running caribou down
15 and shooting from moving snow machines. And the Board and
16 the Department were interested in accommodating snow
17 machine use in a humane and safe manner, recognizing a long
18 tradition of using snow machines. And so the Board
19 wrestled with the language of this proposal at and away
20 from the table for several days before -- between public
21 testimony and actual deliberation.

22
23 And they proposed at least two variations on the
24 language. The first various was except that a snow machine
25 may be used to move caribou in 22 and 23. There were
26 problems with that word, and ultimately the Board settled
27 on the language that's similar to yours, to position
28 caribou, to select individual caribou for harvest. And
29 when that amended language, substitute language for RC 36
30 was introduced, the assistant attorney general at the Board
31 made some comments about the process the Board went through
32 to select the term position, and I took some notes as he
33 was doing that.

34
35 Kevin Saxby said, and I'm paraphrasing, that one of
36 the terms that was considered was position and select.
37 Position and select in the term -- in the mind of the
38 reindeer herding people was basically culling. That is,
39 you pick the animals that you want to get rid of and shoot
40 those. And he said in reindeer herding, culling has a
41 negative connotation to mean that sick or skinny animals
42 are taken. That is not our intent with this proposal. And
43 as Kevin read the dictionary definition of herding, it
44 didn't conform to the activity that he was being -- that he
45 heard being described by witnesses about how they were
46 hunting. Position and select more captured the testimony
47 that he heard about what people were actually doing, but
48 the term select connoted culling and the negative
49 connotation of culling, and so it chose simply the word
50 position, partly to separate it from the idea in the

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1 reindeer herding industry that position and selecting was
2 culling.

3
4 So I think that the Board in its deliberations
5 reached the conclusion that herding was not the term that
6 accurately described what they understood people were
7 doing, and that position was selected here after
8 considerable thought, public testimony and deliberation as
9 the term that best described what hunters were trying to do
10 when they used caribou to take snow machining. If they had
11 felt that it was herding, I think they would have used that
12 term. They chose position. So, Madam Chair, that's a
13 brief summary of the Board's action on this proposal.

14
15 MS. DEGNAN: Madam Chair? Now, taking that
16 a little further, in the proposed regulation we have here,
17 it says, may be used to position caribou to select
18 individual caribou, so what you're saying is that if you've
19 got a fat caribou, you'd be -- if enforcement came along,
20 they'd get you, but if you got a skinny caribou, they'd let
21 you go?

22
23 MR. MAGDANZ: No. No, that isn't the sense
24 at all. What I'm trying to do is emphasize that the Board
25 felt that what was happening here, positioning and
26 selecting was different than the culling process that
27 occurs in a herding operation.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: But have you taken into
30 consideration ANILCA, Title VIII, subsistence use on -- you
31 know, on -- that federal recognizes subsistence use?
32 That.....

33
34 MR. MAGDANZ: The state is -- the use of
35 snow machines for taking caribou doesn't create a problem
36 for the state. There's a long history of that.

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: Right. Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. MAGDANZ: It follows antecedent
41 practices with dog teams and kayaks.

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

44
45 MR. MAGDANZ: In our mind, there's not a
46 problem using snow machines to take caribou.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: It sure beats running the
49 whole herd off a cliff, right?

50

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1 MR. MAGDANZ: It does.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay. So I'm in favor for
4 this positioning, selecting of caribou, rather than getting
5 rid of the whole herd.

6

7 CHAIR CROSS: And selection is not based on
8 trophy value either in our people. We're selecting an
9 individual caribou that is going to sustain us.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: And that's what we
12 traditionally would have done.

13

14 CHAIR CROSS: Donna?

15

16 MS. DEWHURST: Well, I guess the other
17 issue then is whether or not you would want BELLA -- or,
18 excuse me, Bering Land Bridge as an exclusion. If you want
19 this to apply for Bering Land Bridge or not is the other
20 question. And it isn't -- it was one we wrestled with, and
21 we talked about it, because we realized that we would be
22 decreasing the opportunity right now. By excluding it, we
23 would be eliminating the opportunity of those folks to use
24 snow machines. But at the same time we're like, well,
25 maybe that's to their advantage in the long term, to get
26 more caribou down into their area.

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: My relatives used to live
29 in that Bering Land Bridge. We have houses there, igloos,
30 and artifacts there from my family that are on that land
31 bridge. And they traditionally used caribou on that land
32 bridge. And I could go back and show you my mother's
33 grandmother's house where they were on that Bering Land
34 Bridge. And they actually did pick fawns for use in baby
35 diapers and, you know, baby clothing and -- of caribou. So
36 it's traditionally, it's customary to hunt in the -- and
37 this way I think is select and it's not decimating the --
38 like running the whole herd off a cliff that they
39 traditionally sometimes used to do.

40

41 MR. KOBUK: Madam Chair?

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: According to James Moses'
44 art that he showed, you know.

45

46 MR. KOBUK: I kind of feel that to exclude
47 Shishmaref and Wales from the same things that we do in our
48 region would not sit very well, not only with me, but those
49 that I represent from my region, because just like us
50 they're subsisting off the land, and now that snow machine

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1 has come into play for the harvest of the things that we --
2 the animals and fish that we live on, I feel very uneasy
3 with that. So I'm just in support of supporting Wales and
4 Shishmaref through the same methods that we use to harvest
5 their food that they need.

6
7 CHAIR CROSS: Like I stated earlier, the
8 hunting area that was selected by the people of Shishmaref,
9 a large portion of it is in the Bering Land Bridge area.
10 There's very little state land that's involved in it. And
11 one of the things that I clearly remember hearing from the
12 Shishmaref meeting was that they were questioning why they
13 were left behind, and they were blaming the reindeer
14 herders for the problem. They resolved that problem.
15 There were reasons for it, yes, but it caused the internal
16 conflict, because they were left out. And we'll be doing
17 that once again. If Bering Land Bridge regulations don't
18 change, we're looking at a very small area that they would
19 be able, if this Proposal 53 passes with the Federal
20 Subsistence Board, there's just -- there will just be a
21 very small area that they can with a -- I mean, if it
22 doesn't pass, there will be a very small area where they
23 can go and select -- position a reindeer (sic) to select
24 individual caribou for harvest, and that's just within the
25 state land.

26
27 MS. DEWHURST: Two points real quick. One
28 of them is you can -- it's certainly within the purview of
29 the council to kind of make a different modification on the
30 final proposal and say you support it in Units 22 and 23,
31 and just not have the exclusion. That's perfectly within
32 your -- the purview of your council.

33
34 The other thing is I just wanted to clarify that
35 when we proposed this exclusion, we were not intending to
36 restrict their opportunity or leave them out by any means.
37 Actually our thoughts were the exact opposite in that we
38 were trying to do it to benefit Shishmaref and Wales,
39 because our thought was the caribou were just now, after
40 over 100 years, the caribou were just now starting to drift
41 into that area, and our thought was maybe we should
42 absolutely minimize the disturbance to those animals to
43 give them a chance to filter back in that area. That was
44 our thought. But it's certainly -- you don't have to
45 support that. You know, I mean.....

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I just.....

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: Well, I'd like to make.....

50

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1 MR. MENDENHALL:testified that they
2 had a herd in the summertime right near my camp near
3 Deering. It's not very far from that open area.

4
5 CHAIR CROSS: Well, I'm glad you're
6 thinking about it, unlike the state when they -- we were
7 starting to notice that the lack of caribou within this
8 region, and it seems to me it kind of starts when --
9 because of the road -- since they started opening road
10 hunting in Nome area, where they start opening at Mile 60
11 and everybody and their uncle goes in their snow machine
12 and/or trucks, and possibly intercepted.

13
14 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

15
16 CHAIR CROSS: I'm glad you do think about
17 that.

18
19 MS. DEWHURST: I guess that was our
20 thought, was to try to minimize the interception, and
21 minimize disturbance.

22
23 CHAIR CROSS: But we're not talking about
24 the volume, the same number of the volume of people in
25 Shishmaref. We're talking about, you know, there's how
26 many? About 600 people in Shishmaref maybe versus 4200 in
27 Nome. I just thought that I'd kind of throw that in.

28
29 MS. DEGNAN: Madam Chair, I have a
30 question. If we did go along with that, excluding the
31 Bering Land Bridge now, does Unit 23 have the same type of
32 policy or regulation that they do exclude? So.....

33
34 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh. It would include
35 all of Bering Land Bridge. If we exclude it, it would
36 include all that purple area.

37
38 MS. DEGNAN: But I mean, did they in -- the
39 people over in 23, did they.....

40
41 CHAIR CROSS: They haven't met yet.

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: They haven't come up with that
44 question yet?

45
46 MS. DEWHURST: They haven't met yet.
47 They'll meet next week.

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: They haven't met yet.

50

00179

1 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

2

3 CHAIR CROSS: They're meeting next week.

4

5 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah. Okay.

6

7 CHAIR CROSS: So we're kind of lead on

8 this.

9

10 MS. DEGNAN: But I -- looking in terms of
11 what's available to -- just geographically to Shishmaref
12 and Wales, that would seem to be kind of a small area, and
13 is it -- I don't live up in Shishmaref, so it's -- it would
14 just seem -- where would they prefer to go, Perry? Would
15 they prefer to go over toward the coast?

16

17 MR. MENDENHALL: They go directly east,

18 yeah.

19

20 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah. Right.....

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: I mean.....

23

24 MS. DEGNAN:then coming down.

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL:in the mountains of
27 the -- below Deering. That's where they always catch them.
28 And then they go as far as Candle.....

29

30 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL:they have to.

33

34 CHAIR CROSS: That's been mainly the
35 traditional hunting area.

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: Which is into 23 anyway.

38

39 MS. DEGNAN: But this is only open to the
40 residents in 22(E)?

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL: But it will make it more
43 easier for them if the herd's coming this way, then they
44 could get their subsistence caribou close by rather than
45 going all the way over.....

46

47 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

48

49 MR. MENDENHALL: 'cause it spends a
50 lot of gas and time and energy to go that -- to 23 to get

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1 their caribou where they used to go as far as Buckland to
2 get them. And now it's coming this way, it's going to make
3 it more profitable and easy for them to. And on the
4 subsistence economics scale, and it's there. The game's
5 there, why go to Buckland, you know, when you've got it so
6 close to home.

7
8 And traditionally, like again on the Bering Land
9 Bridge, if it wasn't for the schools and villages set up by
10 U.S. Marshall's moving people from the -- from where they
11 used to live into Shishmaref and into Wales to go to
12 school, and into Deering, the people would have populated
13 the coastline all throughout Seward Peninsula if it wasn't
14 for the schools, you know, that were -- in '52 was a
15 mandate, territorial mandate to move people from their
16 places of -- where they used to live. So the reason why
17 hardly any people live in that Bering Land Bridge is
18 because there was U.S. Marshals forcing them to go to
19 school, go to Kotzebue, Deering and Shishmaref, and they
20 had -- you know, they were told to. That was a process of
21 assimilation in that time, territorial.

22
23 So in defense of that, I don't see why Bering Land
24 Bridge should be excluded from subsistence hunts when it
25 traditionally was a hunting ground. Fought -- they fought
26 many wars over that hunting ground with Kobuk people. I
27 mean, we'd go back in history if you want to go into that.
28 Where they came down and had wars with the people at
29 Elephant Point, and.....

30
31 CHAIR CROSS: Even wars.....

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL:decimated them.

34
35 CHAIR CROSS: Even wars that are actually
36 in books of invading people from the other side, the other
37 country.....

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

40
41 CHAIR CROSS:coming into the region,
42 and those are documented into books, where they've had to
43 protect their hunting grounds from Siberian Yupiks. So
44 it's always -- the hunting has always been there. It's
45 just the caribou about 100 years ago ceased coming over
46 this area. It's now returning just exactly the way our
47 ancestors predicted he would -- it would.

48
49 MR. MENDENHALL: So I kind of feel that our
50 people using that ground was there, predated the Bering

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1 Land Bridge Act, out to -- in itself.

2

3 CHAIR CROSS: By thousands of years.....

4

5 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

6

7 CHAIR CROSS:if not millions.

8

9 MR. MENDENHALL: That it wasn't the -- they
10 did not say to themselves it's the Bering Land Bridge. They
11 just say it's our traditional hunting ground.

12

13 MR. ROOKOK: Madam Chair, if I remember
14 right in our fall meeting in Shishmaref, they were -- the
15 reason why they wanted to open the 22(E) for rein- --
16 caribou was so they don't have to travel way across to
17 Deering area and hunt.....

18

19 MR. MENDENHALL: Buckland, yeah.

20

21 MR. ROOKOK:Buckland area to hunt
22 caribou. I guess that's why -- if we exclude this Bering
23 Land Bridge, this issue is going to come back to us
24 again.....

25

26 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. ROOKOK:from the Shishmaref and
29 Wales people. And we've got to keep in mind what they ask
30 for in the fall meeting. I can understand where you're
31 coming from. You guys are worried that the animal might
32 not come back.....

33

34 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

35

36 MR. ROOKOK:to this area. I can
37 understand that. But I'm weighing two things right now.
38 Local hunters were -- they wanted to hunt in their area
39 versus going out of the Land Bridge and going into Unit 23
40 and hunt caribou.

41

42 MR. MENDENHALL: And.....

43

44 CHAIR CROSS: Way -- there's another thing
45 that you've got to understand is that you have to look at
46 traditional local knowledge kind of pretty seriously in
47 this area. Way before the caribou came back to our region,
48 it was already predicted that it will be coming back. That
49 -- now, that's local knowledge. We just waited for the
50 time that it will. Now we know the time has come, the

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1 caribou is returning to our region, and that's local
2 knowledge. Many it's fable to many parts of the world, but
3 to us it was true, and we believed it, and they're coming
4 back.

5
6 MR. KOBUK: Another thing, it's not cheap
7 to go hunting with snow machine. You had to buy gas and
8 buying shells and parts for a snow machine isn't very
9 cheap. But.....

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: But your biggest
12 items.....

13
14 MR. KOBUK:that's why I would support
15 Shishmaref and Wales hunting close by. It costs a lot of
16 money to go hunt, specially when you live in a village
17 where prices are three times what they cost in Anchorage.

18
19 CHAIR CROSS: Sandy, you had your hand up?

20
21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Just, if I could offer
22 some Park Service comments. I could offer some Park
23 Service comments when you get to the point where you're
24 looking for other -- for agency comments.

25
26 CHAIR CROSS: When we were at that meeting,
27 too, one of the concerns was safety of hunters. Our
28 weather had changed substantially in the last 50 years or
29 so. Our snow conditions have changed. You can no longer
30 safely, and as you can see throughout reading -- just
31 reading the newspaper within the last several years how
32 many accidents there are with snow machines falling in the
33 water, and not all of them are alcohol-related either.
34 That one of the concerns that the people had was travelling
35 long distance to get caribou is more dangerous than it was
36 maybe 50 years ago. That's what I also heard. So it's for
37 the safety of subsistence hunters also that there was a
38 desire to have closer hunting grounds for subsistence use.

39
40 MS. PERSONS: I'd just like to say that I
41 guess I don't share quite the concern that some -- that
42 snow machine activity in that area now will necessarily
43 dissuade the caribou from going further, or coming into
44 22(E). If there aren't tracks established into an area,
45 and if caribou really haven't been there for 100 years,
46 certainly human activity, traffic, snow machines may
47 persuade them to turn. But this fall several thousand
48 caribou did move into 22(E) and they've established trails
49 now into 22(E). And now that those trails are established,
50 there's going to be a very strong tendency in the future

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1 for those caribou to follow those same trails and again
2 22(E). If there's a lot of traffic, it may prevent them
3 from furthering their movement deeper towards Shishmaref
4 and Wales, which would make the reindeer herders very
5 happy, but I think the chances are as long as the
6 population remains what it has, and the food supply is
7 good, that the animals will continue to go into that area.

8
9 CHAIR CROSS: And there is no reason to
10 have biological concern when the Western Arctic Caribou
11 Herd is way over -- is probably over 500,000 animals now.

12
13 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. Yeah.....

14
15 CHAIR CROSS: And it would seem.....

16
17 MS. PERSONS:it's strictly -- yeah.

18
19 CHAIR CROSS:to me that with the
20 caribou more, taking of the animal should be encouraged
21 versus having the animals eat out the land, eat out their
22 food and having to crash, which would be devastating for
23 three regions. Extremely devastating for subsistence
24 hunters and subsistence users.

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: The other thing is the
27 fact of articles of clothing, like mukluks and parkas are
28 made out of caribou skins. Mukluks. Leggings. Sinew also
29 is used to sew skins together. They don't use anything
30 else but the sinew of either reindeer or caribou.
31 Procuring of sinew for the skin sewers that are Shishmaref
32 and Wales and those places traditionally. And fawn skins
33 are used for baby clothing type and other types of
34 clothing. So I just think we kind of debated it basically
35 in defense of the hunt on -- in the Bering Land Bridge,
36 because if you go back in the photos of 1920s, you'll find
37 parkas made out of different colors of caribou skins as
38 well. And also it has the wolves and the wolverines around
39 so they could get the ruff. So it -- they really are part
40 of our culture. And that's what I'm pointing to, that
41 caribou is not wasted, and it's used for articles of
42 clothing, especially for the sinew. And there's no
43 other.....

44
45 CHAIR CROSS: Donna?

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL:place where you could
48 get sinew from.

49
50 CHAIR CROSS: Donna, have you got anything

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1 further in this or.....

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: Just to say that, you know,
4 when we proposed that exclusion, I would consider it more
5 of a suggestion than anything else. We're not going to
6 hang our hat on it, so if you guys say you don't want it,
7 we'll take it out of our recommendation. It's not
8 something we're going to fall on our sword over, so we
9 wanted to hear what the comments were, and what the
10 thoughts are, and if the council's against it, it's not
11 going to be a problem.

12

13 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: Grace? Grace?

16

17 CHAIR CROSS: Well, I was just going to
18 mention to the public, we're following a little protocol,
19 so we're going to move along. There's a section for public
20 comments that comes right after summary of written
21 comments. So we'll move along. The public will have an
22 opportunity to comment on it. Alaska Department of Fish
23 and Game comments?

24

25 MS. PERSONS: Yes, the Department supports
26 aligning of the federal methods and means regulations with
27 the state. We support this proposal.

28

29 CHAIR CROSS: Mr. Rabinowitch? You said
30 you would like to -- yeah, we're going to follow our
31 protocol now.

32

33 MR. IVANOFF: Okay.

34

35 CHAIR CROSS: Mr. Ivanoff, I'm not being
36 disrespectful, but we're following a.....

37

38 MR. IVANOFF: I understand,
39 (indiscernible).

40

41 CHAIR CROSS:little protocol.

42

43 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you. I'm Sandy
44 Rabinowitch for the National Park Service.

45

46 This proposal's generated a lot of discussion
47 within the Park Service in the last, oh, couple months I
48 guess. And we basically have come to the RAC meetings to
49 try to listen and understand what this proposal's about.
50 And you've provided a lot of good testimony about that.

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1 And I might add there was a lot of similar testimony in
2 Barrow last week at the RAC meeting that I was at on this
3 very same proposal.

4
5 As several people have said, I don't think there's
6 really any question or issue or disagreement about hunting
7 or use of snow machines. I think that's all pretty well in
8 place and documented and there's a long history as you've
9 said. I just don't think there's any prob- -- I'm not
10 aware of anyone having any problems with that.

11
12 The point that the Park Service has discussed with
13 some vigor is the activity of positioning, and Jim Magdanz
14 I think did a good job of articulating what the Board of
15 Game did, and the sort of careful review of what the
16 terminology meant in terms of all the regulations.

17
18 Now, to try to be fairly quick here, one thing I
19 want to point out that Donna touched on is on page 18 of
20 your book. In the middle of that page there's a paragraph
21 about regulatory issues, and I won't reread that, but what
22 that does is it points out that the three Board -- federal
23 board agencies, Fish and Wildlife Service, Park Service,
24 and BLM all have regs, specific agency regulations about
25 this. And one of the challenges of the federal board is
26 that it's made up of five different agencies, all of which
27 can have regulations. And you have to figure out -- the
28 board has to figure out how to make all these work, and
29 it's sometimes a complicated task. And this may be one of
30 those complicated places.

31
32 So let me try to boil that down to plain English.
33 In the discussions that we've had, I've drawn a big arrow
34 on a piece of paper, a real wide arrow, and it starts here,
35 the point of the arrow is down here. And up at the top of
36 the arrow, I'm trying to show a continuum of activity. So
37 at the top of the arrow, you can drive your snow machine.
38 We all know that's legal. Okay. And way at the bottom of
39 the arrow, we know that harassing an animal, you know,
40 running it for miles and miles and, you know, killing it,
41 is not a legal activity. So that's the continuum from the
42 things that we know are, you know, just fine, and there's
43 things we know that aren't fine, aren't acceptable. And
44 this discussion is about the word positioning that I kind
45 of -- when I draw this, I put it kind of in the middle.
46 Well, is it in the okay group of activities, or in the no
47 okay group? And that's all that -- where the Park Service
48 has -- we've thrashed around in our own discussions. And
49 so our decision was to come and try to listen and learn.
50 And I appreciate the time that you've all put into this,

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1 because it's going to help us figure it out.

2

3 Now, let me also tell you that before any of the
4 meetings have occurred, where we started out. And we
5 started out that our own regulation, it has four key words
6 in it: herding, harassing, hazing, or driving. Okay.
7 Those are the key words, and those are the illegal -- those
8 are illegal activities the way it reads. So we came into
9 this thinking, this kind of looks like it's -- that
10 position is -- I think we thought was most akin to driving.
11 Okay. It's not harassment. I don't think it's hazing.
12 And maybe it's herding, but we were a little less certain.
13 But driving seemed -- positioning and driving seemed kind
14 of alike. I've certainly heard things, and we're working
15 to share these around within the Park Service. So as I
16 say, the difficult part is to figure out if positioning is
17 really different than these key words. And the other
18 agencies, and I can't speak for them, but the other
19 agencies, BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service I think have
20 the same situation. They've got to figure that out, too.

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: In answer to your herding,
23 driving, and whatever, as hunters if you drive an animal,
24 you get that adrenalin up, and then their meat tends to
25 stinks, so we pretty much don't want to drive them either.

26

27 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right.

28

29 MR. MENDENHALL: So we would rather shoot
30 them right on the spot so they won't be -- that adrenalin
31 won't go into their system, and their meat get stink. We
32 realize that. I mean, as hunters, you've got to wait for
33 them to calm down. When -- if they've been driven, we've
34 got to calm them down, because you don't want that meat to
35 be spoiled in the chase. So.....

36

37 MR. KOBUK: It's not only that, they seem
38 to get tougher, too.

39

40 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh. They get touch
41 meat.

42

43 MR. KOBUK: If you kill them, their meat is
44 just tougher, and.....

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: You could tell when a
47 young person first get his caribou.....

48

49 MR. KOBUK: Sometimes.....

50

00187

1 MR. MENDENHALL:it's tough.

2

3 MR. KOBUK:when you go hunting along
4 though, you can't help if you're the only hunter there, and
5 you run into them by chance. You have no choice, but --
6 like I said, as soon as they see you, they're not like
7 reindeers, they -- as soon as they see you coming, they'll
8 take off. So you have no choice but to.....

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: We're not -- as hunters,
11 subsistence hunters, our people don't want to be harassing
12 and driving.

13

14 MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

15

16 MR. MENDENHALL: And -- 'cause of the
17 taste. The old folks know what happened to that animal
18 when they put their -- put it in their mouth.

19

20 CHAIR CROSS: Selecting animals for
21 purposes have always been within our culture. To cover our
22 skin boats in St. Lawrence Island, you have to be selective
23 about what type of walrus you're getting, what type of
24 female you're getting. Otherwise, if you just shoot any
25 animal, it's useless, it won't -- we have -- we know, our
26 hunters know what they're looking for, and they will select
27 that animal. If they don't, it will serve no purpose to
28 us. So selecting animals have always been something that
29 the native people have done for centuries just to survive.
30 Because we utilize our animals for our whole -- for
31 everything about our lives. We use them for -- to eat, we
32 use their bones to make our homes, we use the ivory to make
33 certain things We utilize the whole animal, so that's kind
34 of what part of what's happening. We still would like to
35 -- I can see where this is coming from. Selecting and
36 herding are two -- completely two different things. It's
37 not selecting for no good reason. There's a reason for it.

38

39 MR. RABINOWITCH: Just a final comment or
40 two. As a point of information, one of the things we did
41 was we checked with our Park Service law enforcement folks
42 both in the region and in Anchorage, and the question I
43 asked was, for the Park Service, do we have any record of
44 any citation ever being issued for somebody essentially,
45 you know, running down caribou with a snow machine? Pick
46 whatever word you want, but, you know, has anybody ever
47 been given a citation. And the answer I got was no. We
48 have no record of that. Now, I don't know if that's
49 correct, but that is what I asked, and that is what I was
50 told. So that's just some information to the side.

00188

1 And perhaps I should end here with what I think is
2 kind of the challenge for the Park Service, and that is,
3 can we find a way to move toward accepting this? Can we
4 understand enough and be clear that it is different than
5 herding, harassing, hazing, or driving? Okay. That's I
6 think our challenge.

7
8 And then the-- as I say, the final comment, one of
9 the difficulties here procedurally is that each of the
10 agencies has its own regulations, and the federal board
11 regulations I think are pretty clear that the board
12 regulations do not supersede agency regulations, so there's
13 two different books of regs. Actually there's four
14 different books of regulations. And that's something that
15 the federal board will have to wrestle with, you know, when
16 this comes up in front of them.

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: Do you think we've
19 produced enough evidence, kind of beginning testimony, in
20 defense of it?

21
22 MR. RABINOWITCH: I think that, you know,
23 the testimony is good, and, you know, I hope that next week
24 in Norton -- you know, in the meeting in Kotzebue, I hope
25 they put a lot of time into this one, too, and add in their
26 experiences. There's -- you know, the simple way I think
27 is for there to be a shared recognition, as a lot of you
28 have spoken, that there is a difference. Okay. You know,
29 this isn't driving cattle, or herding sheep. This is
30 different than those things.

31
32 And the other avenue I think available to the
33 board, and this is much more of a challenge, it's more time
34 consuming, is that each of the agencies could themselves
35 change the regulations, so the Park Service could take this
36 regulation, and it could work to change that. Okay. But
37 the agencies have to go, whether it's Fish and Wildlife
38 Service or Park Service, we have to essentially do this
39 nationally. The Secretary of Interior has to sign off on
40 them. It's a long, complicated process. It's not a well-
41 oiled machine like the federal board. The federal board
42 changes regulations every year. It's really pretty good at
43 it, you know, in terms of having a process, and every year
44 things do change. And the agencies, including my own,
45 we're not so fast as that. You know, we don't do that all
46 the time. So that -- it can be done that way, but it's
47 more difficult and I think more challenging, and you also
48 kind of raise the stakes, because you get into a more
49 national audience. You know, the federal board kind of
50 operates within Alaska, and I don't think people in the

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1 Lower 48 frankly pay much attention to it, which is
2 probably constructive. But when you start changing agency
3 regulations that are nationally based, then you get into
4 the larger audience, and that sometimes can be problematic,
5 so.....

6
7 MR. KOBUK: You said you were with BLM
8 lands?

9
10 MR. RABINOWITCH: Park Service. National
11 Park Service.

12
13 MR. KOBUK: Is that part of.....

14
15 MR. RABINOWITCH: So the Bering Land
16 Bridge.

17
18 MR. KOBUK: BLM, too, or.....

19
20 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm sorry, I'm not sure
21 I.....

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: No, BLM is different.

24
25 MR. KOBUK: Oh.

26
27 MR. RABINOWITCH:understood your
28 question.

29
30 MR. KOBUK: Because we do our hunting in
31 BLM lands, because we have one part in Golsovia and I
32 notice there's one not very far from St. Michael up in the
33 -- so are you saying that the rules in -- would -- within
34 the different agencies, they have different types of rules
35 that they go by?

36
37 MR. RABINOWITCH: All I'm saying is that in
38 this case each agency, and I've got them all here with me,
39 because we've researched them and copied them to try to
40 understand it ourselves, each agency has his own separate
41 regulations governing the use of snow machines. Okay. And
42 it's fine -- you know, back to my arrow and there's things
43 that are okay and there's things that aren't okay.

44
45 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, we.....

48
49 MR. RABINOWITCH: Everybody recognized it's
50 okay to use a snow machine to hunt and so on and so forth,

00190

1 and everybody's regulations agree that, say, harassing
2 wildlife is not okay. The state's regulations and the
3 federal regulations all agree on that, too. So it's just
4 an in between discussion we're having with some new
5 wording, new terminology that, you know, generated all the
6 discussion.

7
8 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah. Madam Chair, just for
9 your historical perspective, my grandmother had stories of
10 where the caribou would come right in this valley and live
11 right among the people, because we were living underground
12 then. And they had methods where they moved the herds as
13 they came in through the valley up here, and then they had
14 a place not too far from the village here that they used.
15 The hunters were positioned in there with their spears to
16 take the animals. And they used their kayaks to get --
17 move about, but -- and they called it pitiksuwik (ph),
18 that's what they used for killing the -- when they killed
19 the caribou. And the caribou just roamed freely in our
20 valley here. And grandmother predict- -- they were gone by
21 the time my mother came here when she was born, and it was
22 -- they had been gone over 200 years, so they predicted
23 that they.....

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: It's a cycle.

26
27 MS. DEGNAN:would be back in 250
28 years, so they were back when they said that they'd come
29 back. So, you know, in that -- our ancestors were bringing
30 them in and using them for food before, you know, the
31 United States Government was formed, so you can use that as
32 a basis for -- you know, from local knowledge.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. Emily Brown's book,
35 too, pointed that out.

36
37 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

38
39 CHAIR CROSS: Anything further?

40
41 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's it.

42
43 CHAIR CROSS: Anybody else from other
44 agencies? I forgot your name.

45
46 MS. COLE: Jeanie Cole with the.....

47
48 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

49
50 MS. COLE:Bureau of Land Management.

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1 Can you hear me okay?

2

3 MS. DOWNING: Over here would be good.

4

5 MS. COLE: I'm Jeanie Cole with the Bureau
6 of Land Management, and I just wanted to echo what Sandy
7 said. The BLM has specific regulations that govern the use
8 of motorized vehicles, and we would have to look at those
9 regulations and determine whether this proposal is
10 consistent with those regulations, or if it's an exception
11 to those regulations. And if it's not, then in order for
12 this to be legal on BLM land, we would have to look at
13 amending our regulations, which as Sandy mentioned would be
14 a pretty time consuming, cumbersome process. And that's
15 all I wanted to say.

16

17 MR. KOBUK: So in other words, your
18 regulations pretty much are like all the rest of theirs
19 or.....

20

21 MS. COLE: Actually.....

22

23 MR. KOBUK:is yours different,
24 because just like I said, we hunt on BLM lands, and also on
25 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and.....

26

27 MS COLE: Actually.....

28

29 MR. KOBUK:there are times that St.
30 Michael will also go up to Shaktoolik to hunt. But this
31 year they're too far up, and nobody doesn't want to go
32 travel all the way to Koyuk, because like I said, it's not
33 cheap to buy gas and oil, and whatever you need to hunt.

34

35 MS. COLE: The BLM regulations are not as
36 specific as the Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife
37 Service regulations. They're a little bit more generic.
38 They say no person shall operate an off-road vehicle on
39 public lands in a manner causing or likely to cause
40 significant undue damage or disturbance to wildlife. So it
41 doesn't have the language about herding or harassing in
42 there, so it would be.....

43

44 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, we're not going to
45 disturb them, we want to kill one.

46

47 MS. COLE: It would just be a matter of BLM
48 looking at this language and determining whether what is
49 being proposed is consistent with this language or whether
50 it's not.

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1 MR. KOBUK: In other words, the villages of
2 St. Michael and Stebbins and all those other villages in
3 the Yukon region, we're violating the laws and becoming
4 criminals just to hunt what we always hunt, and.....

5
6 MS. COLE: Yeah, if you interpret this
7 regulation that way, yeah, then that's -- that would be the
8 case.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. Madam Chair? I
11 still feel that we're still ANILCA, Title VIII,
12 subsistence, and I think federal is under the -- federal
13 agencies under the -- this act has to recognize
14 subsistence. What we're doing is identifying subsistence
15 practices and we're putting it in regulations on federal
16 land.

17
18 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. So noted.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: And ANILCA has a lot to
21 say with this, and I think -- I think the agencies have to
22 go with the spirit of the law under ANILCA, because at this
23 point it's not changed. It's in defense of subsistence,
24 and I think we as hunters from our -- within the native
25 people represent that ANILCA practice of subsistence. And
26 that's what I'm saying is -- I think BLM, National Park,
27 and Bering Land Bridge will have to recognize ANILCA, and I
28 think this is going to be a test case it seems like, that's
29 according to them. It will probably go to federal court,
30 so it might as well originate from us. And being that we
31 have the Bering Land Bridge in our region.

32
33 CHAIR CROSS: Ms. Cole, anything further
34 from you?

35
36 MS. COLE: No.

37
38 CHAIR CROSS: Any other agency comments?
39 Oh, can I get that back, please.

40
41 MS. COLE: Oh, certainly.

42
43 CHAIR CROSS: Thanks. Any other agency
44 comments? I see no hands. We don't have anybody from fish
45 and game advisory council or -- at all? No. Helga?

46
47 MS. EAKON: Madam Chair, there were no
48 written public comments.

49
50 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Thank you. Proposal

00193

1 53, Weaver Ivanoff? We're beginning public comments now,
2 and if anybody else needs to, you're willing to comment
3 after Mr. Ivanoff. Could you come up here by the
4 microphone, please? He's representing the Native Village
5 of Unalakleet.

6
7 MR. IVANOFF: Thank you, Madam Chair. My
8 name is Weaver Ivanoff. I'm the general manager for the
9 Native Village of Unalakleet. I'm speaking in favor of the
10 Proposal Number 53.

11
12 I'd like to point out a -- there's a little
13 difference in the way -- on your agenda, the way it's
14 written compared to the way it's proposed in the book. In
15 the proposal on page 14, you say a snow machine may be used
16 to position caribou to select individual caribou for
17 harvest, providing animals are not shot from a moving snow
18 machine. And in the agenda it's worded as a herding. I
19 think those clarifications need to be -- when you do go to
20 the subsistence board, that that difference should be made
21 known to them, because it's actually not a herding
22 proposal.

23
24 Personally I've hunted from here in Unalakleet for
25 caribou. I've also traveled up to the Shaktoolik River,
26 passed Kwigmuitluk and up to the headwaters of the -- near
27 the headwaters of Shaktoolik by snow machine hunting
28 caribou in the winter. It takes a day to run up to
29 Shaktoolik, the headwaters of Shaktoolik, and you camp
30 overnight. Then you take the next two days to hunt caribou
31 and then you come back on the fourth day. That's usually
32 the course of business. If the weather is bad, then there
33 are times that you spend longer periods of time in that
34 area. And the most cost effective way, of course, and the
35 most -- the only way you can get up there is by snow
36 machine.

37
38 I've also gone up to the Koyuk River, gone up to
39 Koyuk in the spring to hunt caribou. And it would take me
40 the whole day to go up to Koyuk, stayed overnight in
41 Koyuk, and then from there I've headed up towards the
42 Granite Mountain area, and passed over what they call the
43 Continental Divide to hunt some caribou and harvested
44 caribou there, too. And I've done that with a snow
45 machine. And I'm not an exception. I mean, people do this
46 here all the time. There is no question about it. It's
47 happening right now.

48
49 And I feel that this is basically almost what you
50 might call a housekeeping proposal to make things

00194

1 consistent with what's happening. The State of Alaska has
2 -- is supportive of this. They've passed some regulations
3 to this, so you're doing something consistent with the
4 State of Alaska. There's a problem as far as -- a small
5 problem as far as National Park Service and BLM regulations
6 go, but those things can be ironed out over time. The
7 important thing to keep in mind is that this is what's
8 happening now. We're doing it. We're going to continue to
9 do it.

10
11 When the -- as most of you, or all of you know, the
12 caribou are not stationary creatures. In fact their
13 migration patterns are changing from year to year. And
14 that's the case right now. So this year -- last year we
15 had caribou all over our back yard, this year they're not
16 there, so as a consequence we're going to be travelling
17 again to get the caribou, because -- especially on the
18 lower Yukon River, we've had several hunting parties come
19 through here, because they don't have the caribou herds
20 down there, so they will travel through here to Unalakleet,
21 up to Shaktoolik, and take the same route that we go when
22 we hunt the caribou up in Shaktoolik Lake area. So that
23 migration of humans as well as to follow the migration of
24 the caribou, and that's a given. And that's something that
25 you have to do to get meat back onto the table.

26
27 I speak in favor of the Yukon people coming up here
28 to do this, because I know what it's like down there. I
29 have a wife from St. Mary's, and I've lived in that
30 community a period of time to know that their chief diet
31 during the winter months is fish, and when you go through
32 the winter months, and you don't have the meat there,
33 that's something that you really need and want to feed the
34 family, so a change of diet is the best thing for them, as
35 well as for us. So basically we speak in favor of Proposal
36 Number 53.

37
38 And there is one amendment, and I hate to muddy the
39 waters, to make it even more complicated than it seems to
40 be getting right now as the discussion goes on. One of the
41 things that we do here in Unalakleet as well as other
42 villages is also hunt with four-wheelers. I realize that
43 the proposal you're grappling with right now pertains only
44 to snow machines, but for the people who do not have snow
45 machines, and have four-wheelers, do go out and harvest
46 caribou much the same way that we do. Granted, they don't
47 -- they do not travel up to Shaktoolik headwaters, because
48 traveling by four-wheeler that length of time, I don't
49 think you'd have any teeth left by the time you reached the
50 destination of your hunting area. But there are people

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1 here in town as well as other villages that use snow -- or
2 four-wheelers to access caribou. And I would like to
3 propose that an amendment be included to place snow
4 machines and four-wheelers i that proposal. Thank you.
5 Any questions?

6
7 CHAIR CROSS: Any questions for Mr. Weaver?

8
9 MR. KOBUK: I'm glad you brought that up,
10 because they -- at home, too, they do use four-wheelers,
11 because they don't have a snow machine. So they have to
12 work pretty hard, depending on how the snow conditions are.
13 If it's not too much snow, it's not bad, but when there's a
14 lot of snow, they work hard. But still they're willing to
15 go get a caribou, because they want one. And, yeah, I do
16 have a wife, too, that's from the Yukon River, too. I
17 mean, it was kind of -- we sure hated to do what we had to
18 do, but it was happening twice in a year that they were
19 killing too many caribou and not taking everything that
20 they should be taking. That's why we had to do what we had
21 to do with them. It's not that -- we just wanted them to
22 know we will not tolerate any waste, because the animals
23 are too precious.

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm -- well, I think what
26 Weaver says, too, also about hunting other than fish that
27 are down, like if you get no fish, you've got to be very
28 dependent on caribou. If you can't get walrus or seals due
29 to ice conditions and the weather, then you really become
30 dependent on caribou. And like Nome, even though we're on
31 the road system, we don't have that -- we had adverse
32 conditions for hunting on marine mammals, which makes us
33 more dependent a little bit. And then we can't -- then
34 never got a moose, some of the people, so they like to go
35 after caribou, too. And I'm glad that Weaver brought that
36 up about -- it depends on seasons and what's available
37 around, and sometimes caribou may be the only game in town,
38 you know, for that village, or the people.

39
40 CHAIR CROSS: And for your information, Mr.
41 Weaver, there's a Proposal 41, request allow taking caribou
42 from a boat, and it's a statewide proposal. Under
43 statewide proposals. It's Proposal 41. From a boat.

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: So I'm glad that you said
46 that, Weaver.

47
48 CHAIR CROSS: So that will be coming up
49 later.

50

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1 MR. IVANOFF: Okay.

2

3 MR. BUCK: I have -- I think like in this
4 year oppositions from Council and Teller about the four-
5 wheelers. They have a lot of -- the Council people, and the
6 people from Teller were concerned about the four-wheeler
7 problem. I just thought I'd mention that.

8

9 MR. ROOKOK: What was the problem? What
10 was the concern?

11

12 MR. BUCK: The concern was the use of the
13 -- they used the land to tear up the land, and too many
14 people coming in with too many vehicles, taking the moose.
15 There was some opposition on the four-wheelers in the area,
16 especially about moose.

17

18 CHAIR CROSS: As you know, they are on the
19 road system from Nome.

20

21 MR. IVANOFF: Uh-huh. Yeah, I realize
22 that. And that would pose a problem. I appreciate the
23 comment that you brought. And I really wouldn't know how
24 to address that, except to say that except in Unit 22(A).
25 In Unit 22(A) you can use snow machines and four-wheelers.

26

27 CHAIR CROSS: We'll discuss it though. So
28 it might be something that would be considered within a
29 unit, and not.....

30

31 MR IVANOFF: Not (indiscernible).....

32

33 CHAIR CROSS:because they'll have an
34 opposition. It might be a separate proposal from a given
35 unit versus affecting everybody.

36

37 MR. IVANOFF: I understand. I'd rather not
38 muddy the waters either, so, okay.

39

40 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. Bit it would be
41 interesting proposal.

42

43 MR. IVANOFF: I think it needs to be
44 happening sooner or later, because it's also a means of
45 harvesting here.

46

47 CHAIR CROSS: Maybe it's something that the
48 Native Village of Unalakleet may mull over and submit as a
49 proposal to the RAC.

50

00197

1 MR. IVANOFF: I believe so, yes.

2
3 MS. DEGNAN: In the back of.....

4
5 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. Thank you very much.

6
7 MS. DEGNAN: In the back of the book it
8 tells you how to.....

9
10 MR. IVANOFF: I see that.

11
12 MS. DEGNAN: submit your proposals, so.....

13
14 MR. IVANOFF: Uh-huh. Yeah, I think that
15 would be fine.

16
17 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you very much. Are
18 there any more public comments in this -- on Proposal 53?
19 I see no hands?

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question on
22 the motion then.

23
24 CHAIR CROSS: The question has been called
25 on the motion. All those in favor of the motion, signify
26 by saying aye?

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed, same sign.

31
32 (No opposing votes.)

33
34 CHAIR CROSS: The motion passes.

35
36 MS. DEWHURST: What did they just approve
37 though? I -- can I.....

38
39 MR. BUCK: I have a question here. Do we
40 -- are we passing it with modification or.....

41
42 MS. DEGNAN: That was my question.

43
44 MS. DEGNAN: No.

45
46 CHAIR CROSS: No. The proposal.....

47
48 MR. BUCK: Okay. We should state --
49 restate the question again.

50

00198

1 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: You mean restate the
4 motion?

5

6 MR. BUCK: Restate the motion, yeah.

7

8 CHAIR CROSS: The motion was.....

9

10 MR. BUCK: Because we include that
11 modification.

12

13 CHAIR CROSS: No, we didn't. The.....

14

15 MS. DEGNAN: No.

16

17 MR. BUCK: We just.....

18

19 MS. DEWHURST: Did you want to include Unit
20 23?

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: We can amend it. You can
23 say -- make a motion for amending the main motion. You
24 could do that now.

25

26 CHAIR CROSS: The main motion was the -- my
27 understanding, the way that it was originally proposed.

28

29 MR. BUCK: Okay.

30

31 MS. DEGNAN: That's the way I saw it.

32

33 MR. BUCK: Okay.

34

35 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

36

37 MS. DEWHURST: In the original proposal, it
38 was only for Unit 22. We -- part of the modification was
39 also extending into Unit 23, because the state's proposal
40 also included United 23, so we wanted to be consistent, so
41 that will be.....

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, one is 22(E), and
44 then the other one 22 period.

45

46 MS. DEWHURST: Twenty-three. Twenty-three.

47

48 MS. DEGNAN: No, we're just doing 20 -- 53.

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: I know, but it's.....

00199

1 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: So that's part of the.....

4

5 MR. MENDENHALL:the whole Unit 22.

6

7 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah. Uh-huh.

8

9 MS. DEWHURST: That's part of the
10 modification, so you could potentially support that
11 modification without.....

12

13 MR. MENDENHALL: The one in the book.

14

15 MS. DEWHURST:supporting the BELLA
16 exclusion.

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL: The one in the book.

19

20 CHAIR CROSS: Perry, can she finish,
21 please?

22

23 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIR CROSS: What were you saying?

26

27 MS. DEWHURST: You could support adding 23
28 to it without the Bering Land Bridge exclusion. You could
29 support just the adding Unit 23 to it. That's up to you.
30 But that was part of our modification. And so what you
31 passed would just apply to Unit 22. It's up to you whether
32 or not you want to include 23.

33

34 CHAIR CROSS: So do we want to amend our
35 motion to add 22(E)?

36

37 MS. DEGNAN: No.....

38

39 MR. BUCK: Twenty-three.

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: I would.

42

43 CHAIR CROSS: I mean 23.

44

45 MR. ROOKOK: Unit 23.

46

47 MR. MENDENHALL: I would.....

48

49 MR. ROOKOK: Yeah.

50

00200

1 MR. MENDENHALL:because our sister --
2 cause like they said they go up to 23.....

3
4 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. And they're also
5 overlap their members.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL:headwaters on twenty-
8 -- which is 23?

9
10 MS. DEGNAN: This one here.

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, but, no, no, what --
13 we passed a motion that covered the whole of 22.

14
15 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: See, it says 22. Now we
18 want to know if we're going to cover 23 in there.

19
20 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: That's all.

23
24 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

25
26 CHAIR CROSS: And Bering Land Bridge is
27 in.....

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIR CROSS:both areas.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

34
35 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: So I would make a motion
38 to include 23.

39
40 CHAIR CROSS: Amend the motion.

41
42 MR. MENDENHALL: Unit 23 involve.

43
44 MR. BUCK: Second.

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question.

47
48 MR. BUCK: Question.

49
50 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. So the motion has been

00201

1 amended to include 22(E) -- 23(E), sorry.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: No, Unit 23.

4

5 MS. DEGNAN: Twenty-three.

6

7 MR. BUCK: Unit 23 as a whole.

8

9 MR. MENDENHALL: Twenty-three, period.

10 Just 23.

11

12 MS. DEGNAN: Twenty-three.

13

14 CHAIR CROSS: Unit 23 period.

15

16 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

19

20 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Sorry.

21

22 MS. DEGNAN: Let's just shoot.

23

24 MR. MENDENHALL: Because, see, Deering and
25 Candle need to go over there.

26

27 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

28

29 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for question on the
30 motion.

31

32 CHAIR CROSS: All those in favor of the
33 amended motion, please signify by stating aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed, same sign?

38

39 (No opposing votes.)

40

41 CHAIR CROSS: The motion passed

42 unanimously.

43

44 MR. MENDENHALL: Now we're (indiscernible)
45 with our relatives.

46

47 CHAIR CROSS: Taking care of one another.
48 What is the situation on our pizza?

49

50 MS. EAKON: Okay. The five pizzas arriving

00202

1 a little bit after noon.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: Madam Chair, might I
4 suggest, I think the next proposal's a quick one. We might
5 be able to get it done before the pizza.

6

7 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

8

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, let's do that.

10

11 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah. Okay.

12

13 MR. BUCK: Proposal 53.

14

15 MR. ROOKOK: Fifty-four.

16

17 MR. BUCK: Oh, we did 53. Okay.

18

19 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Proposal 54.

20

21 MS. DEGNAN: Madam Chair, for purposes of
22 discussion, I move to adopt Proposal 54.

23

24 CHAIR CROSS: Is there a second?

25

26 MR. KOBUK: I'll second.

27

28 MR. ROOKOK: Discussions.

29

30 CHAIR CROSS: Donna?

31

32 MS. DEWHURST: This one was, as many of you
33 familiar with the meetings in Shishmaref, we -- when we
34 went through the meetings with the reindeer herders, and we
35 came up with the special season, which was done by the
36 state via current existing emergency action, which -- or
37 emergency order, excuse me, that allows for a caribou hunt
38 in a portion of 23. And this proposal was to make -- or
39 excuse me, I've been talking (indiscernible). 22(E). To
40 make that proposal permanent on the books was what the
41 original proposal is.

42

43 In a nutshell, we don't have any problems
44 biologically with doing it. The problem we have is the
45 existing emergency order is very specific to a very
46 specific portion, and it has both a geographic boundary and
47 dates that were much negotiated between the reindeer
48 herders and the local users. Our concern was affixing that
49 into permanent regulations doesn't allow us any flexibility
50 that if the caribou show up earlier, caribou show up later,

00203

1 they show up in a different part of Unit 23, we don't have
2 very much flexibility to deal with that if we just use the
3 language that is in the current emergency order. So the
4 staff recommendation was to modify the proposal so that the
5 season, the harvest limit and the hunt area would be
6 announced each year by the superintendent of the Western
7 Arctic Park lands between October 1st and December 15th
8 after consultation with ADF&G, with the Seward Peninsula
9 RAC, and with the Reindeer Herders Association. I.e., the
10 superintendent would have to get together with everybody,
11 talk about it, and then decide on the hunt area and the
12 season, and the bag limits every year, so that it would be
13 flexible to go with whatever the situation is for that
14 year. That was why we put the modification in, to add some
15 flexibility, because if we just use what's been accepted
16 right now, it puts kind of a rigid framework on that might
17 not fit next year or the year after that. And this way we
18 would build in the flexibility. And so we're supporting
19 having the hunt, we're just trying to build in some
20 flexibility to deal with it from year to year. And that's
21 it for me.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: Next agency.

24
25 CHAIR CROSS: Pardon?

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: Next agency.

28
29 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Since you have nothing
30 -- pardon me?

31
32 MR. MENDENHALL: We've already discussed
33 it.

34
35 CHAIR CROSS: Oh, I thought you raised your
36 hand. ADG&F. I mean, ADF&G.

37
38 MS. PERSONS: Well, we basically don't have
39 a recommendation here. It's not a biological issue. This
40 year we seem to have managed to work out a really
41 acceptable solution for the people who live in 22(E). The
42 hunters and reindeer herders agreed on this particular open
43 area and the season dates, and I guess it -- you know, it
44 makes sense to continue in that manner in years to come,
45 although it is a big -- it's a big responsibility. It
46 means that we have to be very much on top of what the
47 caribou are doing in 22(E), and then prepared to hold
48 public meetings to reach an agreement between all the
49 parties concerned. But that is a commitment that the state
50 is willing to make to try and make this work, if that's

00204

1 what people want.

2

3 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. Are there any
4 comments from the other federal agencies? I'm sorry I
5 missed you, we were just kind of.....

6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Do you want me to do it now?

8

9 CHAIR CROSS: Sure. We skipped you.

10

11 MR. ADKISSON: Madam Chair, my name is Ken
12 Adkisson. I'm the subsistence program coordinator for the
13 National Park Service for the four parks in Northwestern
14 Alaska. We have a number of concerns with this proposal,
15 and really cannot speak in favor of it.

16

17 Historically this proposal I guess began its life
18 at the October RAC meeting in Shishmaref at a period when
19 caribou numbers apparently were fairly low in eastern 23.
20 Later on as the caribou numbers increased, of course, the
21 user conflict with -- between the Reindeer Herders
22 Association and the hunters continued to boil. And that
23 led to the very effective resolution of the problem through
24 the meeting held at Shishmaref and which you all have
25 copies of. And the concern -- and in that meeting
26 basically a process was laid out that essentially gives the
27 state, ADF&G, the lead responsibility in establishing an
28 emergency order opening. And, of course, the real issues
29 involved here are, are there sufficient numbers of caribou
30 in the area to warrant a hunt, and how does that relate to
31 the problems in resolving the situation that the reindeer
32 herders are, you know, faced with.

33

34 And we feel that by adopting this proposal, this
35 would essentially set up a parallel system for resolving
36 that that would be redundant, and as far as the Park
37 Service is concerned, place a burden on us. As Kate
38 indicated to you, it's a large responsibility to hold
39 meetings, to contact folks, and to fly the recon flights to
40 determine when and where the caribou are located. And
41 right now we have a very good process for working with the
42 state with that, where all the reports get funnelled into
43 the state. We cooperate with the state in supporting the
44 recon flights. And what this proposal, we feel, does is
45 set up a completely independent process and puts that
46 burden on the Park to do that. And if we have to fly
47 additional recon flights and so forth to make that
48 decision, that's going to take needed resources away from
49 us that we can ill afford when we have to do musk ox census
50 and so forth.

00205

1 The state has a lot greater flexibility in dealing
2 with this issue through their emergency opening. I'll just
3 give you one example with this thing. It says, the park
4 superintendent will make this decision between October 1st
5 and December 15th. Well, what happens if the caribou don't
6 come into the area until December 16th, December 20th, or
7 January 1st? What do we do then? So what it does, it puts
8 the park on constant alert to receive information from
9 hunters and villagers, to constantly fly these recon
10 flights. And we've already got a process in place that
11 does that.

12
13 Furthermore, the bag limits and so forth are
14 identical with the state. Hunting under the state system
15 provides greater flexibility in terms of them being able to
16 respond, in terms of the land, because anything we adopt is
17 only applicable on the federal public lands. If the
18 caribou shift within 22(E), granted most of the land in
19 22(E) is Bering Land Bridge, but if the caribou shift off
20 onto, you know, some state or private lands within 22(E),
21 this process we've got out here is meaningless, because we
22 have no authority over that. The state does. And so we
23 would prefer to continue with the spirit of the cooperative
24 agreement, or the cooperative process that was established
25 in Shishmaref, continue to let the ADF&G take the lead, and
26 participate with ADF&G in carrying out the process, so we
27 really see no -- so Park Service sees no need for this
28 proposal frankly, and feel like if it was adopted, like I
29 say, it would impose unnecessary burdens on us to implement
30 it. And that basically ends my comments on this proposal,
31 unless there are questions.

32
33 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you, Ken. Two things
34 that I see. One, it would be -- the proposal states that
35 after consultation with ADG&F, and I take that to mean that
36 the numbers -- ADG&F would be able to provide numbers to
37 the Park Service. And if the dates are wrong, if it needs
38 to be opened, that can be changed. And one thing that I've
39 always find, that the land owners at some point have to
40 take responsibility on their own to take care of their
41 lands. It always seems to me that the excuse that I always
42 see from the federal part of our lands is that we don't
43 have any money, we don't have any staff, and I think that
44 maybe the Federal Government should take responsibility
45 upon itself and look at where the monies are going, and
46 where positions should be allocated. If National Park
47 Service in Nome is lacking in staff, then it behooves me
48 that U.S. Fish and Wildlife should take that seriously and
49 start putting some monies into the Nome office to make sure
50 as a land owner it takes care of its responsibilities. And

00206

1 that's my comment on this. Are there any more comments
2 from the RAC? Any comments from the RAC?

3

4 MS. DEGNAN: Well, I didn't have any
5 problem with the modification, because I really feel that
6 in the spirit of the action we took up with the Shishmaref
7 people. And I have a tough time understanding what you
8 mean by it puts undue pressure on you to conform to the
9 regulations. If you work in harmony with the ADF&G.....

10

11 MS. PERSONS: Fish and Game.

12

13 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, Fish and Game, that
14 since they've got most of the information, and they've got
15 part of the lands there, that a process can be worked out
16 that wouldn't cost you an arm and a leg and require your --
17 you know, persons to be up there all the time.

18

19 MR. ADKISSON: Well, I'm not sure that
20 that's really the case, because I think the issues are more
21 complicated. And I think there will be continuing
22 pressure. And right now, of course, the issue is whether
23 enough (sic) there are not animals there to warrant a hunt
24 and when.

25

26 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. ADKISSON: And very likely we're going
29 to be going through these meetings. I have a real concern
30 that if we set up essentially a parallel process, instead
31 of calling ADF&G, for example, there will be villagers that
32 are calling the Park Service. And if ADF&G doesn't want to
33 fly that day, you know, we're going to have to go out and
34 do the recon flights. And I just think, you know, right
35 now the state system the state rules and regulations apply
36 on national preserve lands, so there's no advantage to
37 creating a federal season and bag limit in that -- in
38 22(E). What we do need to do is continue to work together
39 in the spirit of the, you know, process that was
40 established in Shishmaref, and that basically gives the
41 lead responsibility for establishing emergency orders to
42 the state. But it does require cooperation, and it will
43 require meetings in which we'll all continue to
44 participate. I'm just concerned that by doing this, it
45 kind of short -- it has the potential to short circuited
46 the state process.

47

48 CHAIR CROSS: Because of the reindeer
49 herding is kind of -- that whole region is kind of like an
50 unusual area, but there is so much Bering -- the agreement

00207

1 that the reindeer herders, as of this year involves so much
2 of Bering Land Bridge, and very little state land. Granted
3 that the state on emergency opening would be able to Bering
4 Land Bridge.

5
6 My response to this for reasoning for submitting is
7 that the Federal Government at some point in time as a land
8 owner has to take responsibility for their lands. And that
9 statement has to be made. Like right now, because of the
10 lack of funding provided to National Park Service, the
11 National Park Services just wishes to go I wave my hands,
12 let's shift the responsibility back again to the state.

13
14 MR. ADKISSON: May I address that question,
15 Madam Chair? It's not a matter that we just say we don't
16 have the funding and we want to, you know, abrogate to the
17 state. I mean, what we're basically saying is we have a
18 limited amount of human and natural resources to deal with.
19 We are mandated by things like the Federal Subsistence
20 Board that wants a sheep management plan for Unit 23, we
21 are mandated and driven by the Federal Subsistence Board to
22 participate in a cooperative musk oxen management process
23 up in the Cape Krusenstern area of Unit 23. We're
24 continuing to participate, for example, in flying the
25 annual musk oxen cen -- or biannual musk oxen census for
26 Unit 22. And we have to do all of this with a limited
27 amount of resources available to us, within our budget
28 constraints and so forth. And so it's a matter of
29 allocating resources to priorities, and as long as we can
30 work effectively with the state, share resources with them,
31 we feel that process is adequate to provide the subsistence
32 opportunity for caribou harvest within 22(E) without
33 setting up a potentially parallel process.

34
35 CHAIR CROSS: Well, the coming of the
36 caribou certainly is going to put constraints on some part
37 of federal lands. It's something that the Federal
38 Government should seriously consider.

39
40 The original proposal that was opened by state
41 special action required a meeting and people in 22(E) were
42 happy with what's happened, opening with the state
43 proposal. I'm real sorry that Johnson is not here, and I'm
44 real sorry that Elmer Seetot's not here, because I think
45 that they would have provided input as to how the hunt is
46 going on, and how -- what their feelings are about having
47 to keep their -- the opening of the caribou hunting under
48 the state.

49
50 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, with that as.....

00208

1 CHAIR CROSS: Other than my comments about,
2 you know, the Federal Government entities should be taking
3 responsibility as land owners, I don't have anything to say
4 about how the people are feeling about the way things are
5 currently, because the hunting season is still on. This
6 might be one of these proposals that we may want to defer,
7 and.....

8
9 MS. DEGNAN: I think it would be a good
10 idea.

11
12 CHAIR CROSS:and -- until we actually
13 get representation from the people that are going to be
14 directly affected by it. That's my feeling.

15
16 MS. DEGNAN: So would I amend my motion?

17
18 CHAIR CROSS: To defer this proposal.....

19
20 MS. DEGNAN: Pending.....

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, we're not done with
23 the hearing process first.

24
25 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, but -- yeah.

26
27 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. But we were just
28 discussing what would possibly be the.....

29
30 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, okay.

31
32 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. So we've got to
33 finish the hearing process first, and then.....

34
35 CHAIR CROSS: But I want to say that,
36 because it may shorten the hearing process.

37
38 MR. ADKISSON: Let me just add one more
39 comment, Madam Chair and Council members. I think, you
40 know, from the Park Service's point of view, if we felt
41 that we were getting information from the villagers that
42 the state emergency opening was not working in the interest
43 of those villagers, at that point, we would still have open
44 the door to us for special actions and so forth, and which
45 we would be, you know, more than willing to participate in
46 that process to see that those, the villagers, you know, do
47 have a caribou opportunity. So we would rather continue
48 with the cooperative process established at Shishmaref,
49 sort of play it by ear, and see how things work down the
50 road, and revisit the issue if necessary for a federal

00209

1 season and bag limit to be established, but right now we
2 just don't see that need.

3
4 CHAIR CROSS: It's something that I would
5 recommend that you look into further, because more and more
6 caribou that -- more and more caribou's coming into the
7 region, and I can foresee in the future more and more
8 caribou going into Bering Land Bridge, and proposals being
9 submitted, more proposals being submitted to open up
10 practically maybe the whole area.

11
12 MR. ADKISSON: Well, the State will be
13 faced with that same choice.

14
15 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

16
17 MR. ADKISSON: I mean, see, that's the
18 whole point of this. I mean, the further west the caribou
19 move.....

20
21 CHAIR CROSS: But monetarily, the financial
22 portion should not fall upon the state exclusively, and
23 that what I'm saying is that as landowners, you do need to
24 take responsibility and start looking at the future and
25 seeing what could be done.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: Madam Chair, I think when
28 they go back and deliberate, I think that cost obligation
29 will come out in the wash anyway. And I think we can't
30 look at dollar signs. We're looking at management of the
31 resource.

32
33 CHAIR CROSS: But it -- that's what it
34 is.....

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. But.....

37
38 CHAIR CROSS:though, he's saying lack
39 of resources.....

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh. But I think
42 that.....

43
44 CHAIR CROSS:stuff like that.

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL:by deferring it
47 later.....

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: Yeah, by deferring.....
50

00210

1 MR. MENDENHALL:perhaps that.....

2
3 CHAIR CROSS:it later, yes. Mr.
4 Rabinowitch?

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL:that all this would
7 come together.

8
9 CHAIR CROSS: Anything further? Ken?

10
11 MR. ADKISSON: No, ma'am.

12
13 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. Did somebody else
14 raise their hand that I didn't see?

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: I don't think anybody else
17 raised their hand, except for Helga needs to do the public
18 comment I guess.

19 CHAIR CROSS: Helga?

20
21 MS. EAKON: Excuse me?

22
23 CHAIR CROSS: Did you have anything
24 written?

25
26 MS. EAKON: Yes, Mrs. Faye Ongtawasruk of
27 Wales opposes this proposal, stating that there's no number
28 to justify opening year round on Ongtawasruk Herd grazing
29 range, Unit 22(E). There is no known facts that caribou
30 herds are staying during the spring or summer. The reason
31 we state that is because to get away from mosquitoes and
32 heat, the Ongtawasruk Herd goes to the coast and lagoon
33 edge. Sometimes we don't get all the horns on our reindeer
34 and just because there are horns on them, it does not mean
35 they are caribou. End of written public comment, Madam
36 Chair.

37
38 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. This was one of
39 the reasons why, because there will be other area -- other
40 communities in the 22(E) that would be affected by this
41 proposal, so my recommendation is to defer it.

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, I'll amend my motion
44 when we come to that.

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I think it's our --
47 you know, was as a council would like to defer it.....

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

50

00211

1 MR. MENDENHALL:based on testimony
2 heard.

3
4 CHAIR CROSS: And since there's nobody over
5 here, so what.....

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: I'd call the.....

8
9 CHAIR CROSS:so you are amending.....

10
11 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, the motion to defer to a
12 later date.

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL: Who made the second?

15
16 MR. ROOKOK: Peter did.

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: Do you concur?

19
20 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Peter Buck seconded.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Do you concur?

23
24 MR. ROOKOK: We're going to defer the.....

25
26 MS. DEGNAN: To amend to defer.....

27
28 MR. BUCK: Yeah, I second.

29
30 MS. DEGNAN:to gather more testimony
31 and more information.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: And I call for question
34 then.

35
36 CHAIR CROSS: The question has been called.
37 The motion has been amended to defer the proposal to gather
38 more information from the people that are actually affected
39 by it. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed, same sign?

44
45 (No opposing votes.)

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Based on talking about
48 food, the food is here.

49
50 CHAIR CROSS: And food. We are now

00212

1 recessing for lunch at 12:15.

2

3 (Off record - 12:15 p.m.)

4

5 (On record - 12:55 p.m.)

6

7 CHAIR CROSS: I will now call the meeting
8 back to order It is now 12:55. We are going to discuss
9 Proposal 55.

10

11 MR. ROOKOK: Before we do that, Madam
12 Chair, for the record, my name is Preston. I would -- we
13 have to do something about everybody trying to leave, not
14 concluding our agenda, and what -- this -- I think to me
15 this advisory council, it benefits our people in this
16 region. We should slow down or something and not rush
17 through our agenda, or not depart, make reservations before
18 we conclude the meeting. I can understand more of the
19 people have to attend a meeting tomorrow, and have to work
20 tomorrow, but this -- I think this board, it's very
21 important that we deal with the agenda items accordingly
22 and try to finish what is presented to us in this agenda.
23 That is my comment for trying to leave the RAC meeting
24 before concluding our agenda items.

25

26 CHAIR CROSS: A very good comment.

27

28 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh. Thank you.

29

30 CHAIR CROSS: Is there.....

31

32 MR. BUCK: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIR CROSS:a motion on the floor?

35

36 MR. BUCK: A motion?

37

38 CHAIR CROSS: So we can discuss this.

39

40 MR. KOBUK: I'll make a motion to discuss
41 -- is that 56 Proposal?

42

43 MR. KOBUK: 55.

44

45 CHAIR CROSS: 55.

46

47 MR. BUCK: 55, sorry.

48

49 MR. ROOKOK: Seconded.

50

00213

1 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. 55.....

2
3 CHAIR CROSS: Donna?

4
5 MS. DEWHURST: 55 is Unit 22(B) moose.
6 This request was also originally -- well, it was spurred on
7 by some information Kate gave about moose populations in
8 the area, and the request was to close Unit 22(B) to the
9 taking of moose by all nonsubsistence users. So that's
10 what the actual original request was. I think I'll turn
11 the floor over to Kate to give the biological background on
12 this one.

13
14 CHAIR CROSS: Kate?

15
16 MS. PERSONS: Okay. First of all, this
17 proposal wasn't spurred on by me.

18
19 MS. DEWHURST: No, no, I'm sorry. The
20 information you gave -- the information you gave kind of
21 spurred them on to their action.

22
23 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. Maybe so.

24
25 CHAIR CROSS: Actually the historical
26 background is a resolution came from the village or IRA
27 council from Koyuk, and this started this whole process.

28
29 MS. PERSONS: The state is opposed to this
30 particular proposal. We -- the state does have some
31 concerns about the moose population in 22(B), and we have
32 very well documented information about the western part of
33 22(B) where there's been a 50 percent decline in moose over
34 the last ten years where we have a radio collar study that
35 has shown that 75 percent of the young moose calves die
36 within the first three months of birth, which indicates
37 that predation is a factor. The initial decline of moose
38 ten years ago was the result of very severe winters. The
39 browse was noted at that time to be -- willows were just
40 eaten right down to the big stems. There were way too many
41 moose in portions of 22(B) for the habitat to support that
42 many moose. And the population declined when much of the
43 browse was covered up by deep snows during a series of
44 winters in the early 90s. And we don't believe that the
45 habitat in 22(B) can support as many moose as people were
46 accustomed to back in the 80s.

47
48 But at this point we believe that the population is
49 being suppressed. It's below what the habitat can support.
50 Bears are a factor, and increasingly wolves may be a

00214

1 factor. And as a result of our concern, this last October
2 we recommended to the Board of Game that the moose season
3 be shortened by two months in 22(B) and that the cow season
4 be eliminated.

5
6 The other thing is that when we fly spring surveys
7 and look at the percent of calves, in western 22(B), we're
8 only seeing eight percent calves, which is very low, more
9 than -- way more than eight percent of the adult moose are
10 dying in any given year, and with only eight percent
11 recruitment of calves, there's no way that the population
12 can hold its own. It's going to continue to decline.

13
14 Also, our radio collaring studies show that many of
15 the adult moose are very old. They're older than ten years
16 old. And as those old animals die off, we'll expect the
17 population to decline even more. So we have this very good
18 information for the western part of 22(B).

19
20 But the eastern part of 22(B), we are aware that a
21 similar decline occurred in the early 90s. We don't know
22 that it was necessarily as severe. We think it's probably
23 not as severe as what occurred in the western part of the
24 unit. But nonetheless, we still are concerned. There are
25 many similarities between the two areas. There's a high
26 bear density in both areas. There are probably a higher
27 density of wolves that are associated with caribou in the
28 eastern part of the unit. And our spring recruitment
29 surveys there last spring showed only ten and a half
30 percent recruitment, and that's still very, very low.

31
32 So to address these concerns, we recommended that
33 the cow season be closed in all of 22(B), and that the
34 nonresident and resident seasons be shortened. The
35 nonresident season was shortened by five months. Excuse
36 me. In western 22(B) it was shortened by five months, and
37 the nonresidents only now have the month of September in
38 which they can hunt. In the eastern part of 22(B) where we
39 didn't believe that the population had declined as much, we
40 cut five months off of their -- or four months off of the
41 nonresident season, and they now can hunt only in November
42 and December. And residents can now hunt in both areas in
43 August and September, and in the western part of 22(B) they
44 can hunt also in December and January. And in the eastern
45 part of 22(B) they can hunt in November and December.

46
47 This particular proposal -- well, that's the
48 biological history. Donna, you should proceed with.....

49
50 MS. DEWHURST: The other.....

00215

1 MS. PERSONS:your analysis.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: So that gives you the
4 information that basically we -- the indication is that
5 there's a population decline. Our information's best from
6 the other side of the Darbies, but the indication is also
7 that we're getting a decline on both sides.

8

9 The other issue with the closing of federal lands,
10 if you look on the map of federal lands in 22(B), you can
11 see they're pretty restricted. They do include the
12 Ingutalik River in 22(B), which was the main place that was
13 mentioned in most of the petitions as the place where user
14 conflicts have occurred. This is kind of a user conflict
15 issue.

16

17 The one concern we had was if we closed down
18 federal lands, it's been my experience in other areas where
19 we've dealt with this sort of thing, like, for example, in
20 Northwest Arctic, when you close down federal lands, those
21 hunters, whether they be from Anchorage, or they be guided
22 or wherever their origin, don't just disappear. They tend
23 to just shift their hunting effort some place else. And
24 they still come to -- if they like that area to hunt,
25 they'll come back to that area to hunt. And our concern
26 was that we might be shifting effort to the Koyuk River,
27 which is off federal lands, and would actually impact the
28 residents of Koyuk more than if -- than under the present
29 situation. So our concern was by closing federal lands, we
30 would just -- there was a good chance of us displacing a
31 lot of those hunters onto the Koyuk River. And our concern
32 was that would actually hurt the subsistence users worse
33 than the situation we're in right at this time.

34

35 So that was the one issue, of the fact that our
36 staff recommendation is to oppose the closure of federal
37 lands at this time.

38

39 The other issue is we're recommending to change the
40 harvest regulations from one moose to one bull, which that
41 was totally a modification but based on the biological
42 information we had, we felt it was justified to start
43 protecting cows at this point. And we felt the impact to
44 the impact to the subsistence user was very minimal. The
45 only cow season was the month of December, and from the
46 evidence we had, Koyuk doesn't take cows. The subsistence
47 harvest surveys they did in Koyuk showed that people in
48 that area didn't take cows. So we felt that eliminating
49 the cow season really would have virtually no impact. And
50 we're only eliminating one month of the season, and the

00216

1 evidence had was nobody was utilizing it anyway. They
2 preferred not to take cows. So in order for the health of
3 the population, our recommendation was to go from one moose
4 to one bull, which effectively eliminated that little one-
5 month period.

6
7 But it also gave an additional month of antlerless
8 hunting in January. Now, this is going to be kind of hard
9 to follow, but the deal was, in the original thing your
10 January hunt was restricted to antlered bulls, and by
11 changing the language to one bull, we eliminated that,
12 which opened up an antlerless season for bulls in January.
13 So we felt like there was a give and take there. What
14 we're proposing would eliminate the cow season in December,
15 but would open up an antlerless bull season in January. So
16 it would also provide opportunity.

17
18 So that was our -- basically that's the
19 justification behind our staff's recommendation at this
20 time. So I'll end with that.

21
22 CHAIR CROSS: Repeat that in January?

23
24 MS. DEWHURST: Excuse me?

25
26 CHAIR CROSS: Repeat the one in January?

27
28 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. Originally that was
29 for antlered bulls only, which was kind of an irony,
30 because most bulls don't have antlers in January. So you
31 would have very little animals you could go after. Most
32 bulls have dropped their antlers by January. But that's
33 what you had your regs was an antlered bull season. So by
34 changing the regulation from one moose to one bull, and
35 taking any mention of antlers out of it, we've opened up
36 the January season for antlerless bulls. So now when you
37 go hunting bulls in January, you don't have to worry about
38 whether they have a rack or not under this new proposal,
39 under our modification. So we felt like we were taking
40 something away in respect to cows, but it didn't sound like
41 that was anything that really was a real effect, because it
42 sounded like people weren't taking cows. And we opened up
43 an opportunity to take antlerless bulls in January by just
44 changing the regulations. And the reason we wanted to
45 protect cows was as Kate mentioned, that the calf survival
46 has been real low, and we felt that every cow counts at
47 this point to try to boost that local population.

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: Before we go on, Hagland Air
50 is here, and I would follow his recommendation though. ETA

00217

1 is 4:30, but may be late. People that are confirmed on
2 that flight is Charlie Lean, Jim Magdanz, Perry, me, Peter
3 and Preston. But I will take very seriously what Preston
4 has to say, and if we don't make it at 8:30 (sic), I will
5 ask that we continue our meeting.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: So Preston will be here
8 another week.

9
10 MR. ROOKOK: I think this is very
11 important.....

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: I know. I'm just.....

14
15 MR. ROOKOK:for our people.

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: I know. Yeah.

18
19 MR. ROOKOK: I don't really care if I stay
20 a week.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

23
24 CHAIR CROSS: Unless you have a very, very
25 good excuse to leave. Okay. Saying that, I'll just
26 continue on with this. Do you have anything to add, Kate?
27 Kate does.

28
29 MS. PERSONS: Yes, one thing. Last spring,
30 knowing that our harvest data from harvest tickets is very
31 incomplete from the villages, we and Kawerak got permission
32 from the Koyuk and Shaktoolik IRAs to conduct harvest
33 studies where we went door to door to people's homes and
34 asked about their harvest of big game species, and one
35 thing that we learned from this study was that most of the
36 Koyuk harvest came from the lower Koyuk River, and only
37 four percent of the reported harvest came from the
38 Ingutalik drainage, which this proposal would close to
39 nonqualified subsistence users.

40
41 And so it makes it seem as though where these --
42 up there where these nonresidents are now hunting is a
43 pretty good place for them to be hunting, because they're
44 not now in conflict with the subsistence hunters from
45 Koyuk. But if those lands were closed, as Donna mentioned,
46 it's not like these hunters aren't going to come. They'll
47 just shift their -- you know, their hunting perhaps down
48 into the Koyuk drainage, which is state-managed land, and
49 just further these user conflicts that apparently already
50 are a problem there.

00218

1 And as far as the state is concerned, we feel that
2 we have addressed the biological concern by closing the cow
3 season, and by shortening the -- both the resident and
4 nonresident hunting seasons. And it's something that, you
5 know, that we'll continue to monitor. We're doing a moose
6 census here in 22(A) starting next week, weather
7 permitting, and when we're done there, we're going to go up
8 and fly some recruitment surveys in 22(B). And hopefully
9 -- you know, these populations change. They're continually
10 changing. If we find that recruitment looks better, you
11 know, these regulations, these restrictions are not cast in
12 stone. If we believe that the population can support an
13 increase in harvest, then we'll move that direction with
14 proposals to allow again a cow season, because as I
15 mentioned, we don't want to see the population again grow
16 to the point that it had in the early 90s where they ate
17 themselves out of house and home. There's, you know, no
18 advantage to that.

19
20 CHAIR CROSS: Are there any other agency
21 comments? Helga?

22
23 MS. EAKON: Madam Chair, there were three
24 written public comments on Proposal 55. They're all three
25 oppositions to the proposal. The first one comes from Mike
26 Quinn in Nome. He opposes to the wording of the proposals.
27 He feels that the statements in the proposal are not true.
28 No guide operating in the Koyuk region or nonresident
29 hunter has ever been charged, much less convicted of a game
30 violation. Additionally, since there is only one guide
31 operating in the Koyuk area, these statements amount to
32 borderline slander. It is improper to allow unproven,
33 slanderous statements in a public document.

34
35 John Walker of Kotzebue opposes, feeling that if
36 the reason for the proposal is to stop wanton waste of
37 moose, then it is too drastic a measure to take. In Game
38 Management Unit 22, Subunit 22(B), the moose population has
39 now stabilized according to the State of Alaska Fish and
40 Game biologist for this area. The number of moose is not
41 low enough to allow only qualified federal subsistence
42 hunters to hunt.

43
44 His other solution would be to propose to the State
45 Board of Game a shortening of the season for nonresidents,
46 to changing it to a later date in the year. The season in
47 Subunit 22(B) has already been shortened by two months.
48 This may make a difference in reducing the number of
49 conflicts.

50

00219

1 There is not enough reason to completely close the
2 hunting season for nonresidents. There are other solutions
3 to hunter conflicts. Please consider other actions for
4 Unit 22(B). the sport hunting community and subsistence
5 community can work together for proper management of the
6 game resources.

7
8 And, finally, Bob Hannon, a Koyuk resident,
9 opposes. He feels that Proposal 55 is a collection of
10 misinformation and it should not be passed by the
11 Subsistence Board. Wanton waste is a very serious
12 infraction of both the state and federal fish and game
13 regulations. If the residents of Koyuk have witnessed any
14 occurrence of wanton waste by a guide or anyone, it is
15 their legal obligation to report the violation to the
16 proper authorities.

17
18 The late season nonresident moose hunt is very
19 important to the local economy of the Village of Koyuk.
20 The Subsistence Board long ago recognized that cash was an
21 important part of the subsistence lifestyle. To those
22 people involved in this late season harvest, it is just as
23 important as herring season, salmon season, or fire
24 fighting. It certainly does not represent a full-time job,
25 but it is a much needed source of cash in an otherwise very
26 lean time of the year.

27
28 End of written public comments, Madam Chair.

29
30 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you, very much. Mr.
31 Bob Hannon is here, and I'll call upon him.

32
33 MR. HANNON: Madam Chairman, members of the
34 board, my name is Bob Hannon, and I am a registered guide
35 and outfitter and resident of Koyuk. I want to thank this
36 advisory council for the opportunity to speak here today on
37 a matter that's every important to myself and my family.
38 I've lived in Koyuk for the past 16 years where my wife
39 Lola and I are raising our four children.

40
41 Some of what I'm going to say is redundant from
42 what I just -- was just read into the record, but over the
43 past 16 years I've worked to develop a guide and outfitting
44 business dedicated to a selective, sustained yield harvest.
45 I have worked closely with various fish and game biologists
46 and with local native hunters to keep a constant assessment
47 of the game population on which my livelihood depends.

48
49 The regulations governing by guide and outfitters
50 license also require that I work with and cooperate with

00220

1 Fish and Wildlife Protection. Several times each year
2 State Troopers come to my home and ask to see my guide
3 license, outfitters license, Alaska hunting license, hunt
4 records, harvest reports, transfer possession forms, along
5 with the names and license numbers of all my clients, and
6 any assistant guides working for me. The State Troopers
7 have always received total cooperation from my entire
8 operation.

9
10 I demand that all clients hunting with me, and all
11 guides working for me comply with all state and federal
12 fish and game regulations. The resources on which we
13 depend can only be sustained if all hunters abide by the
14 regulations designed to protect them.

15
16 In these proceedings, however, the Koyuk Native
17 Village IRA Council has maligned my professional reputation
18 by submitting written comments that falsely accuse me of
19 violating state and federal game regulations in the Koyuk
20 area. The Koyuk IRA Council has no evidence whatsoever to
21 substantiate any of its false accusations. Their
22 accusations are not only false, but they are inappropriate
23 in the context of these proceedings. Neither this advisory
24 council nor the Federal Subsistence Board has regulatory
25 authority over the licensing of guides and outfitters.
26 Neither this advisory council nor the Federal Subsistence
27 Board has responsibility for prosecuting game violations.

28
29 The duty of this advisory council is to recommend
30 subsistence regulation based on the biological status of
31 the resource. The advisory council should focus on these
32 important issues and not give any credence to the Koyuk IRA
33 Council's false accusation concerning my guide/outfitting
34 business. If the Koyuk IRA Council has any legitimate
35 concerns or complaints about my guide business, or any
36 other guide, they should submit their proof to the proper
37 authorities where such matters can be investigated, and
38 where their false accusations can also be investigated.

39
40 When State Fish and Wildlife Trooper Todd Mahachek
41 (ph) attempted to investigate these false accusations, he
42 received no cooperation from the local people.

43
44 The Koyuk IRA Council has also submitted Proposal
45 Number 55 to the advisory council which would close the
46 moose season in Unit 22(B) to all hunters except
47 subsistence users. Moose hunting in 22(B) is a very
48 important part of my business. Passing of Proposal 55
49 would create a real hardship for my family and several
50 other families in the village. A minimum of six households

00221

1 in Koyuk are directly involved in the guiding, cooking,
2 housing, and transporting of nonresident hunters, and
3 several additional households consider these outsiders as
4 their best customers for ivory carving and traditional
5 handicrafts.

6
7 The Subsistence Board long ago recognized that cash
8 is an important part of the subsistence lifestyle. To
9 those people involved in this moose hunting season, it is
10 just as important as herring season or salmon or fire
11 fighting. It certainly does not represent a full-time job,
12 but it's a much needed source of cash in an otherwise very
13 lean time of year.

14
15 There is no justification for taking the extreme
16 measure of recommending or adopting Proposal Number 55.
17 When the State Board of Game looked at this issue recently
18 in Barrow, it adopted a conservative but fair resource plan
19 to protect the moose population in 22(B). The State Board
20 of Game's regulations are designed to protect moose herds
21 and still provide for a nonsubsistence user with an
22 opportunity to hunt moose. The state's regulations strike
23 an appropriate balance between resource conservation and
24 the needs and demands of all users, including subsistence
25 users, to harvest the resource. I strongly urge this
26 advisory council to adopt harvest regulations consistent
27 with the regulations recently adopted by the State Board of
28 Game. Their regulations are fair and biologically sound.
29 Additionally, by aligning both the state and federal
30 seasons, the advisory council would avoid a terrible case
31 of patchwork regulations.

32
33 In closing, I would like to reiterate my position
34 that the board should give no credence whatsoever to the
35 false accusations made by the Koyuk IRA Council. I want to
36 thank you for this opportunity to speak, and I remain
37 available to answer any questions council members may have.
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIR CROSS: Does anybody have questions
41 for Mr. Hannon? I have one question.

42
43 MR. HANNON: Yes?

44
45 CHAIR CROSS: When -- originally -- well,
46 I'll give you a little scenario or a little story about
47 this. Originally when the resolution first came to my
48 attention, I brought it to the attention of U.S. Fish and
49 Wildlife, and they felt it was not a user conflict. I'm
50 glad they do now realize it is. I wanted to see if it

00222

1 could be handled on a local level, and with perhaps proper
2 people from the state and proper people from the feds to be
3 included in it, and see if the community could resolve it.
4 I was told that because there's just one you, one game
5 hunter, and subsistence hunters from just the Village of
6 Koyuk, that it was not really a user conflict.

7
8 I mentioned in your statement, you were saying that
9 all guides hunting with you. Are those people that are
10 assisting you from the village, or are there other guides
11 involved in your region from -- that's connected with you
12 from Fairbanks and/or Anchorage or.....

13
14 MR. HANNON: No, there's no one from
15 Fairbanks or Anchorage. I have a couple of guides that
16 work for me from Outside, too. And I have four people that
17 work for me from the village. I have one person that comes
18 from McGrath that works for me.

19
20 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

21
22 MR. HANNON: My number 1 right-hand man has
23 been with me 21 years. He's from Nondalton. And Mike
24 Quinn also works with me from Nome.

25
26 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Okay. Thank you.
27 That was my question.

28
29 MS. DEGNAN: I have a question. You said
30 you're the only registered guide in that area, in.....

31
32 MR. HANNON: The only one living and
33 functioning from that area, yes. There are two others
34 which technically hold that area. Vance Rascowski has that
35 area.....

36
37 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

38
39 MR. HANNON:I think doesn't use it
40 much. Keith Koonce from Fairbanks also has that area, but
41 I don't seen him at all.

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: Now, when you take your hunts
44 out, is it in the area that we're proposing to close?

45
46 MR. HANNON: Yes, a lot of it.

47
48 MS. DEGNAN: So that's your.....

49
50 MR. HANNON: A lot of it, yes. Yeah.

00223

1 MS. DEGNAN:basic operation?

2

3 MR. HANNON: Basically what I've tried to
4 do is get out of everybody's hair.

5

6 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

7

8 MR. HANNON: And I go -- we go very, very
9 far, and it's why the late season is important. It is
10 basically the far reaches of the East Fork of the Koyuk and
11 where that comes into the Ingutalik.

12

13 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. HANNON: I mentioned the patchwork
16 regulation here. If you look closely at the map, this is
17 -- you would have a very difficult time, perhaps with a GPS
18 and a total adherence to exactly where you are, you might
19 know whose land you are on as you travel across this
20 checkerboard square. But people don't hunt with their face
21 on a GPS. There's -- I counted when I was sitting back
22 there, I think there's nine tiny parcels, or two tiny ones,
23 three tiny ones, and four nonresident, then you hit the big
24 land mass that's federal land, but here are about nine
25 different segments of territory that you would be talking
26 about in the Ingutalik drainage alone.

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: So you have more than just
29 yourself as a guide. More other guides coming in?

30

31 MR. HANNON: Pardon?

32

33 MR. MENDENHALL: You probably have more --
34 other guides, you identified two other guide services going
35 into that region?

36

37 MR. HANNON: No, no, they don't. They
38 really don't function up there.

39

40 MS. DEGNAN: But they could.

41

42 MR. HANNON: Well, I'm sure they could.

43

44 MR. MENDENHALL: Probably without any
45 knowledge of the -- by flying in?

46

47 MS. PERSONS: The one guide, Keith Koonce,
48 operates in a place called Death Valley, which is also a
49 very remote area, and there's not -- there's not really any
50 local use that I'm aware of that occurs when he's there.

00224

1 That's a place where caribou winter, and so people from
2 Elim in particular, and probably from Koyuk, too, I'm not
3 sure, do hunt caribou there, but not when that guide is
4 operating. I believe Vance operates primarily here in.....

5
6 MR. HANNON: I think the only time he ever
7 goes up there is for caribou in September. That's the only
8 I've seen him.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: So that's only one other
11 person then, one other guide?

12
13 CHAIR CROSS: I have another question for
14 you. With change in the state regulations, is that going
15 to shift your hunting patterns? The shortening of the.....

16
17
18 MR. HANNON: Well, first.....

19
20 CHAIR CROSS: Are you going to be hunting a
21 dif.....

22
23 MR. HANNON: I would like to point out I
24 was very instrumental I think in writing that new
25 regulation, and one of the things I put in for originally
26 in the state reg was to have the subsistence and
27 nonsubsistence seasons in September. In Koyuk, our
28 subsistence hunt -- I know no one views me as a subsistence
29 user. In our summer the most important thing that my wife
30 and I do is put up our dry fish. That is the number one
31 function of the summer. And we feel like we've been able
32 to combine in this guiding business a subsistence lifestyle
33 and a cash job. You -- everyone knows that pure
34 subsistence today will not do it. You have to have a cash
35 income, too. The -- what I recommended on the season was
36 to completely close all nonresident hunting in September,
37 which took -- did away with any conflict between sports
38 hunting, or nonresident sport hunting and subsistence
39 hunting on the Koyuk River. And 95 percent of our
40 subsistence will happen on that river in that time frame.
41 And with the new state regulation, there will be no open
42 season for nonresident hunters on that river. I'm not
43 trying to.....

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, according to this,
46 it's September 30th to December 1.

47
48 MS. PERSONS: What are you referring to?

49
50 MR. MENDENHALL: I mean, I'm in the book.

00225

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, that's the
2 subsistence.

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: Proposed regulations, Unit
5 22(B).

6
7 MS. DEGNAN: It's the fed's.

8
9 MR. KOBUK: On page 32.

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: Page 32. That's what I'm
12 referring to. And it also shows on page 31, the addition
13 to that closure would be from September 30th to December 1.
14 Other than that, they've got from December 1 to.....

15
16 MS. PERSONS: These are.....

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL:two extra months.

19
20 MS. PERSONS: This is for residents.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

23
24 MR. HANNON: But they say, do you see the
25 bottom part, and it's shaded?

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, that's what I meant,
28 down there, that shaded area, that's the only time it's
29 closed, and then after December 1 it's open.

30
31 MR. HANNON: No, the -- by adopting the
32 bottom part, it would be closed entirely. 22(B) would be
33 closed to the taking of moose by nonsubsistence users
34 entirely.

35
36 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, with that shaded
39 area December 1 to December -- the staff could tell me if
40 I'm reading it wrong, that Unit 22(B) is closed to taking
41 of moose by nonsubsistence users during September 30th to
42 December 1, is that it? What -- am I wrong, or how is it
43 supposed to read?

44
45 CHAIR CROSS: No, the changes are from
46 August 1 to -- instead of one moose taken -- how -- instead
47 of -- go back to page 31. Instead of one moose, however,
48 antlerless may be taken from -- taken only from December 1
49 to December 31. No person may take a cow accompanied by a
50 bull (sic) was original regulation affecting August 1 to

00226

1 January 31st. Now we are proposing from September 30 to
2 December 1 is the new dates and the addition is Unit 22 is
3 now closed for taking of moose by nonsubsistence users.

4
5 MR. MENDENHALL: We should have done it
6 better than we did. It's kind of confusing.

7
8 MR. HANNON: It's very confusing.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL: Jim back there had
11 something, a comment.

12
13 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, I guess, Madam Chair,
14 just the way I've understood this, and maybe I'm confused,
15 is that there are two changes being proposed here.....

16
17 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. There are two
18 changes, that's right.....

19
20 MR. MAGDANZ:the change on the dates.

21
22 CHAIR CROSS:the date change and the
23 addition to nonsubsistence is.....

24
25 MR. MAGDANZ: Right. And they're unrelated
26 changes. That is.....

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

29
30 MR. MAGDANZ:the elimination of
31 nonsubsistence users applies all season in all federal
32 lands.

33
34 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. DEGNAN: In that unit.

37
38 MR. MAGDANZ: In that unit. Okay. Okay.
39 Just so I'm clear on that.

40
41 MR. BUCK: Well, it explains it more on 33.

42
43 CHAIR CROSS: Excluding all.....

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, that's only closed
46 then only from September 30th to December 1, right?

47
48 MS. DEGNAN: The whole unit.

49
50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

00227

1 MR. KOBUK: Perry.....

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Presently the season is
4 August 1 through January 31st.

5

6 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

7

8 CHAIR CROSS: No, this is by the state.

9

10 MS. PERSONS: Presently, but it would be
11 changed to August and September you can hunt, can't hunt in
12 October, November, can hunt again December, January.

13

14 MR. HANNON: That's not.....

15

16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And if you don't.....

17

18 MR. HANNON:but that wouldn't line up
19 with the state.

20

21 MS. PERSONS: And that would not line up
22 with.....

23

24 MR. HANNON: With the state.

25

26 MS. PERSONS:with the state
27 regulation for the eastern part.

28

29 MR. MENDENHALL: So.....

30

31 MS. DEGNAN: But that's all right for the
32 subsistence users. That's fine, I would think in terms of
33 subsistence users.

34

35 MR. MENDENHALL: You're okay on one side,
36 but once the moose cross to the other side, they get
37 arrested. I mean.....

38

39 MR. HANNON: Yeah, that's the thing.....

40

41 MS. DEGNAN: No, I mean the moose gets
42 arrested.

43

44 MR. HANNON: That's what I'm getting at, is
45 that it really -- we talked about this yesterday, you
46 addressed it and the fish folks mentioned it also about
47 this checkerboard is open, that one's closed, that one's
48 opened, that one's closed. And I really think that 22(B)
49 needs to have the seasons aligned so that -- you know, the
50 state when they first made these subunits, they used a

00228

1 method called hydrographic, which just basically means if
2 you're in this river drainage, the season applies to this
3 river drainage. And as you're going around out there, you
4 know which river you're in, but with all the new land
5 owners, and the selections, and all these imaginary lines,
6 these straight lines -- there are no straight lines out
7 there, they're all crooked. And the regulations, and I
8 think you might want to adopt this as a policy, but the
9 hydrographic idea is excellent. You want to know which
10 river drainage you're in, which -- if you're on the East
11 Fork. Okay. But trying to make regulations, we have the
12 technology today. They -- there are GPS's where I suppose
13 you can put a straight line down in that snow, but I don't
14 know anyone that uses GPS out on a hunt.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, we did that for up
17 above Nome. We aligned all the federal to state.

18
19 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. We did that, too,
20 but with the declining moose population, and also remember
21 our job is under ANILCA.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: I know, but I.....

24
25 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

26
27 CHAIR CROSS: So we've got to keep that far
28 and at most. It makes sense, and I know it's a
29 checkerboard area, but we will take everybody's comments
30 into consideration and make sure we do this very, very
31 seriously, because it's serious business. Like I said, it
32 is just too bad when I originally asked for help from the
33 Federal Government, that I was told this was not a user
34 conflict. Without further checking into the matter, some
35 solicitor decided, well, there's only one game guide and a
36 few, handful of people in Koyuk. Now we're here. It
37 could.....

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, we've got two Koyuk
40 -- yeah.

41
42 CHAIR CROSS:have possibly been
43 resolved.

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: We've got two Koyuk people
46 back there, too, and that might testi.....

47
48 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Peter?

49
50 MR. BUCK: You're saying that you're

00229

1 proposing the August 1st to January 31st, change to August
2 to September and then December 1st. Does this mean that
3 the state at least is going to be still is August 1st to
4 31st, or will you just be changing the federal?

5
6 MS. PERSONS: In your part of.....

7
8 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

9
10 MS. PERSONS:22(B), west of the Darby
11 Mountains, it will be like this. It will be August and
12 September, and December and January. But.....

13
14 MR. BUCK: Okay. I didn't know that. I
15 thought the only changes would be the close -- could not
16 take a moose of nonsubsistence users. We -- September --
17 August, September, that months in White Mountain, we've got
18 a little freezing up on the mountain. Well, that -- and
19 then in October, it starts to get solid for moose hunting.
20 That's -- the date confuses me. First we got rid of the --
21 when we made regulations that last time of getting rid of
22 the antlerless moose in December, and so.....

23
24 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, they were together.
25 And I thought you supported it last year.

26
27 MR. BUCK: Yeah, I did support that, but
28 now you're changing it again.

29
30 MS. PERSONS: No, no, it's the same.

31
32 MR. BUCK: Okay.

33
34 MS. PERSONS: In your area, it's.....

35
36 MR. ROOKOK: It's staying the same.
37 White.....

38
39 MS. PERSONS:the same as what.....

40
41 MR. ROOKOK:Mountain will stay the
42 same.

43
44 MR. BUCK: Okay.

45
46 MS. PERSONS:you supported.

47
48 MR. BUCK: Okay. Okay. That makes.....

49
50 MS. PERSONS: It's just that on the east

00230

1 side of the mountains.....

2

3 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

4

5 MS. PERSONS:we now have a different
6 regulation.

7

8 MR. BUCK: Okay. Good. I'm glad you
9 clarified that.

10

11 MS. PERSONS: I hope you supported it.

12

13 MS. DEGNAN: Now, when you're talking about
14 we, could you identify who we in terms of you're talking
15 about the state regulations and the federal regulations?

16

17 MR. MENDENHALL: In Peter's comment.

18

19 MR. BUCK: My area don't have very much
20 federal land on it.

21

22 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, but what we're talking
23 about is the entire (B).

24

25 CHAIR CROSS: Are you referring to Kate,
26 referring to we?

27

28 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh. When she talks about
29 we.

30

31 CHAIR CROSS: Who is we is what she wanted
32 to know.

33

34 MS. DEGNAN: Are you speaking of.....

35

36 MS. PERSONS: I was speaking about.....

37

38 MS. EAKON: ADF&G.

39

40 MS. PERSONS:the state advisory
41 committee meeting when we discussed the changes to the
42 state regulations.....

43

44 MS. DEGNAN: Is he on that?

45

46 MS. PERSONS:that he -- that Peter is
47 on that committee as well.

48

49 MS. DEGNAN: Well, Peter, you should state
50 that.....

00231

1 MR. BUCK: Yeah, I.....

2

3 MS. DEGNAN:for the record, where
4 you're coming from, because that gets me confused.

5

6 MR. MENDENHALL: From the fish/game
7 advisory.

8

9 MR. BUCK: That the -- that proposal we
10 worked on, what, was it last fall or last spring?

11

12 MS. PERSONS: Last summer.

13

14 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

15

16 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, about a year ago.

17

18 CHAIR CROSS: With Alaska Board of Fish and
19 Game or.....

20

21 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

22

23 CHAIR CROSS:with us? Because we
24 also.....

25

26 MR. BUCK: No, it was.....

27

28 CHAIR CROSS:worked on this proposal.

29

30 MR. BUCK: It was with the regional
31 advisory council, was it?

32

33 MS. PERSONS: No, it was with the advisory
34 -- the state.....

35

36 MR. BUCK: About the closing of the.....

37

38 MS. PERSONS:Norton Sound Advisory
39 Committee.

40

41 MR. BUCK: Yeah. Okay. Yeah. Okay.
42 Norton Sound Advisory Committee.

43

44 MS. DEGNAN: 'Cause we.....

45

46 MR. HANNON: Any more questions for me?
47 I'm going to.....

48

49 MS. DEGNAN: No, I am glad you were here
50 to.....

00232

1 MR. HANNON: Thank you.

2
3 MS. DEGNAN:put your side of the
4 story on.

5
6 CHAIR CROSS: You were very informative,
7 thank you.

8
9 MR. HANNON: Thank you.

10
11 MS. DEGNAN: Appreciate it.

12
13 CHAIR CROSS: Does anybody else have -- in
14 the room have any questions for Mr. Hannon? No. Oscar
15 Anasogak, Jr.

16
17 MR. ANASOGAK: Madam Chair and members of
18 the regional advisory council, my name is Oscar Anasogak,
19 Jr., and I'm from Koyuk. And I am a subsistence user. I
20 support Proposal 55, because I believe that natives -- you
21 must pardon me, I get nervous speaking to people when
22 there's ten or 15 looking at me.

23
24 MS. DEGNAN: Don't feel bad.

25
26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You're not the only
27 one.

28
29 CHAIR CROSS: All the feds, close your
30 eyes.

31
32 MR. ANASOGAK: But the reason -- one of the
33 reasons I support this proposal is that I believe that
34 subsistence users should not be made to sacrifice their
35 subsistence resources to others for monetary gains. And
36 that's how I feel on this for -- this issue for -- because
37 game guides, they're out there, they have clients that pay
38 them a lot of money to go and hunt our resources that we
39 live on. We don't go out and look for the biggest moose.
40 Nine times out of ten, if we see a big bull right here, and
41 a young bull with just sticks for horns, we're going to
42 shoot the young bull, because it has better meat, softer
43 meat. And I'm pretty sure there's hunters that will like
44 to get a big moose, but when we go out subsistence hunting,
45 we don't look at the size of horns they've got, because we
46 think about meat, that's what we need for our freezers and
47 our families. And that's my comment I have. Thank you.

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you.

50

00233

1 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIR CROSS: Any questions for
4 Mr. Anasogak?

5

6 MS. DEGNAN: Now, do you generally hunt in
7 the federal areas out of Koyuk?

8

9 MR. ANASOGAK: Yes, I do a lot.....

10

11 CHAIR CROSS: Donna?

12

13 MR. ANASOGAK:of hunting, most of my
14 hunting I do not really look at maps. I go where the
15 animal is.

16

17 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. But we wanted to kind
18 of -- let point -- let you point out for us.

19

20 MR. ANASOGAK: For -- like for caribou this
21 time of year, we could go up around Granite Mountain, North
22 Fork, East Fork, Ingutalik River. We have a wide range for
23 our caribou, because I think Koyuk is one of the best
24 places for caribou hunting. We see hunters as far east as
25 -- I mean, as far west as Nome. Could be ever farther --
26 far south -- I've even seen hunters come up from Emmonak by
27 snow machine.

28

29 For moose hunting, the majority of my moose hunting
30 is done in the Koyuk River. And once in a while I'll go
31 over to Ingutalik River if I can't see any in the Koyuk
32 River, but you have to go where the animal is to get it.

33

34 MS. DEGNAN: Okay. Thank you.

35

36 CHAIR CROSS: I have question for you.
37 Regarding the state's new regulations that affect your
38 area, I guess essentially is what do you think about them?
39 The new regulations that Kate Persons had stated earlier?

40

41 MR. ANASOGAK: Personally I think -- my own
42 thinking is that our subsistence regulations should come
43 from our stomachs. If we're hungry, we go get our meat or
44 birds or fish. But to abide by these regulations from the
45 state and the federal governments, if they make the rules,
46 then we must go by them. And sometimes it's hard to go by
47 the rules, like for the December season, this year I wanted
48 to go out and harvest a moose during the month of December,
49 but we had no snow. There is absolutely no snow in Koyuk.
50 We could travel along the rivers, but you -- it's pretty

00234

1 hard to go and find a moose on the river. And how that
2 we've got a bunch of snow, the moose season is closed
3 again. So it's tough to try to abide by regulations from
4 different entities on our hunting resources. We try and
5 abide by them, but there's times that we must either break
6 those rules to get food, or starve. And if it were up to
7 me, I'd go and shoot that moose so I could feed myself and
8 my family instead of starve.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: If Fish and Game and
11 National Park found this guy hunting for food, would you
12 arrest him if he did hunting now? That's my question. I
13 mean, really truly a subsistence user, that's what he's
14 saying.

15

16 MS. DEWHURST: And all I could tell you is
17 when I -- I was enforcement for eight years prior to this
18 job on refuges. And our policy in the -- with the Fish and
19 Wildlife Service, I can't speak for the Park Service or
20 anybody else, but if we came upon somebody and they were
21 hunting for food, it was out of season, or whatever, it was
22 breaking a rule, but it was a case where it was a need, we
23 did not cite. We never cited in those case.

24

25 MR. MENDENHALL: Fish and Game?

26

27 MS. PERSONS: Well, as much as you think
28 Fish and Game is game wardens, we're just biologists. The
29 people that wear the uniform are State Troopers, and it's
30 the State Troopers that do the law enforcement. And I
31 can't honestly tell you in that circumstance what the
32 particular trooper that we have stationed for this -- in
33 this game management unit would do. I don't know.

34

35 MS. DEGNAN: Madam Chair, I know from
36 personal experience that there is a toll free number and
37 you can get unanimous (sic) tips -- anonymous tips.
38 Unanimous/anonymous tips. That's good. On, you know,
39 someone taking game out of season. And I know that has
40 occurred, and I know up here if we had compassionate people
41 like Donna on track, the hunters would be fine, but we
42 don't. And, you know, when it gets to that level where
43 enforcement, there's not room for compassion. It's.....

44

45 MS. DEWHURST: Well that was the Fish and
46 Wildlife Service policy. It wasn't -- I'd like to say it
47 was my generosity, it was our policy.

48

49 MS. DEGNAN: But I'm saying is that when --
50 up here when it gets to that point, there's no mercy. And

00235

1 that's what he's saying, too, there's no mercy there. And
2 when you -- we go further on, you know, in time, that you
3 have neighbor turning on neighbor, and that's going out of
4 our cultural lifestyle is when people start turning their
5 neighbors in, and I don't think that's right.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, he also identified
8 weather as an extenuating -- or act of God thing where you
9 couldn't hunt within a prescribed time. And that usually
10 -- also in Nome area that same thing, you know, until the
11 snow came, the next thing you know people are gone. So I'm
12 just asking about enforcement on truly a subsistence
13 situation. On -- in defense of ANILCA subsistence user,
14 recognizing that. That's all.

15
16 CHAIR CROSS: Now, if I make any mistakes,
17 correct me, Donna, please. The nonresident hunting has
18 been shortened by the state to be in September for one
19 month in 22(B), and.....

20
21 MS. PERSONS: In western 22(B). And in
22 eastern 22(B) it's November and December.

23
24 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. I've got that. And
25 that was a four months cut for the.....

26
27 MS. PERSONS: Yes.

28
29 CHAIR CROSS:entire time.

30
31 MS. DEGNAN: That's in the white?

32
33 CHAIR CROSS: Yeah, that's in the white
34 section of the -- down by Koyuk river. Does that in a
35 sense give you some kind of relief or -- what the state did
36 was they shortened their nonresident hunting to one month,
37 and that would be in the month of September.

38
39 MS. PERSONS: In your area.

40
41 CHAIR CROSS: And then on the other side,
42 on the eastern side, there was a four month cut and that
43 should -- the hunting would be in November and December
44 only.

45
46 MS. PERSONS: For nonresidents.....

47
48 CHAIR CROSS: For nonresidents.....

49
50 MS. PERSONS:so they wouldn't be

00236

1 hunting.....

2

3 CHAIR CROSS:for big game hunting.

4

5 MS. PERSONS: People in your area

6 would.....

7

8 MR. ANASOGAK: I'm not sure if it would
9 make me feel any more better, because like I mentioned
10 earlier, we should -- subsistence users would not give up
11 or sacrifice their subsistence resources to any other
12 person for monetary gains, because we rely on all our
13 subsistence resources for living.

14

15 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. That's what the state
16 did, that's already in regulation.

17

18 MR. ANASOGAK: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIR CROSS: I was just questioning how
21 you personally felt about -- it doesn't affect any of the
22 federal lands which we control. This would be the proposal
23 that would affect all the things that are in yellow -- or
24 orange. Am I color blind, or is that orange or yellow?
25 Orange.

26

27 MS. DEWHURST: Orange. the proposal we
28 have now would affect the ones that are in orange.

29

30 MS. DEGNAN: Only.

31

32 CHAIR CROSS: Only.

33

34 MS. DEGNAN: Is that little orange spot
35 over there above White Mountain?

36

37 MS. DEWHURST: It's really tiny.....

38

39 MR. BUCK: No, there's just a little piece
40 of land, it's BLM. It's real small.

41

42 MS. DEGNAN: So I hope they.....

43

44 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. It would be hard for
45 us to find.....

46

47 MS. DEGNAN: I hope they can.....

48

49 MS. DEWHURST:it is the bottom line.

50 It's so small.

00237

1 MS. DEGNAN: I hope they can find it.

2

3 CHAIR CROSS: Let me ask a question though
4 before we go on, and maybe it will help you. Like take --
5 If there's further decline, what kind of measures would the
6 state be taking within the state lands if there's more
7 decline of moose in 22(B)?

8

9 MS. PERSONS: Well, potentially shortening
10 seasons further, but it would be something that we would,
11 you know, go through a public process and discuss and --
12 but probably the next step.

13

14 CHAIR CROSS: Would there be any time for
15 it would be closed for nonsubsistence?

16

17 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, for nonresidents.
18 Yeah. that would.....

19

20 CHAIR CROSS: I mean nonresidents.

21

22 MS. PERSONS: At some point, yes.....

23

24 CHAIR CROSS: And what numbers.....

25

26 MS. PERSONS:it would be closed
27 for.....

28

29 CHAIR CROSS:do you think we're
30 talking about in terms of on state lands?

31

32 MS. PERSONS: I couldn't answer.....

33

34 CHAIR CROSS: What would be.....

35

36 MS. PERSONS:that, Grace.

37

38 CHAIR CROSS:a substantial.....

39

40 MS. PERSONS: I'm sorry, I couldn't -- I
41 can't answer that question. We're not there yet. In this
42 portion of 22(B), we're not really very close to being
43 there.

44

45 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

46

47 MS. PERSONS: In western 22(B), we might,
48 unless we get a turn around in that population, we may have
49 to start thinking about that.

50

00238

1 CHAIR CROSS: Jim?

2

3 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah. Jim Magdanz, ADF&G
4 Subsistence. When the Board looked at how to change the
5 seasons this fall, they asked us about the impact on
6 subsistence users and the impact on nonresidents. My
7 memory, and Kate may have to help me on this, is that just
8 in terms of the harvest over time, that 14 percent, 20
9 percent of the subsistence harvest occurred during the
10 months that were being closed. And we looked at the number
11 of moose that would be lost. It was either 14 or 20
12 percent, is that right?

13
14 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, I think.....

15
16 MR. MAGDANZ: Somewhere in that.....

17
18 MS. PERSONS:14 percent is
19 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

20
21 MR. MAGDANZ: Somewhere in that range. And
22 then we looked at the number of moose that were being taken
23 by nonresidents during that season that was being removed
24 from the hunt, and my memory is that it was half
25 roughly.....

26
27 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh.

28
29 MR. MAGDANZ:of the nonresident take
30 that was being eliminated. If conditions deteriorated and
31 the moose population continued to decline, I would expect
32 the Board to go through a similar analysis. The bottom
33 line for the state is when subsistence needs are not being
34 met, all other uses are eliminated. And that point would
35 come when there were fewer than 300 moose available in GMU
36 22, and you might look at that subunit. But when the moose
37 population dropped to a certain level, the state would
38 eliminate nonsubsistence uses. The Board felt that we
39 weren't there yet. But it took a much bigger cut out of
40 the nonresident hunt than it did out of the subsistence
41 hunt. If thing went down, I would expect there will be a
42 point at which the state will eliminate nonresident hunting
43 in the portions of the unit where there are problems. So
44 that would be, you know, the next step for the state.

45
46 CHAIR CROSS: Well, I have another --
47 either a question or a comment. In a situation like in his
48 situation, there was no snow in December, so in a sense you
49 cut off two months of subsistence hunting. Now, if there
50 is no snow and the state is aware that because of weather

00239

1 conditions no subsistence hunting was able to be done,
2 because people travel by land and not by air, they are not
3 -- moose is not as readily available to land hunters versus
4 air hunters. What provisions can people utilize within
5 given communities to make sure that the state knows we were
6 not able to get our subsistence catches because of the
7 conditions. We would like this season to be extended to
8 another month, maybe a couple of months. What steps can
9 people take in order to obtain that? Or are there any
10 steps?

11
12 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah. Kate, why don't you
13 (indiscernible) this.

14
15 MS. PERSONS: Yeah. We've actually had a
16 couple of requests similar to that, and I can -- when I
17 forwarded them on to my supervisors, I can tell you what I
18 was told. There have been some instances in other parts of
19 the state where there have been extensions made to seasons.
20 They've always been very short seasons.....

21
22 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

23
24 MS. PERSONS:like week-long, ten-day
25 seasons that were for some reason, people were not able to
26 hunt during that season, and so an extension was made. But
27 in Unit 22, we already have such long seasons for hunting
28 moose, that the Board does not look favorably upon
29 emergency extensions when already there have been many
30 months when the season has been open. In the case of Unit
31 22, there's August and September in most of the subunits
32 when people are able to hunt. And so if people aren't able
33 to hunt in December because of weather, the Board is not
34 inclined to want to.....

35
36 CHAIR CROSS: Those months that they
37 can.....

38
39 MS. PERSONS:make further extensions.

40
41 CHAIR CROSS: The residents can hunt in
42 August, September?

43
44 MS. PERSONS: Well, it depends. It depends
45 what subunit you're talking about. The subunits.....

46
47 CHAIR CROSS: The one.....

48
49 MS. PERSONS:have different.....

50

00240

1 CHAIR CROSS: The one that affects Koyuk.

2

3 MS. PERSONS: Okay. And at this point they
4 have a season from the first of August until the end of
5 January, so it's, you know, a five-month season.

6

7 MS. DEGNAN: And we're shortening it?

8

9 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: But.....

12

13 MS. PERSONS: And it will be shortened as
14 of the next regulatory year, yeah, to four months, which is
15 still one of the longest moose seasons in the state.

16

17 MR. MENDENHALL: I can see where he wants
18 to protect -- Oscar wants to protect his resources
19 specifically for that -- for subsistence use. That's his
20 -- that's why he's for this. I appreciate Oscar coming
21 forward.

22

23 CHAIR CROSS: Anybody have any questions or
24 comments for Oscar? Do you have anything further?

25

26 MR. ANASOGAK: No.

27

28 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you, Oscar.

29

30 CHAIR CROSS: Is there anybody else who is
31 here from the public who would like to address Proposal 55?
32 No? Nobody. So now at the regional council deliberation,
33 recommendations, and justification. I would suggest we
34 take a five-minute break before we do this.

35

36 (Off record - 1:53 p.m.)

37

38 (On record - 2:02 p.m.)

39

40 CHAIR CROSS: We're off recess. It is now
41 2:01 p.m. -- I mean, it's two minutes after two. And he
42 wanted to make a comment, so.....

43

44 MR. KOBUK: Yes.

45

46 CHAIR CROSS:Leonard?

47

48 MR. KOBUK: Being a subsistence user and I
49 would sure had to kind of go against the Village of Koyuk
50 on this proposal here. So I'm going to have to voice my

00241

1 support for it, because since it concerns federal lands on
2 these yellow -- just on the yellow parts, and since they're
3 trying to protect their moose population. To me it's kind
4 of sad that we always have to wait until something gets
5 real low before anything is done. And I feel the same way
6 as the natives there in Koyuk, that they're just trying to
7 protect what they want to keep, and that's just my own
8 opinion that I would have to support this proposal as is.

9

10 CHAIR CROSS: I want to hear from each of
11 the regional council members on this proposal, so, Perry,
12 do you have any thoughts on this? I'm going to ask all of
13 you to make comments on this.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I know I won't be
16 arrested if I was subsistence hunting there. I think. But
17 based on hearing the declining population of harvest and
18 historical background in that area, 22, from about 2500
19 moose, that there's only 8 percent yearling versus 16 to 20
20 to keep the moose population up, and that there is a
21 shortage of yearlings and local knowledge has been involved
22 as well as aerial -- actual aerial (ph) scientific
23 research, and consultation, and knowing that I'll be
24 speaking mostly against my people from Nome, that will be
25 73 percent that do hunt in that area, but I would have to
26 be honest with Koyuk and honor their tribal interest of
27 their land and their subsistence resources to go along with
28 55(B) -- I mean, with Proposal 55. It's like if I did not
29 want them to come to my area of Nome to go hunting as well,
30 as tribal. And here is a known count of 119 decline to 68
31 a year, that shows a decline, and being that we are in the
32 spirit of ANILCA is look at subsistence interests, users
33 first, we -- I think due to the decline and protection of
34 subsistence, I would be for Proposal 55, and then later on
35 it can be addressed and upgraded if they want to include
36 nonsubsistence users in the hunts when the population does
37 go up.

38

39 CHAIR CROSS: Fran?

40

41 MS. DEGNAN: Well, I appreciate all the
42 testimony that was brought forth on this issue, and I'm
43 glad it's on the record. And in terms of the closure as
44 proposed by this regulation, I feel that it impacts about a
45 third of the district, and there isn't that much hunting
46 pressure in that area, and that going under the council,
47 the regional advisory council duties is to protect the
48 resource for -- and to look at the subsistence side, I
49 would be in favor of the proposal without being amended.

50

00242

1 CHAIR CROSS: Preston?

2

3 MR. ROOKOK: I'm getting teared by two --
4 from state ADF&G and our federal. I'm for subsistence
5 hunting. I'm very much like to preserve subsistence
6 hunting, but we have two -- we're dealing with two now. If
7 we close this for nonnatives, I'm thinking it might affect
8 the subsistence hunters of Koyuk in the Koyuk River. I'm
9 thinking I guess if we do close it on the federal land,
10 nonresidents hunting will be open on the state land.

11

12 CHAIR CROSS: It is.

13

14 MR. ROOKOK: And it's going to affect the
15 community, local hunters of Koyuk where they usually hunt
16 and get their moose. So it's kind of complicating for me.
17 I am very much in favor of subsistence users in this
18 district. But on the other hand, if I vote for this, it's
19 going to hurt them in the run where the state area is open.
20 Most of that's state area that is open is on the Koyuk
21 River, East Fork, Pease River, West Fork. So it's kind of
22 complicating for me here now to decide on should I be for
23 it, or should I be against it because of that state
24 regulations and federal regulations. The federal closures
25 on this orange area, nonresidents can still hunt on state
26 lands, right? And the majority of their moose hunt of
27 Koyuk subsistence users that are on record have come mostly
28 from Koyuk River drainage. So I'm teared in two, two
29 separate issues right now. Like I stated, for the record,
30 I'm very much for the subsistence users in this area, but
31 that that's the only problem I have on this issue right
32 now. That's all.

33

34 CHAIR CROSS: Peter?

35

36 MR. BUCK: In the Koyuk River on that
37 orange part, and the Fish River area, I think our moose
38 travel back and forth between the Fish River area there and
39 back, so it kind of concerns me with regulations for taking
40 a moose if the moose population is down. I'm going to have
41 to support this resolution, and protect the subsistence
42 user.

43

44 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. I realize the
45 dilemma that Mr. Hannon is in when he talks about having to
46 fly over patches of land that belong to the Federal
47 Government, and not exactly knowing where the boundaries
48 are. It was that very reason why in 22(D) that we made
49 the regulations consistent with the -- the federal
50 regulations consistent with the state. And my decision or

00243

1 my inclination to support this resolution, I want him to
2 know, has in no way reflect any allegations of wanton waste
3 that was alleged. I will note on record that there were no
4 such findings. I had asked Todd, I called him up to go
5 check on it. There was no cooperation, and I have
6 corrected on record that it was from local residents and
7 not from the guides. I want you to know that.

8
9 Because of the declining, documented declining
10 moose populations within that region, and even though there
11 are no actual counts, meat on the western -- was it the
12 western part? -- that are on record yet, but the state
13 acknowledges that there is decline in moose population, I
14 think closing federal lands for nonresident use would --
15 may help raise that population. At least the moose will
16 have a refuge, because it takes longer for people to travel
17 by land versus by airplane. You can see where the moose
18 population is by plane versus trying to find it by land.
19 So I am inclined to support this, and I invite Mr. Hannon
20 to get in any additional comments if he so desires.

21
22 MR. HANNON: I was just wondering where
23 you're getting the travel by air.

24
25 CHAIR CROSS: Well, I'm assuming that you
26 hunt by airplane, because.....

27
28 MR. HANNON: No.

29
30 CHAIR CROSS:you're talking about
31 going way up.

32
33 MR. HANNON: Yeah, but the way we go, we go
34 by snow machine. That's why it's a late season hunt. It's
35 a snow machine hunt from the village.

36
37 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. So you're -- maybe I'm
38 misunderstanding you. So I'm assuming that you hunt by
39 air?

40
41 MR. HANNON: No.

42
43 CHAIR CROSS: So your guide is by.....

44
45 MR. HANNON: On-the-ground transportation.

46
47 CHAIR CROSS: You use ground
48 transportation.

49
50 MR. HANNON: Correct, yes.

00244

1 CHAIR CROSS: Does that change anybody's
2 position?

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: No, it don't. I believe
5 there's other game that they could also use in that guide.
6 There's bear and then there's.....

7
8 MS. DEGNAN: Caribou.

9
10 MR. MENDENHALL:caribou and -- plus
11 state land is open around about there. But I think on the
12 federal side I think we have to go with ANILCA on
13 subsistence.

14
15 MR. KOBUK: I would also like to go on
16 record that in no way did I want to take away Bob Hannon's
17 way of making a living, but also I want him to understand
18 that with the decline in the moose population, protecting
19 subsistence way of life as all natives feels, that's the
20 only reason. It has nothing to do with what was written
21 about you or anything like that. Just that I wanted to be
22 fair to the natives there in Koyuk, that I just could not
23 go against their wishes. And if there is some way that
24 something can be worked out between you and them, that
25 would be fine. So I just wanted to go on record, it has
26 nothing to do with you.

27
28 CHAIR CROSS: Anything.....

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question.

31
32 CHAIR CROSS: The question has been called.
33 All those in favor of Proposal 55 as written signify by
34 saying aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed, same sign?

39
40 (No opposing votes.)

41
42 CHAIR CROSS: Passed unanimously. Okay.

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: Fifty-six.

45
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We can always read
47 through this?

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: Yeah, we can always read
50 through this.

00245

1 MR. MENDENHALL: I can. Fifty-six.

2

3 CHAIR CROSS: Proposal 56, Unit 22 muskox,
4 revised permit structure. Is there a motion on the floor?

5

6 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move for putting.....

7

8 MR. KOBUK: I'll second.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL:Proposal 56 before
11 the council for acceptance.

12

13 CHAIR CROSS: Seconded by Leonard Kobuk.
14 And who's the lead in this, Donna?

15

16 MS. DEWHURST: Well, in the interest of
17 expediting a little bit, this one is -- we've talked about
18 this one a bunch in the past, those that have been here.
19 This is a deferred proposal. It's an old issue that's been
20 around for several years. Basically it's in Unit 22(D).

21

22 As a compromise several years ago, we split the
23 permits between -- the federal permits between the National
24 Park Service lands and the BLM lands. The concern was the
25 National Park Service lands were too far away and basically
26 inaccessible, so people weren't using them. And it was --
27 it was an effort -- when we split the permits, it was an
28 effort to basically try to force people to use Park Service
29 lands, but the effort didn't work. They're too far away,
30 inaccessible, and very few people went up there.

31

32 So anyway the issue has been asked to be revisited
33 again about the permit split, and our staff recommendation
34 basically is very similar to last year, in that if we could
35 transfer some of those permits, we said four to six,
36 preferably six, into the state system, which would be half
37 of the permits, then it would totally eliminate the need to
38 have the split. And I'm probably jumping the gun, but we
39 do have information from Teller and Brevig which sounds
40 like they're supporting transferring the permits, so it
41 sounds like we're all kind of in line now. So I would say
42 if they're willing to transfer the permits, we should be
43 able to eliminate the split this round and go from there.

44

45 MR. MENDENHALL: That's after the test hunt
46 that we had. The test hunt we had on muskox?

47

48 MR. ADKISSON: What do you mean test hunt?

49

50 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I'm not following you,

00246

1 Perry.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: I mean, we had that
4 federal half and half, that split, that was our test hunt,
5 wasn't that?

6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Well, this is the -- in a
8 way, and I'll explain that as.....

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON:staff comment. I'll
13 keep that in mind.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

16

17 MS. DEWHURST: So anyway that's basically
18 where we're at right now is it sounds like most everybody's
19 in agreement. Now, we're doing -- they're doing another
20 muskox census here in what, about two weeks, three weeks?

21

22 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh. Yeah.

23

24 MS. DEWHURST: Something like that. And
25 depending on what results come from there, we may have to
26 rethink things, but at this time that's where we're at is
27 if we can give half those permits to the state, we should
28 be okay with removing the split, because that would
29 alleviate a lot of that hunting pressure off of BLM lands.
30 So anyway that concludes my presentation.

31

32 CHAIR CROSS: Kate?

33

34 MS. PERSONS: Last week there
35 teleconference meetings that Park Service and I had with
36 the villages of Brevig and Teller, and I guess I'm out of
37 sequence to go into this.....

38

39 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah.

40

41 MS. PERSONS:but it's kind of hard to
42 say the state comments without mentioning it. At those
43 meetings both the IRA councils passed resolutions in favor
44 of transferring up to six permits to the state. And I'll
45 just say that the state is in a position to issue those six
46 additional permits in 22(D). We're -- we only have the
47 authority to take up to 30 bulls in 22(D), and that would
48 take us then to our limit. We now are issuing 24 permits,
49 but we do have the ability to incorporate six additional
50 permits in 22(D) into our system if that is what the

00247

1 federal process asks us to do.

2

3 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. Other agency
4 comments?

5

6 MR. ADKISSON: Madam Chair, council
7 members, Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I'll make
8 this very quick.

9

10 First of all, for those of you on the council who
11 are not familiar with the muskoxen hunt on the Seward
12 Peninsula, the first hunt began in 1995. It was a federal
13 only hunt, and it went that way for about three years. And
14 there were problems with the hunt in that many villagers
15 found they had to travel long distances to federal public
16 land, and they were unable to harvest animals on state and
17 private lands closer to home. The solution to that problem
18 was to work with the state and establish as jointly managed
19 hunt that involved a federal hunt and a state Tier II
20 subsistence hunt.

21

22 The test hunt that Perry mentioned was basically an
23 experiment, if you want to call it, to see how well the
24 state Tier II hunt worked. And all indications are that
25 the state Tier II hunt is working for the villages exactly
26 as everyone had hoped. The number of permits that they
27 have been successful in acquiring has continued to rise.
28 Their harvest rates on the state Tier II hunt are running
29 about 80 percent compared to about 60 percent or less for
30 the federal hunt.

31

32 To update the report I gave to you in October at
33 the RAC meeting, we have information to add to that. Two
34 White Mountain hunters have been successful in harvesting
35 muskoxen in 22(D), and a Shishmaref resident has been
36 successful. All the success to date in this year's hunt
37 has been on state Tier II permits on state and private
38 lands. For those of you who weren't on the RAC at the
39 October meeting, I believe the other ones were two
40 residents from Wales and one from Brevig.

41

42 MS. PERSONS: Two from Brevig.

43

44 MR. ADKISSON: Two from Brevig now?

45

46 MS. PERSONS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

47

48 MR. ADKISSON: So that's an additional one,
49 yeah, and two from Wales, one -- two from Brevig and one
50 from Teller?

00248

1 MS. PERSONS: None from Teller.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: None from Teller. So anyway
4 -- and part of that, of course, is every year it's a matter
5 of snow conditions and travel, but clearly the state hunt,
6 folks are successful getting the state permits, and it
7 enables them to hunt closer to home, which by the way were
8 some of the problems people are having. Human interactions
9 with muskoxen are occurring.

10

11 To make this very short, the split that Donna
12 mentioned wasn't so much to force people onto Park Service
13 lands. All of us realized that that was a very difficult
14 undertaking for people from Brevig and Teller to travel
15 that far. The purpose of the split was to prevent
16 overharvest on those BLM lands closest to Brevig and
17 Teller, and thus protect the continued subsistence
18 opportunity.

19

20 If you notice in the state's comments from this
21 time around, they still point out that if this proposal is
22 to be adopted, it's possible that overharvest on muskoxen
23 on BLM lands could occur. I'd just like to say that I
24 think there's still a possibility of some overharvest
25 occurring, but I think the risk of that happening has been
26 greatly reduced through the transferring of federal permits
27 under the State program.

28

29 To make the thing very short, Brevig -- the IRA
30 councils for Brevig and Teller voted to, one, transfer six
31 of the federal, existing permits into the state program,
32 and, two, voted to remove the split.

33

34 So acknowledging there's still some potential for
35 overharvest, and we may have to revisit the situation in
36 the future and take some action on BLM lands, I think the
37 Park Service at this point is prepared to support the
38 proposal if it is amended at this time to authorize the
39 transferring of six federal permits under the state Tier II
40 program.

41

42 And you should also point out on the record that
43 this is not a permanent transference. In accordance with
44 the wish of the RAC originally that the purpose of
45 transferring permits is to improve the harvesting
46 opportunities for the federally eligible users, and if it
47 doesn't, then the federal system can take those permits
48 back. Questions?

49

50 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. Thank you, Ken.

00249

1 Any further comments from other agencies?

2

3 MS. COLE: Jeanie Cole, Bureau of Land
4 Management. I just wanted to say that the BLM will support
5 this proposal, provided that it is modified to switch six
6 of the permits over to the state system and will monitor
7 the situation, and if overharvest on BLM land does occur,
8 then we would address that in the future when it happens.
9 That's it.

10

11 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you, Jeanie. Anybody
12 else?

13

14 MR. DeCICCO: Madam Chairman, I have to
15 leave. I have -- I know this is kind of out of sequence,
16 but I have summaries here that I was going to hand out that
17 are available for everyone of kind of a season summary of
18 harvest and effort in sports fisheries in Norton Sound.
19 And I'll leave that with you, and if anyone has any
20 questions, they can get in touch with me at Fish and Game
21 in Fairbanks or through Charlie.

22

23 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Somebody had their --
26 Mr. Rabinowitch?

27

28 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm Sandy Rabinowitch
29 with the Park Service. I just wanted to make a.....

30

31 MS. DOWNING: Sandy?

32

33 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sure.

34

35 MS. DOWNING: Please.

36

37 MR. RABINOWITCH: I just wanted to make a
38 quick comment for historical purposes, because I along with
39 a lot of people have been in sort of the trenches of this
40 hunt since the -- when it started. And I think this is a
41 wonderful example actually of working through a difficult
42 problem over a long period of time, several years, several
43 meetings. We started out with almost everybody being upset
44 at somebody else. Now we're to a point where I think
45 everybody's fairly happy with everybody else, and the
46 hunt's working better, and there's more opportunity. So I
47 just wanted to mention that, and I think it's a good
48 example. I'm sure we'll talk about it more in the future,
49 but this is one of those success stories I think.

50

00250

1 CHAIR CROSS: It is. Thank you. Since we
2 don't have anybody from fish and game advisory committee,
3 we'll go to Helga Eakon.

4
5 MS. EAKON: Okay. I do have copies of the
6 resolutions that were duly passed by the Native Village of
7 Teller, Teller Traditional Council, and the Brevig Mission
8 Traditional Council. If you will make sure that Meredith
9 gets a copy for the record? And there are extra copies
10 here if anybody -- if anyone else is interested. And
11 they're both resolutions in support of Proposal 56, and to
12 trans- -- support a transfer of six Unit 22(D) muskoxen
13 permits into the state Tier II program for Unit 22(D).

14
15 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you, Helga. Is there
16 any public testimony? Since nobody from that region is
17 here, and we have these. Okay.

18
19 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question.

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Wait, wait.

22
23 MR. MENDENHALL: Are we done on 56?

24
25 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. NASSUK: Yeah. My name is Morris
28 Nassuk, I'm from Koyuk. I'd like to see 22(B) be allowed
29 to harvest muskox in lieu of the evidence here that there's
30 moose decline in that area for subsistence hunt. And I'd
31 like to know what criteria does the board use for -- in
32 terms of classifying federally qualified subsistence users
33 versus state. I'm a native of Koyuk, too. I'm enrolled in
34 the IRA, and I belong to the corporation. And I'd like to
35 see 22(B) be given the opportunity to harvest muskox to
36 supplement their diet needs, too. And all I hear from this
37 meeting is opportunity here, subsistence opportunity there.
38 I think the board would be in good standing if they allow
39 us to harvest some muskox. And that's all I have. Is
40 there any questions?

41
42 CHAIR CROSS: In the booklet here, if you
43 bring it back with you, it looks like this, there's a
44 proposal form.....

45
46 MR. NASSUK: Okay.

47
48 CHAIR CROSS:in the back that the IRA
49 Council can use.....

50

00251

1 MR. NASSUK: Okay.

2

3 CHAIR CROSS:to submit a proposal
4 regarding muskox.

5

6 MR. NASSUK: Yeah, in this.....

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: Plus there's a Seward
9 Peninsula Muskox Cooperators.....

10

11 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. That you can
12 talk.....

13

14 MR. MENDENHALL:Group within the
15 region.

16

17 MR. NASSUK: Yeah, I understand you give --
18 you allocate, or somebody did, to Brevig, Teller, you know,
19 12 here, 12 there, because there's muskox in our area,
20 too.....

21

22 CHAIR CROSS: They.....

23

24 MR. NASSUK:and it would be logical
25 to.....

26

27 CHAIR CROSS: It starts out with.....

28

29 MR. NASSUK:harvest them, too.

30

31 CHAIR CROSS:a proposal, and then
32 there is -- like he said, there's a Muskox Cooperative
33 Extension that Ken is very -- Ken Adkisson is very familiar
34 with, and you may want to talk to him about it.

35

36 MR. NASSUK: I feel strongly in opposition
37 to our IRA in our village, because they don't all recognize
38 members as being relevant in some cases. Like they -- if
39 you read their letter, you will see majority in there, and
40 then you'll see minority at the bottom somewhere along
41 there. That should imply to you that there's no equal
42 representation within them IRAs also. So those are the
43 factors you should consider when you make decisions
44 concerning areas or subsistence use. How do you
45 distinguish those two.....

46

47 CHAIR CROSS: And in.....

48

49 MR. NASSUK:minorities versus
50 majorities.

00252

1 MS. DEWHURST: You can submit the proposal
2 yourself.

3
4 MR. NASSUK: Okay.

5
6 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. An individual can also
7 submit a proposal.

8
9 MR. NASSUK: Yeah, that's what I'm doing
10 here verbally, if you understand me. Thank you, that's all
11 I have.

12
13 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: Just -- Madam Chair, Ken
16 Adkisson, Park Service. Just a point of information I
17 guess to Morris is, is that with respect to hunting muskox
18 under the federal program, rural residents of Unit 22(B)
19 already have a positive customary and traditional use
20 determination for muskoxen in 22(B), and so the issue
21 really there is whether there's sufficient animals to allow
22 a hunt I guess. And a proposal could be submitted for the
23 next regulatory cycle. And I guess the other thing is
24 we'll make sure when the next Muskoxen Cooperators meeting
25 comes up that there's someone from Koyuk invited. I can't
26 remember who came, if all, from Koyuk last -- at the last
27 meeting we had, but we'll make sure that's the case this
28 time.

29
30 CHAIR CROSS: Helga?

31
32 MR. NASSUK: Thank you, Ken.

33
34 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, you're welcome, Morris.

35
36 CHAIR CROSS: Can you make sure that our
37 new regional coordinator's aware of this so that she can
38 make contact -- he or she can make contact with Koyuk
39 regarding submitting a proposal?

40
41 MS. EAKON: Okay.

42
43 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. Okay. Are there
44 any other public testimony regarding this issue? I don't
45 see any hands.

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for question.

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. The question has been
50 called. All these -- are we amending the motion or.....

00253

1 MR. MENDENHALL: No.

2
3 CHAIR CROSS: The.....

4
5 MR. MENDENHALL: Because they'll be
6 giving.....

7
8 CHAIR CROSS: The resolution from the --
9 from both villages support trans- -- support elimination of
10 six permits.....

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: Oh, I see what you mean,
13 there's a.....

14
15 CHAIR CROSS: Yeah, with a modification of
16 trans.....

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL:conclusion on page
19 46. On page 46 the conclusion is to transfer four to six
20 federal permits, I think that's what it is.

21
22 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: Is that the recommendation
25 of staff?

26
27 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

30
31 CHAIR CROSS: So.....

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: And that's the
34 modification to 56.....

35
36 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL:so we need to modify
39 that to reflect the conclusion. I so move.....

40
41 CHAIR CROSS: With the modification.

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL:for modification.

44
45 MR. KOBUK: And I'll second it.

46
47 CHAIR CROSS: You -- he was originally the
48 one to second it, right?

49
50 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh. Yeah.

00254

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, -- yeah.

2
3 MS. DEGNAN: He was.

4
5 MR. BUCK: Question.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: Question.

8
9 CHAIR CROSS: The question has been called.
10 All these -- let me start over.

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: So that takes care of the
13 main motion. That makes it the main motion now.

14
15 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

18
19 CHAIR CROSS: All these -- all those in
20 favor of the resolution with the modification of
21 transferring six to four permits of federal -- six to four
22 of the federal permits into the state Tier II system,
23 signify by stating aye?

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed, same sign?

28
29 (No opposing votes.)

30
31 CHAIR CROSS: The motion passes. Okay.

32 Now we're on.....

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: Just a matter of record to
35 be for Native Village of Brevig, it says, one, two, three,
36 four, five, it says "muck ox".

37
38 MS. DEGNAN: Muck. Muck ox.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: So just make note of
41 change to muskox.

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: Yesterday it was m-u-x-k-o-x.

44
45 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Moving along, we'll
46 now be addressing Proposal 57, which is a proposal asking
47 for extension of ptarmigan hunting, extension of time, from
48 July 15th to July -- May 15th.

49
50 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move.

00255

1 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: We had a lot of discussion
4 on that last meeting.

5

6 CHAIR CROSS: Yeah, we had a lot of
7 discussion on this for the past two years I think on this
8 one.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: Now them little birds are
11 going to have pity.

12

13 MS. DEGNAN: Only if the grandmother's
14 around.

15

16 CHAIR CROSS: Donna?

17

18 MS. DEWHURST: It's Unit 22(E) ptarmigan.
19 It would be extending the season. The present season is
20 August 10th through April 30th. The new season will be
21 July 15th through May 15th. And in a nutshell, we have no
22 information to oppose this, so we support it. The -- both
23 local knowledge and what survey -- what few surveys we
24 have, basically all the information we have indicates a
25 healthy, thriving ptarmigan population in the area, so
26 based on that, we fully support the season extension.

27

28 CHAIR CROSS: Kate? Thank you.

29

30 MS. PERSONS: The state also supports this
31 proposal. Birds are protected during their nesting period.
32 It would primarily affect birds in close proximity to camps
33 and villages. It wouldn't really affect the over-all
34 population. There's no reason to oppose the proposal.

35

36 CHAIR CROSS: Other agency comments?

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: The National Park Service
39 supports.

40

41 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you, Ken. Helga?

42

43 MS. EAKON: No written public comments,
44 Madam Chair.

45

46 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for.....

47

48 CHAIR CROSS: Any.....

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: Question.

00256

1 CHAIR CROSS: Pardon?

2
3 MR. MENDENHALL: Question.

4
5 CHAIR CROSS: No. The question has been
6 called. All those in favor of Proposal 57, signify by
7 stating aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed, same sign.

12
13 (No opposing votes.)

14
15 CHAIR CROSS: Hearing nobody opposing, it's
16 passed. Okay. Proposal 1, statewide. All species,
17 establish a primitive hunt.

18
19 MR. MENDENHALL: 41?

20
21 MS. DEWHURST: One.

22
23 CHAIR CROSS: One.

24
25 MS. DEGNAN: On page 56.

26
27 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I move the.....

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: No, that -- no, it's been
30 withdrawn.

31
32 MS. DEGNAN: That one.

33
34 CHAIR CROSS: Donna?

35
36 MS. EAKON: No, but the -- Madam Chair,
37 this is Helga. Proposal 1, which would have established a
38 primitive hunt for all species statewide was withdrawn by
39 the originator, Ralph Lohse of Chitina. And he would like
40 his letter incorporated into the record, so please note,
41 Meredith, his letter as shown on -- following page 57.
42 Essentially he's saying, you know, I didn't mean to -- I
43 didn't mean to rattle anybody's case. The reason I
44 submitted this was because I want my family to be able to
45 hunt in those ways, and basically that's it.

46
47 [Dear Helga and all concerned, with all due
48 respect, and in answer to the concerns expressed, it will
49 be with great reluctance that I withdrew my proposal
50 without ever having the opportunity to speak to it. With

00257

1 that in mind, I would like you to circulate this letter to
2 those who expressed concern and attach it to my proposal.
3 If that can be done, I will withdraw my proposal out of
4 respect for those who have expressed the concerns I will
5 attempt to address.

6
7 This proposal was submitted with all due respect to
8 the past and the cultural heritage of all people who have
9 descended from hunter-gatherer ancestors. This includes
10 all of us Alaskans, native and non-native alike.

11
12 This proposal was not meant to imply that all
13 subsistence should be done with primitive methods and
14 means, nor as a limitation. Rather, it was intended to
15 extend the opportunity to young Alaskans to take a journey
16 back in time, and in so doing learn to appreciate the
17 skills and difficulties faced by the ancestors to whom they
18 owe their own existence.

19
20 This proposal is not about food, but like
21 subsistence and culture is more than that. This proposal
22 is about dreams, self-esteem, medicine journeys, and a
23 sense of accomplishment. It is about appreciation and
24 understanding of the past, and thankfulness for the
25 present. It's not even meant for old folks like myself and
26 most of you reading this letter, but for our children,
27 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

28
29 I am one of the lucky ones. I have lived and am
30 living my dreams. In my years in Alaska I've lived in the
31 bush where access was by airplane or snow machine only,
32 I've lived 45 miles out a seldom maintained McCarthy road,
33 and I've lived as part of a rural coastal community with
34 all its benefits of schools, church, stores, etc. Each
35 place has provided experiences to help me better understand
36 and appreciate the others.

37
38 I have run my traplines on foot, on snowshoes and
39 skis, with one dog pulling a toboggan, with a dog team, and
40 by snow machine. The fact that I have done it a harder way
41 gives me a sense of satisfaction and confidence and an
42 appreciation for what ancestors who had no easy way
43 accomplished. All of these methods of travel makes me
44 really appreciate the ease with which we now cover really
45 rough country and long distances in an airplane. Our young
46 people need that appreciation today, to do that they need a
47 context with which to compare it.

48
49 Having built cabins with only an axe makes me
50 appreciate the help of a chainsaw on others, or the ease

00258

1 and advantages of building a modern stick frame house.
2 Having pulled all the logs for a cabin with a team of dogs
3 makes me appreciate and be thankful for the semi-truck load
4 of building supplies coming within a quarter of a mile of
5 my current building site. The same as all those winters
6 with candles and kerosene lights gives me an understanding
7 of how dim and hard to come by light was in the past, and
8 helps me really appreciate pulling the starter cord on a
9 generator or turning on a light switch.

10
11 If you have no frame of reference, no connecting
12 experiences to the past, and no feel for how it was for
13 your ancestors, you may just take the present for granted
14 instead of being thankful for current advantages. You may
15 even become disconnected from the past, and discontented
16 and unthankful in the present. Our young people need to
17 know and experience what it was like for their ancestors in
18 order to appreciate those who walked this way before, and
19 to help them be confident, thankful people today.

20
21 My grandfather was a farmer and cabinet maker. I
22 have some of his and other old planes. I like to work with
23 wood and so have learned a little about using those tools.
24 I have no desire to limit myself to using them, but I do
25 have an appreciation of the skill it took to use them and
26 of the things that were built with them that I would never
27 have if I hadn't tried them. I've built dog sleds with
28 modern tools and nylon cord, but the one I built with a
29 handsaw and chisel and the one I tied with rawhide I made
30 myself does a lot more for making me appreciate the old
31 sleds I see in museums. This proposal would allow some
32 young person to develop that same appreciation of the
33 hunting skills of the past.

34
35 I have sons that are now 9, 11 and 13. When the
36 oldest was 11, I taught them how to use an axe and showed
37 them some real trees, six inches to 12 inches in diameter,
38 that needed cleared. Quite a number of trees later, both
39 their skill and self-confidence had advanced. After using
40 an axe and bow saw to cut some up for firewood, their
41 appreciation of a chainsaw increased considerably. This
42 was the same as being limited to rocks or sling shots for
43 grouse hunting. The grouse taken that way were much more
44 of an accomplishment for them, and helped them appreciate
45 the ease with which the same result could be accomplished
46 with a .22 rifle.

47
48 I like the old ways, I like studying them and
49 trying them, but I would never want to have to go back to
50 just them. Yet the tie to them is what makes me better

00259

1 appreciate what I have in the present. I feel we need an
2 understanding of the past that can only come from the
3 opportunity of hands-on experience, and not just looking at
4 it in a museum, to be confident, thankful people in the
5 present.

6
7 It is the same with this proposal. It was not
8 intended to limit, but to offer the opportunity to young
9 people, and old, who wanted to expend the effort to learn
10 and develop the skills, to be able to step back in time and
11 experience what their ancestors experienced.

12
13 This proposal was worked with the help of my young
14 sons, who in their youthful idealism took for granted it
15 would pass. They immediately started planning how they
16 could get the supplies and make the equipment so when they
17 got bigger they could participate. Their goal was a fall
18 mountain hunt, staying there until the snows drove them
19 down, like I had described to them as told me by Suzie
20 Brickel, an elder of Chitina who had lived in Taral. That
21 dream would have driven them to learn much and develop many
22 skills. I hope they do it anyway.

23
24 The amount of game taken under this proposal as
25 written is expected to be extremely little. This is more
26 like a journey to tie roots rather than a hunt. The
27 requirements are severe and not easy to accomplish on
28 purpose. The limitations on transportation of game or
29 hunter will definitely limit this to rural residents in
30 close proximity to their place of dwelling. Not using iron
31 or steel in any form means that it will not be a spur of
32 the moment decision to take an animal under its provisions.
33 If the health of our game populations can't take this
34 minimal increase in impact, then they definitely aren't
35 strong enough to consider using modern equipment.

36
37 Another question was how do you check for skill or
38 proficiency. At some point in time, we have to admit that
39 some small things are so indefinite as to be uncheckable.
40 This is one of them. The person who does the necessary
41 studying, learns from the elders, and develops the patience
42 and skill necessary to build and learn to use the equipment
43 of his ancestors, will have a better understanding of their
44 use and limitations than anyone else. Again, with the
45 requirements involved, only a really dedicated and
46 committed young person will be taking part. What an
47 incentive for growth and learning at many of the cultural
48 and spirit camps, and what an opportunity to demonstrate
49 the use of many of these old tools of subsistence this can
50 provide.

00260

1 Lastly, in answer to the question of whether or not
2 this could be used by anti-hunters as not being humane, to
3 those that by their own writing give the same value to a
4 boy as to a rat, and that's a native Alaska boy as well as
5 a non-native boy, and who make no secret of their ultimate
6 goal of eliminating all animal usage by anybody, it may be
7 used. The same as they are willing to use rural
8 subsistence and then native subsistence to eliminate other
9 users, to make the user group smaller and politically
10 weaker so they can eliminate them, too. They have a goal
11 and they are patient. The old adage of united we'll stand,
12 divided we'll fall applies to the use of animals for food
13 and subsistence also. We need to look with suspicion at
14 anyone who suggests dividing neighbors.

15
16 It reminds me of a quote by a Lutheran pastor in
17 Germany sitting in the death camp at Dachau. "When they
18 came for the Jews, I didn't say anything. I wasn't a Jew.
19 When they came for the Poles, I didn't say anything. I
20 wasn't a Pole. When they came for Catholics, I didn't say
21 anything. I wasn't Catholic. When they came for me, there
22 wasn't anyone left to say anything.

23
24 ANILCA and subsistence are about more than food or
25 access to game and fish. They are about an appreciation of
26 the past and a continuation of a rural lifestyle that could
27 be threatened in the future. It guarantees the opportunity
28 to experience and learn from that lifestyle is available to
29 all native and non-native people willing to forego, for a
30 limited time or a lifetime, the benefits of an urban
31 existence. For our mental, emotional, spiritual, and
32 physical health, we all need to know that, even if we don't
33 choose to participate. All our ancestors hunted with bow
34 and spear. I feel that this proposal would have extended
35 the possibility, for all who were willing to expend the
36 effort, to better understand and appreciate our past and
37 the past of their neighbors.]

38
39 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you, Helga. Moving
40 onto Proposal 41.

41
42 MS. DEWHURST: It should be Proposal 2.
43 It's missing out of your book, but it's on the agenda. I
44 just realized it's not in the book. Proposal 2.

45
46 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: Where?

49
50 MS. DEWHURST: It's not in your book.

00261

1 CHAIR CROSS: Moving on to Proposal 2.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: You don't have a copy of it.
4 I'll explain it though, it's real easy. So I don't know if
5 you need to make a motion to take that one up though.

6

7 CHAIR CROSS: But we don't know what the
8 proposal is.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: What's the title?

11

12 MS. DEWHURST: I'll -- it's a statewide
13 trapping proposal. I'll -- I can explain it if you'd make
14 a motion to take it up. It's an easy one. It's a no
15 brainer, believe me.....

16

17 MS. DEGNAN: I'll move.

18

19 MS. DEWHURST:but I guess we need
20 motion to take it up.

21

22 CHAIR CROSS: A move to the proposal that
23 she will explain. Is there a second to the motion --
24 proposal she'll explain.

25

26 MS. DOWNING: Who just made the motion?

27

28 MS. DEGNAN: I did, Frances Degnan.

29

30 CHAIR CROSS: Is there a second to the
31 motion that's going to be explained?

32

33 MR. ROOKOK: Second.

34

35 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Continue.

36

37 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. It's a statewide
38 proposal. It's involving, I think it's like 27 units? 25
39 units, 25 seasons across the state. All we were trying to
40 do was line up the federal with the state trapping seasons.
41 We realized there's a whole pile of discrepancies. There's
42 one for this area, and it's in Unit 22, wolf. The federal
43 season goes from November 1st through April 15th. We're
44 proposing to change it from November 1st to April 30th, add
45 15 days. All it does is line that up with the state. So
46 that's how it affects you. Basically that's it in a
47 nutshell. All the others are very similar, real minor
48 little changes, but that's the one that affects Unit 22, so
49 -- in this big statewide proposal.

50

00262

1 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move. Oh, wait a
2 minute who moved?

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, which one now?
5 Wolf?

6
7 MS. DEGNAN: It's been moved.

8
9 CHAIR CROSS: Excuse me. Just a minute.
10 Okay. Go ahead. It's already been moved. Does anybody
11 have any comments on this proposal? Anybody from this
12 audience? Helga, any written comments?

13
14 MS. EAKON: It's not in our book. Unh-unh.
15 No. I don't think so.

16
17 MS. DEWHURST: I don't think we received
18 any.

19
20 MS. EAKON: Yeah.

21
22 CHAIR CROSS: There's no comments, there's
23 no written comments, so.....

24
25 MR. MENDENHALL: This is housekeeping
26 basically.

27
28 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

29
30 MR. ROOKOK: Question then.

31
32 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. All those in favor of
33 the -- of aligning the trapping season of trapping seasons
34 with those of the state, signify by saying aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed, same sign?

39
40 (No opposing votes.)

41
42 CHAIR CROSS: Motion passes.

43
44 MS. DEWHURST: Now 41.

45
46 CHAIR CROSS: Now is that Proposal 41?

47
48 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

49
50 CHAIR CROSS: Donna?

00263

1 MS. DEWHURST: Do you need to take a motion
2 to take this one up?

3
4 MS. DEGNAN: Taking from a boat.

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move for Proposal 41
7 to be presented before the RAC.

8
9 CHAIR CROSS: Is there a second?

10
11 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

12
13 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. This is carry -- or a
14 cross-over proposal from the Y-K Delta. It's Unit 18. It
15 is a proposal to allow taking of caribou from a boat under
16 power in Unit 18. As far as the biology is concerned,
17 caribou are not in any -- the caribou populations are doing
18 pretty well right now in Unit 18, especially with the
19 Mulchatna herd moving -- now regularly visiting the Y-K
20 Delta. And the Mulchatna herd's another one of those big
21 healthy herds. The feeling is biologically there's no
22 reason to deny this proposal. And they do have a history
23 of doing this sort of thing. There is a c&t tracking for
24 it.

25
26 So basically the Office of Subsistence Management
27 is supporting it. We don't have a problem with it. Wait a
28 minute, I'm trying to find a copy. To support the proposal
29 to allow taking of caribou from a boat, a moving boat under
30 power in Unit 18.

31
32 MS. DEGNAN: Madam Chair, I just have a
33 question on process. Now, the regulations, I mean,
34 proposed regulations that we generate from here, are they
35 passed through the other councils, too?

36
37 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, they have to -- your
38 -- it's this -- because this is a cross over, and some of
39 the folks, like the villages of I think Stebbins and St.
40 Michaels have c&t to hunt in Unit 18, because of that cross
41 over, you are allowed to comment on. Generally the
42 strongest interest when it goes to the Board will be from
43 the home region, but the.....

44
45 MS. DEGNAN: And then.....

46
47 MS. DEWHURST:other affected regions
48 do have the.....

49
50 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

00264

1 MS. DEWHURST:opportunity to vote and
2 comment on the proposal.

3
4 MS. DEGNAN: Okay. Very good.

5
6 CHAIR CROSS: So it's -- in a sense they're
7 asking us to support.....

8
9 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

10
11 CHAIR CROSS:for our support.

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: Concurrence you mean.

14
15 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

16
17 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. And since you're the
18 affected person within -- by this proposal, do you have
19 anything to say?

20
21 MR. KOBUK: No, I don't have anything to
22 say, and this is the first time I -- I didn't quite go
23 through all of this when I received it, and -- I'm in
24 support of it, this proposal.

25
26 CHAIR CROSS: Perry?

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: This is practiced in other
29 regions, so I have no problem with it. Also 23, and maybe
30 even 22 at times.

31
32 MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

33
34 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

35
36 MR. KOBUK: I should also say since this is
37 the region, in Unit 18, I'll support it, because actually
38 it should be there. I don't want to make the rules for
39 them, so I'm for it.

40
41 CHAIR CROSS: Anything further?

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: Motion's been made? Call
44 for the question then.

45
46 CHAIR CROSS: The question has been called.
47 All these in favor of supporting this proposed regulation
48 signify by stating aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

00265

1 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed, same sign?

2

3 (No opposing votes.)

4

5 CHAIR CROSS: Motion carries.

6

7 MS. EAKON: For the record, Madam Chairman,
8 there were no public comments on this proposal.

9

10 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Thank you very much.
11 And I believe that concludes our statewide proposals.
12 Proposals period. Okay. Now we will go to regional
13 council application process, Helga Eakon. Which is in tab
14 I.

15

16 MS. EAKON: Tab I. I just wanted you to
17 know that the application process closed on February 11th,
18 and that the seats currently held by Elmer Seetot, Jr., and
19 Johnson Eningowuk, and Preston Rookok are becoming vacant
20 this fall, and the Secretary of Interior with the
21 concurrence of Secretary of Agriculture will make
22 appointments for those seats. Okay.

23

24 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you.

25

26 MS. EAKON: This is just an information
27 item.

28

29 CHAIR CROSS: In 8.D. I think I said
30 everything I had to say about high seas fishing. I have a
31 lot of information I'm going to have our -- when we new
32 coordinator, sent the regional advisory council members. I
33 had planned on bringing it, but I sent them to Kotzebue and
34 Barrow first, so just one copy came back to me. So I'll
35 have those disseminated to you. So I think that at this
36 point I have already expressed my concerns on this issue
37 while the proper federal people were here. So I'll go on
38 down to agency organization reports.

39

40 MS. EAKON: Excuse me, Madam Chair, you
41 skilled 8.C., review of regional council charter. You did
42 not do this at your last meeting because it was not -- I
43 guess it was not on our agenda, but your charters are
44 renewed every two years, because the Federal Advisory
45 Committee Act limits terms of advisory committees to two
46 years. And I want you to know that the items that your
47 regional council could recommend changing is, first off
48 all, a name change. If you want to change the name of your
49 regional council, you could make a recommendation. If you
50 want a boundary change, you could so recommend. If you

00266

1 want a change in the size of your regional council
2 membership, you could so recommend. And if you wanted to
3 change criteria for removing a member, you could so
4 recommend. And your charter is reproduced for you in full
5 under tab J.

6
7 MS. DEGNAN: Madam Chair?

8
9 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

10
11 MS. DEGNAN: On the last page of the
12 charter, removal of members, it says if a member misses two
13 consecutive regular scheduled meetings. That's without an
14 excuse I'm assuming?

15
16 MS. EAKON: What some of the regional
17 councils have done is to amend that paragraph to say two
18 excused, or.....

19
20 MS. DEGNAN: Unexcused.

21
22 MS. EAKON: Unexcused. What they have said
23 is if a council member appointed under paragraph nine
24 misses two unexcused consecutive regularly scheduled
25 meetings.

26
27 MS. DEGNAN: That's what I would like
28 to.....

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: Add?

31
32 MS. DEGNAN:add, amend that section,
33 too.....

34
35 MS. EAKON: Okay.

36
37 MS. DEGNAN:to be misses two
38 unexcused consecutive.....

39
40 MS. EAKON: Okay.

41
42 MS. DEGNAN:because we've had some
43 members have to be excused because of their inability, not
44 by their choice, but the planes can't pick them up.

45
46 MS. EAKON: Uh-huh.

47
48 CHAIR CROSS: And there's two that we
49 really need to contact, because of the phone difficulty.
50 We were not able to -- they were either not able to call in

00267

1 and we were not able to reach them. So we want to make
2 sure that they're not marked unexcused, and I didn't state
3 so anyway, so -- yes, we would rec- -- I agree with you,
4 we'll add two unexcused -- the word unexcused to removal of
5 chairs.

6
7 MS. EAKON: Okay. And the process is this
8 fall when the Federal Subsistence Board reviews the -- all
9 ten regional council charters, they will -- this will be
10 presented to them, and more than likely since there is a
11 precedent, they'll go ahead and accept it, that addition.
12 Okay?

13
14 CHAIR CROSS: Now, can we add, I'm not
15 being serious now, members and alternates of the council
16 will receive no compensation of members under -- although
17 under protest? I'm only kidding.

18
19 MS. EAKON: And so that would take a
20 motion, Madam Chair.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: I so move.

23
24 MS. DEGNAN: Second.

25
26 MR. BUCK: Question.

27
28 CHAIR CROSS: A motion has been -- well,
29 anyway, all those in favor of the motion signify by stating
30 aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed, same sign.

35
36 (No opposing votes.)

37
38 CHAIR CROSS: Motion carries. And that is
39 to add unexcused to.....

40
41 MS. DEGNAN: Two consecutive.

42
43 CHAIR CROSS: Two consecutive regularly
44 scheduled meeting. Okay. Where were we now?

45
46 MS. EAKON: Agency reports.

47
48 MR. KOBUK: Bering Sea.

49
50 CHAIR CROSS: Agency reports.

00268

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Could we have a break?

2
3 CHAIR CROSS: Sure.

4
5 (Off record - 2:50 p.m.)

6
7 (On record - 2:56 p.m.)

8
9 CHAIR CROSS: We are now back on the
10 record. It is 2:56 p.m. We are now in the agency reports
11 U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence
12 Management.

13
14 MS. EAKON: There's only one blurb there
15 under tab K that would affect Alaska trappers, fur buyers
16 and other fur exporters. And in this particular region it
17 affects only that portion of the Yukon Delta National
18 Wildlife Refuge in Leonard Kobuk's area, that little
19 portion that's within our region, Madam Chair.

20
21 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh. Are there any
22 questions for Helga? Any comments or questions for Helga?

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: That might impact
25 Shishmaref, because they've got a fur tannery for.....

26
27 MS. EAKON: No, this only affects the
28 national wildlife refuges, and Shishmaref is surrounded by
29 park lands. This is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife bulletin, and
30 their only jurisdiction is the refuges in this region. And
31 as I said, there's just a little portion down by Leonard
32 Kobuk's home town.

33
34 CHAIR CROSS: And it's just for
35 requirements for exporting commercial fur shipments from
36 Alaska through Canada?

37
38 MS. EAKON: Yes.

39
40 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Anybody else from U.S.
41 Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence
42 Management?

43
44 MS. EAKON: No, Madam Chair.

45
46 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. National Park Service,
47 Ken Adkisson.

48
49 MR. ADKISSON: No, ma'am, we don't have any
50 reports.

00269

1 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. BLM, Jeanie Cool
2 -- Cole. I keep wanting to call you Cool. Cole.

3
4 MS. COLE: Jeanie Cole, Bureau of Land
5 Management from the northern field office in Fairbanks.
6 Jeff Denton also normally attends these meetings. He's
7 from the Anchorage field office, and he was unable to
8 attend this time as he had a conflict with the Western
9 Interior RAC meeting.

10
11 I just wanted to mention a couple things. BLM's
12 going to be assisting Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
13 the Seward Peninsula muskox survey in March. We'll also be
14 doing utilization on two or three grazing allotments on the
15 Seward Peninsula this summer. Probably Jimmy Noyukuk and
16 Roger Menaluk, I'm not sure if I pronounced those right.

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: Menaluk.

19
20 MS. COLE: Menaluk?

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

23
24 MS. COLE: And as far as fisheries goes,
25 our fisheries biologist, Joe Webb, is retiring in April.
26 He's the fisheries biologist that's assigned to the
27 northwest area. Right now we're working on a job
28 description for his job. We're planning on replacing him,
29 and we're hoping to have that position located in Nome. So
30 hopefully within the next year at the most we'll be hiring
31 another fisheries biologist and have him stationed in Nome.
32 And that's all I have to report, unless anybody has any
33 questions.

34
35 CHAIR CROSS: Hearing no questions, let's
36 go on to Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Kate Persons
37 and Charlie Lean.

38
39 MS. PERSONS: Okay. I just have a couple
40 things to share with you. I've got a handout here that
41 describes the changes to the hunting regulations on state
42 lands what were adopted by the Board of Game just last
43 fall, if you would pass those around. And I'll just run
44 through them very briefly.

45
46 First of all, there's going to be a permanent open
47 season for caribou hunting in a portion of 22(D), and
48 here's a map showing that area that now will be permanently
49 opened to caribou hunting. And as was discussed earlier,
50 now on state-managed lands it is legal to use a snow

00270

1 machine in Unit 22 to position caribou.

2

3 MR. MAGDANZ: As of July 1st.

4

5 MS. PERSONS: As -- all of these
6 regulations go into effect the first of July. Thanks, Jim.
7 Although the one I must mentioned about the hunting area
8 for caribou, that currently is open by emergency order, but
9 there won't be any more emergency orders in that area. It
10 will just be permanently open.

11

12 As far as moose, starting this fall there will be a
13 registration hunt for up to 20 antlerless moose in 22(C),
14 in the Nome area. And that's an attempt to prevent the
15 population from getting too large in 22(C). There's very
16 good moose productivity in 22(C) right now, and we're
17 concerned that they might overbrowse their habitat if we
18 let the population continue to grow.

19

20 We already talked about the changes to the moose
21 seasons in 22(B). I'm not going to go into that.

22

23 And then in 22(D), we aligned the nonresident moose
24 season with that in western 22(B) so that there's only one
25 month for nonresidents to hunt moose in 22(D). That's the
26 month of September.

27

28 And with brown bear, unit-wide we eliminated the
29 need for a \$25 tag fee for residents. And in 22(B) and (C)
30 we increased the number of nonresident permits from, what
31 was it, from 20 to 27, and in (D) and (E) from five to
32 eight.

33

34 I'll just mention, as Jeanie mentioned, next week,
35 starting next Monday, the Department and BLM will be
36 conducting a census of moose in 22(A). We're going to be
37 operating here out of Unalakleet for about a week, and
38 we're going to be looking at the moose population in 22(A).

39

40 And then the middle of March we'll be doing a
41 cooperative muskox census, and that's with Park Service and
42 BLM. And we'll be looking all over the entire Seward
43 Peninsula. And then following that census at some point
44 that is yet to be determined, we will be holding a Muskox
45 Cooperators meeting and discussing all aspects of muskox
46 hunting on the Seward Peninsula, creating new hunt areas,
47 harvest rate, changing the harvest rate, maybe -- whatever.
48 Whatever is on people's minds as far as hunting muskoxen,
49 and we'll keep you posted on when that meeting will be.

50

00271

1 And then finally just kind of interesting, we have
2 a bunch of satellite collars on Western Arctic herd
3 caribou, and we've been monitoring their locations. Got a
4 couple of maps here that were as of last Friday. And the
5 interesting thing is that for the last couple months these
6 animals have been pretty much stationary. You know, they
7 get some place where the food is good, snow is deep. You
8 know, it's not that easy to move around, and they just stay
9 in one small area. But last week there was a movement of a
10 collar from the Granite Mountain area down towards this
11 way, towards the north part of the Nulato Hills, and I
12 thought people would be interested in seeing that, so you
13 can pass these maps around. That's all I have.

14
15 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. Charlie?

16
17 MR. LEAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
18 wanted to say that I have a season summary in the booklet.
19 I put that there for people's information. I didn't really
20 plan to talk to it, but if you have questions, I could
21 speak on that.

22
23 I have Fred DeCicco's report before me, and I'd
24 point out -- it took me a moment to figure it out, so I
25 thought I'd better, just in case you're about like I am on
26 speed here, that on the first page there, there's two
27 tables that look nearly the same, and it's sport fish
28 harvest by estimate -- sport fish estimates and sport fish
29 catch estimates. And if you subtract the difference from
30 those two tables, you'll know how many were released. So
31 this is catch and release information that you might be
32 interested in, as well as those that were outright
33 harvested for use. So there.....

34
35 I would also like to inform the advisory council of
36 the Board of Fisheries meeting that will occur next
37 December in Bethel. And the deadline for proposing the
38 regulation changes is April 10, so if you have something
39 you'd like to bring up before the State Board, it would be
40 a way to put something in maybe on commercial or sport use
41 that you feel is important in fisheries management. I
42 could see that there might be something that would
43 interline with your subsistence responsibilities that would
44 -- might be useful that way. And if -- I could offer my
45 help if you -- if anyone has something they need to get in
46 there in a proper form.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: On the -- since you manage
49 Nome Tier II, there's a government task force that's been
50 working to help resolve that chum crash.

00272

1 MR. LEAN: Yes.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Is there anything that is
4 in here?

5

6 MR. LEAN: One of my handouts, there's just
7 -- since you bring it up, there was -- the government, U.S.
8 Congress appropriated a \$15 million package over five years
9 for relief. Ten million of the 15 is for relief, five
10 million of the 15 is for research. I have a handout, some
11 of you may have picked it up. I see there's not as many as
12 there were. If you could stick that down.

13

14 What I'm handing out now is a description of
15 proposed projects that we had to produce on less than a
16 week's notice for Senator Stevens' Office, and we -- these
17 are the briefly worded language for how we might spend five
18 million over five years. And Kawerak was involved in this.
19 Sitnasuak was involved in this. And Fish and Game, of
20 course. So we put our heads together and this was what
21 came out of those -- a series of two meetings. You will
22 note that this language is pretty vague. It could be
23 massaged into more than one shape. And I've been directed
24 to see that we have a steering committee to address, you
25 know, a more final project design than this once the
26 money's in hand, should that occur sometime next fall. So
27 we're looking at another round of meetings and steering
28 committees to address and more formally flesh out these
29 ideas. So if you see something there that you don't
30 think's quite right or totally wrong, let us know. We can
31 try to make it right. It will be a consensus sort of
32 thing, not just Fish and Game. And, anyway, I have that
33 there for your information. I hope everybody looks at
34 that, and I think this is a good opportunity for us to
35 address some of those issues that you spoke of yesterday.

36

37 CHAIR CROSS: And the contact person would
38 be you?

39

40 MR. LEAN: I think so. The City of Nome,
41 Sitnasuak, and Kawerak, as well as Fish and Game have all
42 kind of bought into the working group here. If anyone else
43 wants to be in it, they should let me know so that we could
44 get them on the list as well.

45

46 I also had an agenda, this is a tentative agenda,
47 subject to change. It's -- we have an annual spring staff
48 meeting, my office does with my regional supervisors. The
49 -- I put this out not because we have money to take anyone
50 to Anchorage to attend, but this is where we plan the nuts

00273

1 and bolts for the coming season in management and then
2 project operations. So if you think we're missing
3 something that -- a subsistence concern that needs to be
4 addressed more fully or something, this is where we plan
5 how to do our management, and to put information together
6 for the coming season so that we can do our job well.
7 We've invited quite a list of people you'll see on the
8 front cover there, and that actually is -- there's a couple
9 more people that aren't on there that have received a copy
10 of this, and now all of you have. So again this is kind of
11 a -- trying to put the process out in front of people so
12 they know where we are, now we do things. But this is a
13 relatively technical meeting on how to collect data and do
14 management.

15
16 So that's it, roughly everything in a real tight
17 nutshell. I hope if there's any questions, and you can ask
18 me later or if they come up later, maybe you could call me
19 at my work. I have a toll free numbers, it's good for Kate
20 as well. It's 1-800-560-2271.

21
22 CHAIR CROSS: Before you go, I have a quick
23 question for Perry. On the Norton Sound salmon research
24 initiative, are you involved in that or.....

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: On this? No, Robby was
27 appointed by the Governor, although we're actively
28 represented, Sitnasuak (ph), Louie Green, Jr. and I were
29 bypassed, but it's okay. The same organization and we get
30 feedback.

31
32 CHAIR CROSS: I wouldn't mind getting an
33 invitation just to observed.

34
35 MR. LEAN: Okay.

36
37 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. There's.....

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: Because they have limited
40 time and money, that's why.

41
42 CHAIR CROSS: Mr. Ivanoff?

43
44 MR. IVANOFF: Yes, concerning, Charlie,
45 we've had a couple meetings here in Unalakleet to talk
46 about the location of a counting tower that's up at North
47 River, and we really don't feel it's representative of the
48 salmon that are passing through. We have different
49 tributaries, the South River, North River, as well as the
50 main river that all the salmon travel in. I don't know, I

00274

1 think you've heard these concerns before, but I think we
2 need to take a look at it cooperatively from the village
3 side as well as your staff's side on where to put that
4 tower so it would be representative of an accurate count of
5 salmon escaping. And I know you've heard this before.
6 We.....

7
8 MR. MENDENHALL: I know you've got to
9 have.....

10
11 MR. IVANOFF:if we could work
12 together, I believe we'd come to grips on it. Kawerak's
13 involved with it also. The counting tower is something
14 that we could work with you on.

15
16 MR. LEAN: Yeah. I'll give you a call
17 sometime soon.

18
19 MR. IVANOFF: Pardon?

20
21 MR. LEAN: I'll give you a call sometime
22 soon this, that we want to set up a meeting.

23
24 MR. IVANOFF: Sure.

25
26 MR. LEAN: The tower is Kawerak's. They
27 are the primary operator. We're more of a consultant on
28 that, but I.....

29
30 MR. IVANOFF: Okay.

31
32 MR. LEAN:we certainly have been put
33 on -- where it should be, so.....

34
35 MR. IVANOFF: Okay.

36
37 CHAIR CROSS: Anything further, Charlie?

38
39 MR LEAN: No.

40
41 CHAIR CROSS: Any questions for Charlie?

42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: I'll probably get with
45 them to probably help them with some of that federal funds.

46
47 MR. MAGDANZ: Madam Chair, Jim Magdanz with
48 Fish and Game, Subsistence. I just wanted to briefly
49 outline the projects that our division is doing. There are
50 two people that work northwest issues, Susan Georgette and

00275

1 myself. We're both based in Kotzebue, but we travel back
2 and forth Susan directs the salmon survey, the people that
3 come around in the fall and ask you how many salmon you
4 caught, and then we send out a flyer in the spring. We
5 just a week ago got preliminary results on that, but I
6 haven't seen them. And you should expect to see a summary
7 of that usually in May, if not late April.

8
9 There's also -- Susan is writing up waterfowl
10 surveys for the Bering Straits and NANA regions. Over the
11 last four or five years we've done waterfowl surveys in
12 many of the communities like Shaktoolik and Koyuk, and
13 other communities in Norton Sound and to the north.
14 They'll be all summarized now in a single report.

15
16 Susan and Kate have also been involved last year in
17 some big game harvest surveys. Last year you did Koyuk
18 and.....

19
20 MS. PERSONS: Shaktoolik.

21
22 MR. MAGDANZ:Shaktoolik. This year
23 we're still in the process of working with Kawerak and
24 communities to select communities for surveys in this
25 region, but we expect to survey three communities for big
26 game harvest in Unit 22. As we expected in these surveys,
27 we're documenting much more thoroughly the levels of
28 harvest. Harvest reporting systems, the little green cards
29 for moose and the little yellow cards for caribou have not
30 been very effective in documenting harvest, and the survey
31 method is much more so. We feel we have a much better
32 handle on moose harvest and caribou harvest and bear
33 harvest and wolf harvest and wolverine harvest in these
34 communities than we've ever had before. And we think
35 that's going to continue. And already that's been put into
36 effect on the state side where the state's determination of
37 the amount of moose necessary for Unit 22 had been 100 to
38 150 moose. The Board revisited that in October and raised
39 it to 300 to 350 moose. And that means that if there's a
40 shortage of moose, the subsistence priority kicks in three
41 times faster than it would have had a year ago. So that's
42 a real important application of that survey research.

43
44 Finally, there are two projects that I have been
45 working on recently. One of them is a cooperative project
46 supported by the Park Service and the Northwest Arctic
47 Rural School District to develop a multi-media CD ROM
48 project for use in schools and the Park Service visitors
49 center called Science in Our Lives, culturally relevant
50 science for students.

00276

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Is that with the old
2 pictures?

3
4 MR. MAGDANZ: Pardon?

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: Was that with the very
7 old, old 1912 pictures?

8
9 MR. MAGDANZ: There are -- there's one
10 early version of that does have some very old pictures in
11 it. There's a more recent version that has a lot more
12 Inupiak content in it, where elders on tape are talking
13 about different species.

14
15 And, finally, I'm getting just started an oral
16 history project to document the areas that people on the
17 upper Kobuk River used for subsistence during the 20th
18 century by interviewing a relatively small number of elders
19 in great depth about their relationship with lands. It's
20 kind of a cooperative project with the elders themselves.
21 They're self-directing the interviews. We're hoping to
22 better understand how those lands have been used, because
23 we have an increasing level of nonlocal use of those lands,
24 and we want to address some of the conflicts that that's
25 creating. And our approach is to go to the very foundation
26 and understand how the elders see those lands, and what
27 impact these changes on use and land status are having on
28 their lives.

29
30 So, Madam Chair, that's my summary of our efforts.

31
32 MR. KOBUK: Question. One will be for
33 Kate, because I talked to her earlier about it, concerning
34 the moose. Since caribou haven't coming down this year,
35 there's been a lot of moose harvest in the St. Michael and
36 Stebbins villages, harvesting moose. And I've gotten a few
37 complaints from a few residents about some female moose
38 getting -- being caught, and my concern is, I've her, that
39 I'd like a survey done on the moose, because my concern is
40 that they're killing too many of the female moose, we're
41 going to have a problem with our moose population.

42
43 And my other concern, too, I wanted to ask him a
44 question about the birds. Why is our bird count in St.
45 Michael and Stebbins done by the Yukon when we belong to
46 the Norton Sound region? Because I've been asked that
47 question by the residents of St. Michael.

48
49 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, I think I'd probably
50 have to pitch that to Fish and Wildlife, because I don't

00277

1 think the state is doing bird counts there. I suspect it's
2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

3

4 MS. DEGNAN: It's probably the refuge.

5

6 MR. MAGDANZ: Off the refuge.

7

8 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, yeah, it's a
9 national, Mexican, and whatever, Russian, and that kind of
10 an agreement that they had years ago, that core (ph) kind
11 of let Yukon Flats -- I mean, Yukon-Kusko handle, because
12 it was basically their river, that they were -- I mean,
13 that Delta, the Yukon Delta was.....

14

15 MR. KOBUK: According to this refuge deal,
16 we're -- part of it is not even in the Yukon Delta National
17 Wildlife Refuge. We do our hunting right around Steamboats
18 area and some do go to Píkmíktalik, but it's mostly around
19 -- Stebbins people go in that area of Píkmíktalik and I
20 don't know how they say this other name, N-o-r -- N-o-k-r-
21 o-k, in that area. But we mostly do our hunting where it's
22 white, where white geese, and ducks. They were just
23 wondering why our bird count is done by that Yukon instead
24 of the Norton Sound. So that was just my question.....

25

26 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah.

27

28 MR. KOBUK:since he mentioned birds.

29

30 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, I think it's the way
31 Fish and Wildlife is organized, and not the state. When we
32 do waterfowl surveys, we're asking about harvest. Is
33 Stebbins being surveyed for harvest information or are they
34 counting the birds?

35

36 MR. KOBUK: Yeah, that's for catching
37 birds, like, you know, all kinds of birds, like snow geese,
38 swans, ducks, geese, whatever.

39

40 MR. MAGDANZ: Okay. So they're asking you
41 about harvest?

42

43 MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

44

45 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah. All right. I can ask
46 Fish and Wildlife Service about that, but I know the Yukon
47 Delta has long had this project to document harvest, and it
48 sounds like they've extended it to Stebbins and St.
49 Michaels. I wasn't aware that they'd done that, but it
50 does sound like that's what they've done.

00278

1 MR. KOBUK: Well, it's just that some of
2 the residents were wondering why since we belong to the
3 Norton Sound region, why it's not done within the Norton
4 Sound.

5
6 MR. MAGDANZ: Uh-huh. Again, Fish and
7 Wildlife's organization would be my.....

8
9 MR. KOBUK: Okay.

10
11 MR. MAGDANZ:my answer. We work
12 within Norton Sound, and I think we did actually do one
13 survey in Stebbins about three years ago on waterfowl.

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: Kawerak is also involved.
16 You need to probably find somebody from your Kawerak Board.

17
18 MR. KOBUK: Well, I think that's what the
19 residents wanted was Kawerak to be the one that -- instead
20 of being done in the -- with the Yukon.

21
22 MR. MAGDANZ: Uh-huh. Well, Kawerak's
23 definitely set up to do that, and they've been doing it in
24 a number of communities.

25
26 MR. MENDENHALL: A long time. For a long
27 time, yeah.

28
29 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah.

30
31 MR. MENDENHALL: With Y-K Delta.

32
33 MR. KOBUK: Oh, okay. With Y-K. Okay. I
34 just asked.....

35
36 CHAIR CROSS: It sounds like.....

37
38 MR. KOBUK:that question 'cause I was
39 asked that, too.

40
41 CHAIR CROSS: It sounds like we need to
42 find out which organization is doing it, and get -- and
43 have them contact Leonard so they can get answers.

44
45 MR. MAGDANZ: Did Tom leave?

46
47 MS. EAKON: Yeah, Tom left. Did you place
48 a book mark? We can work together on this.

49
50 MR. MAGDANZ: Okay.

00279

1 MS. EAKON: Okay?

2
3 MR. MAGDANZ: Okay.

4
5 MS. EAKON: Before we leave the State,
6 Madam Chair, going back to the spring staff meeting that
7 Charlie Lean referred to, our office is going to fund the
8 travel for the regional council chairs to attend those
9 preseason management meetings. And that's what I had told
10 you in the e-mail that you couldn't open.

11
12 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

13
14 MS. EAKON: Okay.

15
16 CHAIR CROSS: Now I know.

17
18 MS. EAKON: So I just wanted you to know,
19 okay?

20
21 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. I'll get with you on
22 it later.

23
24 MS. EAKON: Okay.

25
26 CHAIR CROSS: Anything further? Thank you.
27 We'll be looking forward to all the new statistical
28 information, and all of you have always been great helps
29 within our region, and we really appreciate that. And
30 Charlie's statistics and all the technical assistance and
31 whatnot he's given us, we really appreciate that. I'm glad
32 we work well together. Anything further from the State?

33
34 MR. LEAN: No.

35
36 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you. Okay. Are there
37 any other reports from anybody? Well, I don't see anybody
38 frantically waiving their arms, so we'll move on to section
39 8.F., call for proposals to change federal subsistence
40 fisheries regulations.

41
42 MS. EAKON: You do have under tab L the
43 schedule. The call for proposals ends on March 27. And
44 just as a reminder to Leonard Kobuk, at the last meeting
45 you had wanted to have St. Michaels have a c&t for Yukon
46 River fall chum. Mary McBurney will help you wordsmith
47 that. It should be real -- relatively simple. I mentioned
48 it to you a while ago.

49
50 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes.

00280

1 MS. EAKON: Okay.

2

3 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes, I know. We just got
4 word that our flight is either here or going to be here in
5 just a matter of minutes.

6

7 MR. MENDENHALL: So we need to chug-a-lug.

8

9 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. Are there any new
10 business? Hearing.....

11

12 MR. BUCK: On the proposal guidelines,
13 proposed regulations, and on the schedule, I'd like to see
14 discussed the possibilities of our regional council meeting
15 yearly to get together with all of the regional councils.

16

17 MS. DEGNAN: Statewide.

18

19 MR. BUCK: Statewide.

20

21 CHAIR CROSS: Well, what we can do is we
22 can -- on our annual report, we can add that on and make it
23 a recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board. We can
24 add that to our annual report.

25

26 We're now down to 8.H., time and place of the next
27 meeting.

28

29 MS. EAKON: Here's the fall calendar, if
30 you'll pass them.....

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: It's in the back of the
33 tab M.

34

35 MS. DEGNAN: Tab M.

36

37 MS. EAKON: Yeah. Well, this new calendar
38 shows that North Slope is going to be meeting September 12
39 and September 13, and it shows the AFN convention meeting.

40

41 MS. DEGNAN: When is that?

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: It's right here.

44

45 MS. EAKON: October 19, 20, 21.

46

47 MS. DEGNAN: And then our BSMC annual
48 meeting.....

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: Who?

00281

1 MS. DEGNAN: Bering Straits annual meeting
2 is.....

3
4 MR. MENDENHALL: Right here?

5
6 MS. EAKON: Where?

7
8 MS. DEGNAN: Probably the -- it's a
9 Saturday, and then we usually meet the day before.

10
11 CHAIR CROSS: Could you talk louder so the
12 rest of us can hear? What was that?

13
14 MS. DEGNAN: Me?

15
16 CHAIR CROSS: Yeah.

17
18 MS. DEGNAN: I'm pretty sure our regional
19 corporation is meeting October 7th, which some of us are
20 members of. I know I'll have a conflict. So six and --
21 October 6 and 7 are out for me.

22
23 CHAIR CROSS: And I don't think we should
24 meet so close to AFN convention, because people are going
25 to be holding meetings and getting ready for that. It
26 would make kind of sense to me maybe perhaps we should be
27 looking at the last week of September.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: The last week of
30 September?

31
32 CHAIR CROSS: Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: Looks good.

35
36 CHAIR CROSS: So we just need to pick up
37 the days. And I -- what are the days on these, you know?
38 I imagine they're Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
39 Friday, Saturday, Sunday?

40
41 MS. EAKON: Yes. Uh-huh.

42
43 CHAIR CROSS: Or is it -- yeah, you're
44 starting with Monday?

45
46 MS. EAKON: Or Sunday, Monday, Tuesday,
47 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. You start with Sunday, so the
48 following block will be Monday.

49
50 CHAIR CROSS: Okay. So September 24th is

00282

1 Sunday, September 30th is the.....

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: Saturday.

4

5 CHAIR CROSS:Saturday. Maybe if we
6 begin on the first -- well, begin from the very first day
7 of the week.

8

9 MS. EAKON: If you reserve that day for
10 travel, it's better. That way you could make allowances
11 and then -- it's better to start on a Tuesday. Or.....

12

13 MS. DOWNING: Excuse me, folks, there is a
14 meeting still going on.

15

16 MR. MENDENHALL: Weaver.

17

18 MR. IVANOFF: I'm sorry.

19

20 CHAIR CROSS: So how about travel on
21 September 25th, which is a Monday.....

22

23 MS. EAKON: Yes.

24

25 CHAIR CROSS:and have the meeting on
26 the 26th and 27th?

27

28 MS. EAKON: Yes.

29

30 MS. DEGNAN: Nine to five?

31

32 CHAIR CROSS: Yeah, nine to five. And we
33 just need to pick up a place if those dates are agreeable
34 to the rest of the RAC? Agreeable? I don't hear any
35 objections, so where do we meet?

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: You can meet in Nome if
38 you want to.

39

40 CHAIR CROSS: I think that due to the last
41 two problems, we might want to try to meet in Nome and
42 that's my recommendation.

43

44 MS. DEGNAN: How about Koyuk.

45

46 MR. BUCK: It's easier to be in Nome.

47

48 MR. MENDENHALL: Would Koyuk be able to
49 handle all of us? You saw how many people are here.

50

00283

1 CHAIR CROSS: But he said it would be
2 easier.

3
4 MR. KOBUK: How about housing.

5
6 MR. BUCK: If you could find
7 accommodations.

8
9 CHAIR CROSS: Well, he said it -- you say
10 it would be easier in Nome?

11
12 MR. BUCK: For me it would, I don't know
13 about the rest of you, but.....

14
15 MS. DEGNAN: And easier for Preston.

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: How about your Fish River
18 Lodge?

19
20 MR. BUCK: That is the school district
21 leasing it.

22
23 CHAIR CROSS: Why don't we for -- just say
24 we'll have it in Nome?

25
26 MR. ROOKOK: Okay.

27
28 CHAIR CROSS: In Nome.

29
30 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

31
32 MR. MENDENHALL: Last resort, you have it
33 in Nome.

34
35 MR. BUCK: And consider Koyuk on
36 (indiscernible).

37
38 CHAIR CROSS: For the winter meeting.
39 Okay. Where are we?

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: Just for the sake of -- in
42 case there's problems, then the last resort could be Nome,
43 because Nome is pretty much free during that last week.

44
45 CHAIR CROSS: In Nome.

46
47 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah.

48
49 CHAIR CROSS: We'll just make sure that we
50 have the meeting then. Okay. Is there a motion for

00284

1 adjournment?

2
3 MR. BUCK: So move.

4
5 CHAIR CROSS: Is there a second?

6
7 MR. KOBUK: I'll second.

8
9 CHAIR CROSS: Any objections?

10
11 MS. DEGNAN: I just want to thank you all
12 for coming to Unalakleet.

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL: We're not done.

15
16 CHAIR CROSS: Yes. Well, thank you
17 everybody that's remained.

18
19 MR. ROOKOK: Maybe for the record I want to
20 restate my -- what I said earlier. I would appreciate it
21 if the RAC members, we don't rush. And I would appreciate
22 if the federal people and the important people that are
23 here come to a RAC meeting not to rush out the door because
24 of -- I can understand they have to work tomorrow, but we
25 shouldn't be rushing around when we're dealing with these
26 issues that we have presented to us today. I want.....

27
28 CHAIR CROSS: And.....

29
30 MR. ROOKOK:that to be reflected in
31 the minutes of the next RAC meeting.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: I don't think that was a
34 problem today. It looks like most of the people are gone
35 on the management.

36
37 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

38
39 MR. ROOKOK: But we could have -- yeah, but
40 I just want it to reflect on the minutes next meeting.
41 That way we are -- if we pass the minutes next meeting,
42 those major players like the management, federal people
43 hopefully understand.

44
45 CHAIR CROSS: Thank you, Preston. There's
46 a motion for.....

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: I have no problem with
49 that.....

50

00285

1 CHAIR CROSS: There's a motion on the.....

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL:because we're within
4 the.....

5

6 CHAIR CROSS:floor, is there.....

7

8 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, second.

9

10 CHAIR CROSS:is there question?

11

12 MR. MENDENHALL: 'cause we're within
13 the timeline.

14

15 MS. DEGNAN: Question.

16

17 CHAIR CROSS: Should we vote on the motion
18 now to adjourn? All those in favor, signify stating aye?

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 CHAIR CROSS: All those opposed, same sign?

23

24 (No opposing votes.)

25

26 MR. BUCK: Oh, he had his.....

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: He wanted to say something
29 over here from Koyuk.

30

31 CHAIR CROSS: Okay.

32

33 MR. ANASOGAK: I thank you for allowing us
34 to present our concerns and share some statements that
35 we've brought from our fellow subsistence users in Koyuk.

36

37 Now, I'm wondering if it's possible that when you
38 have all your minutes transcribed, are they mailed to all
39 the villages that you serve?

40

41 MS. EAKON: They are mailed to the City of
42 Koyuk, the IRA council, and your corporation.

43

44 MR. ANASOGAK: Okay. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIR CROSS: Well, thank you for coming in
47 and testifying, and thank you for your patience. The
48 meeting is now adjourned at 3:30.

49

50 (Off record - 3:30 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3
4
5
6

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
8 the State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 130 through 285
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME
13 II, SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
14 PUBLIC MEETING, taken electronically by Meredith Downing on
15 the 23rd day of February, 2000, beginning at the hour of
16 2:20 o'clock p.m. at Katimavik, Unalakleet, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
19 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
20 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to
21 the best of our knowledge and ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
24 interested in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of March,
27 2000.

28
29
30
31
32 _____
33 Joseph P. Kolasinski
34 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00