

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8
9 Northwest Arctic Borough Chambers
10 Kotzebue, Alaska
11 March 6, 2013
12 9:00 a.m.

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14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Victor Karmun, Chairman
18 Percy Ballot
19 Verne Cleveland
20 Michael Kramer
21 Hannah Loon
22 Calvin Moto
23 Raymond Stoney

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27 Regional Council Coordinator, Helen Armstrong (Acting)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 3/6/2013)

(On record)

VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Let's bring this meeting to order. Can we establish a quorum.

(No comment)

VICE CHAIR KARMUN: No response, we'll just take it for granted we are a quorum.

Good morning. We have somebody on line, we'll let them take the lead role this morning. Go ahead.

MS. BEHE: Okay. Thank you, everybody, for letting me join you, I'm sorry I couldn't be there in person. I believe that I sent everybody information about the food security project that ICC is engaged in. And I was just asked to share a little bit more information with you about it.

ICC in light of the amount of assessments that are taking place within the Arctic and the amount of interest from industry and environmentalists and academics, believe that it would be better suited to look at assessment through a food security plan because that's how the Inuit culture looks at it. And when we say Inuit in this country we're referring to the Inupiat, the St. Lawrence Island Yup'ik, the central Yup'ik and the Chuprik (ph). And so this project engaged in developing a tool to -- of how to do assessments and how to define food security. Because food security within these cultures is quite different than in the rest of the world. And so part of this project is that we have been visiting 16 villages throughout the four regions that we represent. And in those 16 villages we've come to realize that the definition of food security encompasses everything from both physical and mental health to the well being of the environment and really looks at people as being part of that environment.

The next thing that we have to do is identify what causes insecurities from the Inuit perspective. And that's the information I've been gathering from the villages that I visit. After that

1 we will go through the information to identify ways of
2 monitoring those things that are labeled as a cause of
3 insecurity using both traditional knowledge and
4 science. And the traditional knowledge part is the key
5 that's -- that we are identifying methodologies found
6 within traditional knowledge to do the monitoring and
7 to do the assessment along with science.

8

9 So so far we've visited almost all of
10 the villages and I just returned from the YK region,
11 from Mekoryuk to be exact. And in two days I'll travel
12 to Kobuk and from there I'll go to Diomedes and
13 Anaktuvuk Pass. That'll be all of the villages.

14

15 I'm going to ask Percy Ballot to help
16 me out a little bit because I'm not there to see
17 anybody's reaction of -- if there's any specific
18 details that you would like for me to share.

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Hi, Carolina. I already
21 gave my two cents yesterday and so you're just adding
22 on or it just means it's just fine, I don't think -- I
23 think if they ask questions, I'll just leave it to the
24 public or the Board here to ask those questions.

25

26 MS. BEHE: Oh, okay. Thank you.

27

28 Yes, are there any specific questions
29 about the projects?

30

31 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead.

32

33 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. Drew
34 Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
35 I'm just curious since this is an international
36 organization is this same kind of a study being
37 conducted in Canada, Greenland or Russia or the other
38 places where this organization has members?

39

40 MS. BEHE: It -- thank you, that's a
41 very good question. Not yet. What we're doing is
42 starting this project in Alaska. And once we develop
43 the tool we'll give it to all the Federal and State
44 agencies and the industry with encouragement that they
45 look at it as a tool to do assessments. But maybe most
46 importantly will be using our seat at the Arctic
47 Council to encourage the Arctic Council to actually do
48 the assessments throughout the Arctic. And we'll be
49 advising them on how their working groups would be able
50 to engage in that work.

1 MR. CRAWFORD: Thank you very much.
2
3 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
4 questions, comments from the audience.
5
6 MR. CLEVELAND: Got one.
7
8 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead.
9
10 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, this is Verne
11 Cleveland. Would that tie in with the Norwegians that
12 have been visiting our villages, surveying caribou and
13 all kinds of species we eat?
14
15 MS. BEHE: That's a good question too.
16 No, we're not directly tied into this project. This
17 project is to look at -- to look at those kind of
18 projects if they were traditional knowledge and needed,
19 you know, advance in understanding. From our
20 perspective there's not a holistic understanding of
21 what's occurring in the Arctic because traditional
22 knowledge is not involved. And we don't believe that
23 the Inuit perspective is being incorporated to the
24 degree that it can be. And so looking at projects such
25 as that one it's to say what is it that the people in
26 traditional knowledge believe need to add to that
27 information. So caribou is a good example. I hope
28 this is a good example. One hunter from the Kotzebue
29 region actually was explaining to me how he determines
30 his hunting strategy. And it had a lot to do with the
31 health of the lichen before the caribou came through.
32 And so that was one example of how instead of directly
33 just looking at the caribou this person was also
34 looking at the food source of that caribou. Another
35 thing that would be associated with the caribou is the
36 people -- a person's relationship with the caribou and
37 access to the caribou. And regulations and resource
38 conflict and sharing systems and knowledge that is
39 passed on or not passed on as well as environmental
40 changes and how all of that fits in together.
41
42 MR. BALLOT: I just wanted to add on
43 this -- what we're trying to do here is ICC Alaska's
44 part of the coming of the declaration where we address
45 food security, we addressed health, economic needs of
46 our poor countries. So ICC Alaska had a strategy
47 meeting several years ago and so this is part of -- our
48 part of trying to address those goals that these
49 Inupiat made. And Jim Stocks or whoever will be on the
50 line when we have our second phase of updating and how

1 it all works. Right now we're just gathering the data
2 and traditional knowledge from the people.

3

4 MS. BEHE: That's right. Thank you,
5 Percy. Yeah, Jimmy Stocks, the President, is working
6 from the political side of it, that has more to do with
7 food sovereignty. And this will be used as a tool for
8 him in the work that he's doing within the political
9 side of this.

10

11 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Moto.

12

13 MR. MOTO: Yeah, I was wondering, we're
14 talking about what kind of things should be monitored.
15 I think the coastal villages like I come from we're
16 more concerned with the -- a lot of the marine mammals
17 and fisheries. And then we got a lot of new traffic on
18 the Chukchi and Arctic and Bering Straits, a lot of
19 traffic. Are you working on trying to assess how much
20 disturbance these -- all this traffic have on our
21 marine mammals and fisheries?

22

23 MS. BEHE: Yes, but maybe in a
24 different way. So far from the coastal villages --
25 actually to tell you the truth everybody from Kaktovik
26 down to Mekoryuk has a lot of concerns about increase
27 in shipping and where the ships go and where economic
28 our cities might lie and how those are developed. So
29 that's a big topic of conversation in all of the
30 villages. What this project is doing is collecting
31 what the direct concerns are. So, for example, a
32 village up north from you guys expressed a lot of
33 concerns on the impact of noise on belugas. And the
34 impact that they believe it's having on their
35 reproductive behavior because they said the belugas are
36 reacting differently to each other. And when we couple
37 that with some of the research that we find within
38 scientific journals that we've found that with lower pH
39 levels or an increase in acidification found it's
40 traveling longer and at higher pitches. And so we're
41 able to -- we're able to state in a document like this
42 that that is a concern. But then we also need to state
43 what the best ways of getting the information are about
44 that in order to do an assessment. So these -- this
45 particular village had very concrete ideas of how
46 research should be taking place to determine the impact
47 of shipping on the belugas.

48

49 MR. MOTO: I believe.....

50

1 MS. BEHE: Also outside of this project
2 is other work that has to do with shipping, that we've
3 been working with PEW (ph) to identify how villages
4 want to be involved in shipping and what information
5 they need. We're also involved at the Arctic Council
6 at the Hane (ph) Working Group. Jimmy Stocks primarily
7 works on that group, and has been involved in
8 developing an Arctic marine assessment for shipping.
9 And so this kind of -- this kind of assessment goes
10 into that work. We're hoping that the tools that we
11 create or that rather you create is able to bring to
12 the science table the traditional knowledge that needs
13 to be there to better understand the impact that things
14 such as shipping will have on marine mammals.

15
16 And I should say also that it's not
17 only the coastal villages that have expressed high
18 concern about this. The villages up the rivers also
19 are expressing a lot of concern of how it is attacking
20 the animals that move in between the ocean and the
21 rivers.

22
23 MR. MOTO: Yeah, the coast I live in,
24 it's Kotzebue Sound area, we rely on the oogruk and the
25 seal a lot for our -- we've been hunting them for
26 thousands of years and this is something that we have
27 seen lately as we had to destroy some of the oogruk
28 because they were tainted and stuff like that. Wonder
29 is it the climate change or is it because of the
30 traffic that we're having on the -- on where they are.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MS. BEHE: Well, we haven't started to
35 assess all of the information that everybody's been
36 giving us, but I can say just off the top of my head
37 with what traditional holders have been sharing with me
38 is a concern that it's an impact of all of it together.
39 So whereas climate change has -- most people tell me
40 the climate change, that they've been watching it
41 happen for some time now and they've been adjusting to
42 that. But adjusting to that along with other stressors
43 is proving to be a threat to food security. So, for
44 example, adjusting to climate change and increase in
45 shipping or oil exploration or resource conflict of
46 more people wanting to come in for those resources or
47 things like that.

48
49 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Verne.
50

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, what about the --
2 in the fire season what about the retardant they drop
3 on the ground, is anybody doing the research on that
4 because what I heard is they were dropping pellets that
5 when you hit the ground it pops, but what happens if
6 that pellet and the retardant didn't hit the ground and
7 hit the water then the fish will eat it. Is anybody
8 doing studies on that?

9
10 MS. BEHE: Yes, actually there's some
11 scientists over in Russia that are doing studies on
12 that. And the last time I was over in Russia I was
13 able to talk to a couple people in Chikoka (ph) that
14 had raised that as a concern. It's also a huge that
15 was raised in Gambell. And I believe that there's some
16 people at UAF that might be looking into that also.
17 But that definitely has been listed as one of the
18 concerns of sources of pollutants. So pollutants into
19 the water coming from south of the Arctic, but also
20 those that are generated within the Arctic. And it's
21 been expressed to me in a way of trying to control the
22 environment, but having a negative effect when doing
23 that.

24
25 MR. CLEVELAND: So there's no studies
26 then on the retardant, what they drop on the -- on our
27 land or where the animals live off and we live off the
28 animal or fish.

29
30 MS. BEHE: There -- I believe that
31 there are some studies actually. There is some studies
32 on the chemical impact in some fish. I would have to
33 look more to see if there are marine mammals also. The
34 next step of this project after I'm done visiting the
35 villages is to compile the information that everybody
36 has provided and what those concerns are and then start
37 looking through the science and see what parts of those
38 are involved in assessments and what parts need to be
39 addressed.

40
41 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

42
43 MS. BEHE: That might likely be a very
44 large one that needs to be -- that isn't being
45 addressed that needs to be.

46
47 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Ballot.

48
49 MR. BALLOT: Those are things that we
50 only hear, Verne, from the earth, land and the sea or

1 like we want to know why the caribou or why the oogruks
2 are sick, why this is going on and we're going to ask
3 the local hunters what is -- are you seeing out there
4 that is affecting our animals. And how can we track
5 that and monitor it and bring attention to who's doing
6 this and who's doing that about that and what can we do
7 with that stuff and how can we make things -- people
8 more aware that we need to address these things that
9 affect our food.

10

11 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
12 questions, comments.

13

14 Hannah.

15

16 MS. LOON: Yeah, this is Hannah Loon
17 from Selawik and Anchorage. What causes food
18 insecurity is when there's oil developments that are
19 beyond our control. Those of us living in the rural
20 villages, we owe -- we live day to day and some of us
21 go five gallon a day and when is our next five gallon
22 of stove oil coming from and decide whether to get
23 stove oil or gas. And sometimes people will pool their
24 money together, one with a boat, one with a gun and put
25 their foods together and go out and gather and try to
26 get the most out of that trip. But all in all my food
27 insecurity is I'm concerned about the Shell Oil Company
28 that's trying to drill out in the Chukchi where the --
29 most of the marine mammals migrate and we depend a lot
30 on oogruk and whatnot, those of us living in the
31 villages. And that food travels all over and our food
32 travel all over to them too, to the coastal people.
33 And Shell Oil, I know they're owned by Dutch and they
34 have a real bad reputation in -- down in Nigeria or
35 someplace where dictators just use the money and let
36 the oil seep and leave it there. Also in Russia like
37 Cold Bay or Calm Bay somewhere over there the oil is
38 soaked and they're not -- they don't have a real good
39 reputation, the Shell Oil. And we have to be mindful
40 of those that they do not come and even drill on our --
41 on our coastline.

42

43 Thank you. Have a good day.

44

45 MS. BEHE: Thank you. I'm sorry I
46 didn't catch what village you're from?

47

48 MS. LOON: Selawik.

49

50 MS. BEHE: Oh, thank you. I was in

1 Selawik, just a couple months ago I was in Selawik.....

2

3 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Mike.

4

5 MS. BEHE:and I was familiar with
6 the problems within the Tribes associated with drilling
7 of oil and the impact that it has had on food security
8 because as -- it's one of -- I was actually there and
9 it was described to me from the people there was that
10 they've lost their knowledge of how to obtain food
11 sources because they had to stop getting those food
12 sources. So I think I got the very good example of
13 what we're trying to create with this tool is how to be
14 able to determine what the real impacts are having on
15 the environment because if the people are part of that
16 environment then it means that anything that affects
17 that culture is also going to affect the health of the
18 rest of the environment. I think too that the sharing
19 systems that you brought up are probably the biggest
20 thing that I heard from all villages as securing people
21 from food insecurity because their sharing systems as
22 you describe move beyond sharing food and actually
23 sharing resources to be able to get that food. And you
24 also raised the concern with the price of fuel. And
25 this has been a consistent concern brought up in all
26 villages where the price of fuel and also the equipment
27 needed to go get the fuel or get the food. And they
28 spent a lot of talk about the things associated with
29 that such as the need to purchase electricity to store
30 food and the challenges that go along with having two
31 different sources of economy within the village, that
32 being both cash and subsistence and the realization
33 that when people engage in commercial activities such
34 as commercial fishing from the villages it's often to
35 support their subsistence activities. And that that
36 needs to be better recognized, that it's not -- it's a
37 mechanism for building a bank account, but to actually
38 support a culture.

39

40 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Mike.

41

42 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Mike Kramer here.
43 You know, this is the 21st century. We're always
44 talking about the high price of fuel, you know, the
45 high price of food and we're always talking about the
46 impacts, whether it be air, land, sea. You know, no
47 matter what we do it's going to always affect the price
48 of what we have to pay for to go out there and go get
49 our food. You know, everybody's always yakking about
50 the price of gas, you know, if we -- if we don't have

1 traffic out there in the ocean with these shipping
2 lanes coming in and bringing fuel then we can have
3 cheaper fuel. You know, we might not have fuel at all,
4 it's either that or we're going to have it flown in by
5 air and it's going to cost even more. Land, you know,
6 we're going to have this road come in from Ambler. No
7 matter what that -- that's going to impact our caribou.
8 No matter what we do to try and improve our lives and
9 our subsistence way of life something's going to impact
10 it. We just need to try and study and minimize the
11 impact that these things to provide our -- a better way
12 of life for our subsistence lifestyle and to -- and
13 more cost efficient lifestyle way to get our
14 subsistence, you know, resources seem like no matter
15 what we do something's going to impact it whether it
16 be, air, land, sea or water. You know, it --there's
17 just nothing we can do, we can only try to minimize the
18 impact and try and figure out ways to keep it minimal,
19 you know. And then -- and to be able to study and to
20 be able to learn all of us, you know, no matter what
21 culture we are needs to spend the time and find the
22 time to go out there and learn. I spent many years
23 flying out there with Brad Schultz counting sheep,
24 moose, wolverine, muskox, I not only hunt them, but I
25 learn about them. I enjoy learning about them, I
26 enjoyed every minute being out there with Brad Schultz
27 in that plane learning about the animals, landing,
28 studying them, you know, being able to learn about what
29 he documented on these animals. We all need to do the
30 same, we can't just be keeping them on -- we can't just
31 be utilizing them on the table, you know, at
32 dinnertime, we got to be able to learn, to study them,
33 all of us needs to take part in learning and studying
34 our subsistence resources. But the key thing is is to
35 try and minimize the impact that we do on our
36 subsistence resources.

37

38 Mike Kramer, Kotzebue.

39

40 MS. BEHE: Thank you, Mike, that's a
41 very good point.

42

43 And I should point out that this
44 project isn't just about -- just about pointing out the
45 negative impacts, but it's also about saying what
46 secures food as well. And it's also not about keeping
47 villages stagnant in their culture, but it is about
48 exactly what you just said, responsible development and
49 moving forward in a way that provides the best
50 information possible. And we base that by providing a

1 tool like this that it will provide a means for getting
2 the best information possible in order to make
3 decisions that have the least amount of impact on the
4 environment or on the culture in the way that the
5 culture agrees with. So, for example, many people have
6 commented to me about the advantages of having
7 technology in order to go get food sources such as it
8 takes less time and you're able to go out. The village
9 I was just in was just talking to me about wanting to
10 build a port, but the idea of building the port was
11 that they wanted to make sure it was done in a way that
12 had the least impact on the life that was around that
13 port. And so it would just -- and that particular
14 village wants to use this tool to say that that's how
15 they would like the assessment done in order to -- in
16 order to determine where the best place to build a port
17 would be and when the best time would be.

18

19 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Moto.

20

21 MR. MOTO: Calvin Moto, I'm from
22 Deering. I remember when in the '40s and the '50s when
23 we could get walrus and all kinds of whitefish, herring
24 and polar bear. And now we're at the point where most
25 of our only source of seafood are salmon and the seal.
26 Once in a while we get a beluga or two, but we're
27 really concerned about how the traffic is disturbing
28 our -- when they put in -- a lot of difference in like
29 port size, I think that has a big impact on how our
30 belugas were going traveling. I remember about 15 some
31 years ago when 4,000 of our beluga got trapped up there
32 by Russia and they all got killed and we didn't see any
33 belugas for a few years. And now we're starting to get
34 sharks. We had -- we saw them. About six years ago
35 one of my grandkids come running in the house, he said,
36 grandpa, what's that out there. There were two, they
37 looked like dolphins. I say maybe I'm dreaming, but,
38 you know, so you could see that climate change is
39 making our waters a lot warmer and we're starting to
40 see other predators beside killer whales, sharks and
41 we're looking at a decline of our oogruk. We have a
42 very short window when the ice finally move on the port
43 week of June we're able to go out and get our oogruk
44 and we only have about two, three days before the ice
45 goes away. So sometimes we're lucky to get at least
46 one per family or 11 to share. So we're concerned
47 about the climate change and the excessive traffic that
48 are from the ships and stuff like that.

49

50 Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
2 questions, comments.
3
4 MS. BEHE: I didn't hear what village
5 you're from?
6
7 MS. ARMSTRONG: He's from Deering.
8
9 MS. BEHE: Oh, thank you. I only asked
10 because when I was just in the south -- the southern
11 most part that villages will go to they shared the
12 exact same concern that you shared, an increase in
13 sharks and an increase in porpoises and change in
14 distribution of the seals. But they also related that
15 to the change in the amount of seafood that comes up
16 that they collect like mussels or clams. So I think
17 it's interesting that people are sharing the same
18 information hundreds of miles apart from each other.
19
20 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Yeah, Victor Karmun
21 here. Being as this discussion is about food security,
22 not too long ago there was a pretty good scare on ice
23 seals. I haven't heard anything for about six months
24 on ice seals. Are you affiliated with that in any
25 which way or form?
26
27 MS. BEHE: Only in the sense that I
28 called them up to ask for updates on what's going on.
29 So I speak with people from the North Slope Borough and
30 I also call up the State to ask what new information
31 has come out. And about five months ago was the last
32 new information that was -- that anybody was able to
33 provide. Since then I've just been told that they're
34 continuing with the same studies. The only thing I do
35 know is that there is an immense amount of people
36 across the country that are working on it and that
37 they've expressed to me that it is frustrating because
38 it's likely caused by multiple problems and that they
39 haven't been able to figure out what the problem is,
40 that they just continue to test, to rule out potential
41 what it might be. So they've ruled out a lot of
42 different types of viruses and things like that.
43
44 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you. But
45 last fall and this winter locally around Kotzebue Sound
46 or along the coast here I have not observed any seals
47 or diseased seals, oogruk or walrus of this nature.
48
49 Thank you.
50

1 MS. BEHE: Are we done yet?
2
3 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Moto.
4
5 MR. MOTO: I think there's a decline of
6 ice seals or because we've heard that the decline of
7 tom cod fish. Last two years I think we harvest at
8 least two seals during the winter, ice -- shore ice.
9 This past year we don't have very many tom cods, we
10 didn't see very many of the harbor seal or ribbon seal
11 or spotted seal this year. We're trying to figure out
12 if this type of fishers that we have in the winter
13 impact the -- our harvesting of the ice seals.
14
15 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: John Erlich, go
16 ahead, please.
17
18 MS. BEHE: Thank you. I'm sorry, was
19 that for me to go ahead?
20
21 MR. ERLICH: This is John Erlich,
22 Kotzebue. With food security mainly what we've been
23 talking about is what we call (in Native language), but
24 today, you know, a lot of us as much as we like (in
25 Native language), we're also eating a lot of (in Native
26 language). And I think if, you know, there's concerns
27 about food security along the lines of (in Native
28 language) too, what's been going on over the past 20
29 years in the retail industry across the lower 48 and
30 elsewhere is they've realized that you can use the
31 transit system as a warehouse of sorts for your
32 inventory for your stores. And so you don't need to
33 warehouse your -- you don't need to order in advance
34 and pay insurance for the warehouse and insure the
35 inventory and pay all the costs associated with that.
36 More and more stores and vendors are relying on like
37 Alaska Airlines' warehouses and the stuff in transit
38 and it really gives them efficiencies, it's cheaper for
39 them to operate that way. But the problem is that if
40 something disrupts even for a little while that transit
41 system you don't have those goods out where people need
42 them. And the Governor Parnell clued in on this last
43 year and folks might recall that he was talking about
44 coming up with a way to store a certain amount of food
45 that would provide for people for a certain number of
46 days. And that seemed to me like a little drop in the
47 bucket, but it's not just (in Native language), you
48 know, there's other things we need to buy anyway that
49 has to get flown out here to support even getting (in
50 Native language).

1 And I just wanted to throw that out
2 there for consideration is that, you know, the concerns
3 are valid when it comes to (in Native language), but we
4 also have concerns I think when it comes to (in Native
5 language).

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MS. BEHE: Thank you.

10
11 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
12 questions, comments from the audience.

13
14 Charlie.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Council, any more
19 questions, comments.

20
21 Percy.

22
23 MR. BALLOT: I just want to mention to
24 Carolina, we have a committee from our region, from the
25 other regions, address how we're going to go through
26 this project. And it hit me that when I heard Verne
27 and Calvin make their concerns and Hannah from Selawik,
28 that we need to expand what we're trying to do some way
29 or another to get more feedback from the other
30 villages, whether we through this forum like this or
31 through the Tribal Councils to get more information and
32 more data because just going to these polar regions and
33 these polar villages is not going to be enough. I
34 think we need to get a process out there so we get more
35 from other villages like Ambler or wherever people are
36 living their lives and try to get just data that they
37 have because I never really thought about what like
38 Verne says about the pallets or about the retardant
39 stuff and I'm pretty sure there's more to that out
40 there that we want to hear from other people, hunters.

41
42 MS. BEHE: I really.....

43
44 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Hannah.

45
46 MS. BEHE:really agree with you.
47 So the first step was -- we represent 95 villages and
48 the first step was that we provided information to all
49 Tribal Councils and called up all Tribal Councils. And
50 I've spoken to people at all Tribal Councils except for

1 seven in the YK region now. And the next step was
2 because there is only me that I would only be able to
3 go to a village, but we have applied for grants to be
4 able to have a one day workshop in each regional hub
5 with -- the funding would be provided to all of the
6 villages to that regional hub to have that one day
7 workshop. But even that I agree is limited and I very
8 much welcome ideas of ways of getting more information
9 from other people in other villages.

10

11 Another thing that will help with this
12 is that there are some other projects such as the
13 Bering Straits Elders Group that will provide
14 information that they have collected over the last
15 couple of years. And also some projects being done out
16 of Kawerak, Inc. that will also provide information for
17 projects that they have done where they engaged
18 traditional knowledge holders and maybe the people
19 asking the questions at the time didn't realize that
20 their responses had to do with food security and so
21 we'll be able to look back over that information and,
22 of course, with the people's permission, and see what
23 -- like what everybody has been sharing today could be
24 added to that.

25

26 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Hannah.

27

28 MS. LOON: Thank you. I know in Native
29 Village of Selawik they've discussed ways to try to be
30 prepared for emergency -- emergencies like when planes
31 stop coming in or services stop, no electricity, for
32 the people to start being prepared and put away foods
33 as much as possible and bringing them to higher places.
34 And that's one of the plans that the Council have
35 always discussed while I was there. So it's -- there's
36 going to be a time when everything stops, when planes
37 stop coming, medical, food, gas and whatnot.

38

39 And I also notice that we have four
40 Kotzebue representatives here and certainly we would
41 like to hear people from Noatak, hear their input,
42 what's going on with their subsistence way of life with
43 Red Dog being close. I know I work at Red Dog as a
44 shareholder and relations person for NANA and I'm not
45 in the position to discuss those. And we need more
46 input from Upper Kobuk villages to discuss their
47 impacts on Nova and the road.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MS. BEHE: Thank you. Yeah, the
2 villages I've been able to visit in that region is
3 Kivalina and Selawik. And like I said in a couple days
4 I'll be going to Kobuk. And we are hoping to come up
5 with some additional funds to be able to visit Buckland
6 in the next month also. But I 100 percent agree with
7 all of you that the thing that has to be clear in this
8 project is that not every village is the same and not
9 every region is the same and there may be some higher
10 concerns in some areas where there's less in other
11 areas. Also collectively people have been providing
12 information and answers for each other's questions
13 across regions. Though some elders might share some
14 information with me in one village and in another
15 village some other elders share information that seems
16 to be very connected to what that person was saying.
17 So without the to and from other we wouldn't have been
18 able to realize that. It's another reason why it is so
19 important to hear from everybody.

20
21 I think the final reason why it's so
22 important is that this is a Inupiat project so it's
23 really important that everybody realizes that this
24 project belongs to them and that they have a voice in
25 it. Not just in the information that's shared, but how
26 it's shared and how it's analyzed. And I think that's
27 a really important part to try to get the word out
28 there so that people do realize that they're -- that
29 their information is wanted within this project.

30
31 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll just -- I'd just
32 like to clarify what John said to some of you guys that
33 don't understand. (In Native language) food is a
34 Native food and (in Native language) is white man food.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MS. BEHE: Thank you.

39
40 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Moto.

41
42 MR. MOTO: One more comment I'd like to
43 make is the fact that a lot of times when people get
44 appointed to some of the Councils that we have, they
45 pick a person who's living in Anchorage or Fairbanks
46 and never hunted for a long time to represent us. And
47 what we'd like to see is more of our people from our
48 communities be involved in some of these committees.
49 Not just people that moved to Anchorage 10 years ago
50 and never hunted for a long time in our region or

1 fished in our area. Only thing they know about is what
2 people tell them. You got to have the exact knowledge
3 of what it's like to hunt in our villages, not just
4 hearsay, a word from somebody. This is something that
5 a lot of our people are kind of upset about because
6 when people get appointed to different fisheries or
7 game agencies they pick somebody who never live in a
8 region for a long time.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Mike.

13

14 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, that's the.....

15

16 MS. BEHE: Thank you. And -- sorry.

17

18 MR. KRAMER: This is Mike Kramer. As
19 for what Verne said about fire retardant, any chemical
20 made on this planet is required to have what's called a
21 material safety data sheet, MSBS. I know this because
22 I've been a fire fighter for 25 years. All he has to
23 do is contact the company that went out there and
24 fought the fire, whatever -- Wildland Company, and then
25 ask them what kind of fire retardant they used, their
26 chemical name and pull it up online and he'll find out
27 every single thing on the material safety data sheet on
28 that chemical. And any other chemical that's used in
29 our villages, they're required to have them and it'll
30 tell what kind of impacts, what kind of chemicals are
31 in it and what kind of hazards, flammability, you know,
32 if you have any kind of concerns about a chemical just
33 pull it up online.

34

35 That's what I got to say about that
36 fire retardant.

37

38 MS. BEHE: Thank you, Mike. And I'll
39 just go back to that other point for a moment if it's
40 okay. ICC is concerned about this also and even within
41 the Arctic Council we're trying to secure funding for
42 people from the villages to actually be represented on
43 the Committees for the work that takes place and
44 probably more importantly so that traditional knowledge
45 is being incorporated into that work. And it is also
46 the reason why the advisory committee for this food
47 security project is made of traditional knowledge
48 holders who are hunters and gatherers and fishers.
49 Except for one, one person Kawerak asked that the
50 anthropologist be the person that represents that

1 reason. But she also has lived in that region for many
2 years and engaged in activities with people within the
3 village for many years.

4

5 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
6 questions, comments, anything from the audience.

7

8 MR. BALLOT: I'm just going to add one
9 more. Carolina, I just wanted to make sure that we
10 communicate our work a little more. The Borough has a
11 subsistence mapping project that's going on right now
12 that does documenting subsistence areas and uses in the
13 villages. I don't know if we're communicating with
14 people like those, but I think it would be good to do
15 that in addition to what they're doing and what we're
16 doing. And there are people like Maniilaq who have
17 Subsistence Committees.

18

19 MS. BEHE: Yes. Thank you. Jack
20 Stevenson and NOAA are generally aware of the project
21 and they keep in contact with other constantly. And I
22 just met through email the new social scientist that
23 was hired to take on the rest of the project. We are
24 in communication continuously about each other's
25 efforts. And also because when this project is done it
26 will have recommendations and one of those
27 recommendations will be to do the type of project that
28 is taking place by the Northwest Arctic Borough
29 throughout the entire Arctic and to learn the
30 methodologies that they've been able to apply.

31

32 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you. Is
33 there anything else.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Jack, do you have
38 any comments.

39

40 MR. STEVENSON: No, sir. Thank you.

41

42 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Is that the extent
43 of your presentation?

44

45 MS. BEHE: Thank you for letting me use
46 some of your time to share with you about this project.
47 And I just want to encourage everybody to contact me if
48 they would like to discuss any of this further or any
49 concerns about how it's being done or suggestions on
50 ways to do it. And I'll also be in Kotzebue the first

1 week of April if anybody is interested in meeting with
2 me while I'm there.

3

4 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you.

5

6 MS. BEHE: Okay. Thank you.

7

8 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Helen.

9

10 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 Thank you, Carolina.

13

14 MS. BEHE: Thank you.

15

16 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 The next item on the agenda is just a brief overview,
18 this is not an action item on the 2014 Fisheries
19 Resource Monitoring Program funding opportunity. And
20 that's a green sheet that I -- was in your packets, I
21 pulled them out last night and put them on the top of
22 your folders. And this is just to let you know that
23 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Office of
24 Subsistence Management is -- right now we've got a call
25 for proposals, we're seeking projects that gather
26 information to manage and conserve subsistence fishery
27 resources in Alaska.

28

29 The projects can only concern
30 subsistence fisheries management on Federal public
31 lands in Alaska. We don't cover anything that's not
32 got some kind of impact on Federal public lands.

33

34 Last fall I -- you may remember that
35 the Council was asked to identify specific fisheries'
36 issues in the area. And we took that information and
37 put it together to -- and then talked to fisheries
38 managers in the region and then worked with the -- what
39 we call the Technical Review Committee to develop the
40 priority information needs for the area.

41

42 We consider all of the applications
43 that come in, but we -- the OSM, the Office of
44 Subsistence Management is targeting this funding
45 opportunity toward identifying priority information
46 needs. The details on this and if you know anybody who
47 is interested in applying for funding they're on our
48 website. And I can also provide you information, if
49 you're interested you can call our office. And the
50 deadline for submission for providing the project

1 information is April 4th.

2

3 We have about \$3.7 million available to
4 fund new research and monitoring projects although I
5 don't know if that will be cut at all with the
6 sequestration going on right now. The -- in the past
7 we've had awards that range from -- anywhere from 3,000
8 to 375,000 a year. And the award period for these
9 projects is one to four years.

10

11 The -- when I held up the newsletter
12 from our office yesterday and I commented on some
13 projects that were highlighted in that newsletter on
14 climate change in the region and affects on fisheries,
15 that -- those projects were funded by the Fisheries
16 Resource Monitoring Program.

17

18 So we do this every two years, those of
19 you who have been on the Council are probably familiar
20 with this and what will happen now is we'll get those
21 proposals in for doing the projects, we'll assess them
22 and then we'll come back to you in the fall and you can
23 let us know which ones you recommend for funding and
24 which ones you don't and what your priorities are,
25 which ones you think should have a higher priority than
26 others.

27

28 And Karen Hyer from our office at OSM I
29 believe is on line and I don't know if she has anything
30 else to add. She is the fisheries biologist who works
31 directly with this part of the program at OSM.

32

33 Karen, are you on line?

34

35 MS. HYER: Yes, Helen. I'm right here
36 if you have any questions.

37

38 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. All right. So
39 if you have any questions Karen's here to answer.

40

41 That's all, that concludes my
42 presentation, Mr. Chair.

43

44 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: I know we had to go
45 back and pick this one up. What is next, Council
46 appointments?

47

48 MS. ARMSTRONG: We covered everything
49 under 12 now and I believe Fish and Wildlife Service is
50 done from yesterday so next is C, National Park

1 Service.

2

3 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Mr. Adkisson.

4

5 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Ken Adkisson,
6 National Park Service. Marci Johnson, our resident
7 wildlife biologist here had some updates on several
8 projects and some information sources, won't take long.
9 Frank wanted to present some information related to the
10 -- our management of the transporters as part of that
11 program. And also several research projects that we're
12 currently undertaking or engaged in. Unfortunately
13 Frank had a teleconference with the Alaska Region
14 Superintendents at 9:00. One of the topics of which
15 was the latest updates on the impacts from the
16 sequestration so he wasn't able to get here. Marci can
17 cover her information now and hopefully Frank will be
18 here shortly if -- and then we can -- if you can adjust
19 and deal with his information at that time. But I
20 wouldn't hold up your agenda for it.

21

22 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you.

23

24 Go ahead, Marci.

25

26 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chair. I'll just be really brief, I just have some
28 information about some of the work the National Park
29 Service has been doing.

30

31 Yesterday I handed out just a few items
32 here, I was trying to keep the paperwork down so I came
33 up with a summary of some of the publications and some
34 of the information we have out on this two page
35 document here, it has some screen shots of some of the
36 information available online. At the top of that I do
37 give my contact information so if anybody's interested
38 in this material and it isn't available to print out or
39 access the information online I can always get copies
40 out.

41

42 I guess briefly I'll just talk about
43 some of the informal summaries we have. I've been here
44 almost five years now, I've been to a lot of the RAC
45 meetings and a lot of my projects come from the ideas
46 that are brought up here at these meetings. And one
47 thing I keep hearing many times is just a request for
48 information on the projects we do, kind of succinct,
49 some good summaries of projects we're doing, updates as
50 they go along an in an informal manner and easy --

1 easier to get out to folks. We do provide some -- you
2 know, some presentations at our Visitor Center and
3 things, but not everybody has time to go through those
4 too. So one solution or one way that I'm hoping to
5 address this I hope, is by starting a blog online. And
6 this is also -- came from suggestions from some
7 teachers trying to get some kids involved with our
8 projects and they kind of wanted the day in the life
9 kind of perspective. So it's -- it takes on a whole
10 different variety of topics and projects and issues and
11 things. And so just little glimpses into what we do.
12 So that's the first thing on the list here. If there's
13 anything that you think might be useful to have on
14 there just certainly pass on a topic to me.

15 But our technical reports that are on
16 here, I do have a sampling of them I can leave on the
17 table here if you'd like to go through any of these.
18 These are certainly -- they're -- people are welcome to
19 take the copies I brought with me. But we have a
20 number of projects going on with our Long-Term
21 Inventory and Monitoring Program, the Arctic Network
22 and we call it ARCON with our love for acronyms. And
23 there are a few interesting ones. We've got several
24 projects going on related to climate change for
25 monitoring vegetation, measuring or monitoring those
26 thauslumps (ph) and other thermacarst (ph) or, you
27 know, when the land form changes because of the melting
28 permafrost, draining lakes, changes of rivers over time
29 and things like that. And the person, Dave Swanson,
30 who's in charge of many of the permafrost and some of
31 those climate change issues has cranked out a number of
32 publications and reports lately that could be very
33 interesting to folks. Some get -- some are quite
34 technical so again that might be something for our blog
35 where we can help kind of interpret -- breakdown some
36 of the finer points on some of their work.

37
38 Some of the work -- one example of what
39 Dave Swanson has done is just looking at the Noatak
40 Preserve at images, aerial images taken over time,
41 comparing them to see where these thermacarst features
42 are, these thauslumps are, he found nearly a thousand
43 features just in Noatak, in the Preserve alone. And so
44 he's monitoring some of the thauslumps closer, he uses
45 3D imagery to kind of determine how much of the land is
46 moving, it's sluffing usually into the rivers and what
47 that's causing for erosion. So again that's a big
48 beast, he's got a lot of projects going on, but I'd be
49 happy to get some more information to you if you'd
50 like.

1 We also have a annual report that's
2 been completed by Kyle Joly. He runs the caribou vital
3 signs, we call them vital signs for the Inventory and
4 Monitoring Program. He's got an annual report out
5 working with the GPS collar data and he's also been
6 collecting scat samples, I've been helping with that
7 too, and looking at diet and some other things. So he
8 recently wrote a small paper on some of the caribou
9 movements, the collared animals crossing the ice and so
10 I've got a couple extra copies of that if you're
11 interested.

12
13 And one other thing I'll bring up is
14 the -- aside from our Inventory and Monitoring
15 newsletter that kind of touches on all the different
16 projects going on this last -- in 2012, the field work
17 that they did, we have a summary from the -- Pam
18 Suzanas who's in charge of the weather and climate
19 vital sign and she's got a summary here of weather in
20 our Western Arctic Parklands, so the Park's -- three
21 Parks up north here. And it's got some, you know,
22 tables and some other links for some more information
23 too. But she has a series of weather stations out in
24 the country and we also have some other work being done
25 with scenarios planning and looking at data over time
26 about how the temperatures and precipitation have been
27 changing here.

28
29 So there's a lot of information here
30 and I won't go into many more details on these. I just
31 wanted to let you know that these things are available
32 and I'm here to help, you know, get them to you however
33 you want.

34
35 For our research projects out of
36 Kotzebue we've got -- you may have heard several times
37 mentioned about the muskox research project that
38 started as a pilot in 2008 and the collars. I'm trying
39 to maintain about 60 collars on animals, there's 30 to
40 the north and 30 on the Seward Peninsula since 2009.
41 That project ends this year, the collars have a little
42 device on them that are programmed to fall off on June
43 1st and we're hoping that they fall off since they've
44 got all that hair. But so we'll be radio tracking, we
45 track monthly these animals, a lot of them have GPS
46 collars on so we're getting those data weekly. And
47 that -- as I mentioned those collars will come off this
48 summer, we'll retrieve those collars. And then the
49 U.S.G.S., Lane Adams is the principal investigator for
50 that project, they'll start working all the analysis of

1 survival data and movements and things like that.

2

3 Joel Berger has another portion of that
4 project. He's with the Wildlife Conservation Society
5 and teaches at the University of Montana. He comes up
6 every year, he'll be up here on the 23rd of this month
7 to start his field work. And he hires a local guide
8 here in Kotzebue and goes up north and he also hires
9 one out of Shishmaref and goes into the Bering Land
10 Bridge and they go to groups of muskox and he takes
11 more poop samples and he also takes some photos of them
12 to try to estimate body mass.

13

14 And so both of these projects are a
15 comparative study between the two populations up north
16 and to the south. So we anticipate to have a lot more
17 information soon on both of those as they come to a
18 close and start being summarized.

19

20 So that's all I have unless you have
21 some questions for me.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Moto.

26

27 MR. MOTO: I notice that when you have
28 internships that most of them are college students. We
29 have a lot of high school students who are interested
30 in some of these going to work for either Park Service
31 or somebody else, a Fish and Game entity. I know that
32 a couple years ago I had a couple of young people ask
33 me what did you have to do to become interns in some of
34 those programs because they were interested in going to
35 work for, you know, either State or Park Service,
36 Federal, you know. And we have some interest in that,
37 some -- and we -- I've noticed that more of our young
38 people are getting more involved in some of these
39 fishery things in our villages. And so it's -- I was
40 wondering if the -- if they have internship for high
41 school other than just college.

42

43 MS. JOHNSON: If I may, Mr. -- through
44 the Chair. Last year we were -- participated in the
45 ANSEP Program and had an intern down in Bering Land
46 Bridge for some field work. Our Interpretation Program
47 I believe is able to hire a local high school student
48 this year to help with their summer programs. I've
49 been trying to apply for grants to work with the First
50 Alaskans Institute, they have an internship program

1 that's a great program that would apply for high
2 schoolers. We do have a student who came from Kotzebue
3 and is just finishing a natural resources degree, I
4 think he might be swayed by the health care field now,
5 but I was hoping to get him in an internship. But it's
6 really great, we put a lot of time and our interpretive
7 Staff goes to all the career fairs and talks a lot
8 about that in the schools, they get programs on careers
9 with the Park Service. And so it's great when we get
10 somebody trying to pursue those careers, we try to do
11 what we can. This year I'm just a little short on
12 funds, but I'm trying to find some grants to cover
13 that. Certainly would love to hear from them if you
14 know some students in particular pass it along.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. MOTO: I think most of the biggest
19 stumbling blocks is the fact that they don't have a
20 place for them to stay once they get to either the --
21 Nome or Kotzebue or wherever, and they have a hard time
22 trying to find a place to stay so they could stay on
23 the program. I know we had -- one year we had two
24 students from Deering go and they came home, they said
25 we don't know what to do, we -- they didn't have any
26 place for us to stay so they came back home. They were
27 disappointed and they finally just dropped the fact
28 that they wanted to work for the Park Service or Fish
29 and Wildlife.

30

31 MS. JOHNSON: I do agree with that,
32 we're definitely addressing those needs now. So I
33 agree.

34

35 MR. BALLOT: I was.....

36

37 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
38 questions, comments.

39

40 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I was
41 looking at your report there about how you do your
42 monitoring or studies and I see this fence here so I
43 guess wherever you go you'll make the communities aware
44 that you have a big thing to do, to just go run into or
45 stuff like that or when you do your studies how that --
46 you share that information with the villages that their
47 moss are growing better or faster or whatever.
48 Whatever it's you're doing, how do you communicate with
49 the other -- the local people.

50

1 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. Through the
2 Chair. Peter Nitlegard (ph), our ecologist, put out
3 these exclosures the last few years, mostly last year.
4 And these are supposed to be up for up to 50 years to
5 determine the or to be studying the lichens inside and
6 outside of these as far as grazing, impacts on grazing.
7 And he did communicate especially with our Bering Land
8 Bridge Staff, with those communities showing some maps
9 of where these will be. He definitely located them
10 outside of areas where trails were or some corridors
11 where people may be traveling. We put very large signs
12 up, a number of reflective signs at the top of the
13 fences, you can kind of see that on the photos, but I
14 think we put up even more than what you can see in the
15 photo there. So bright red reflective signs. And then
16 just showing some maps to the communities. But we can
17 -- you know, we'll definitely -- that's a long-term
18 commitment to keep people informed on that and so we'll
19 do what we can to keep reminding people that they'll be
20 there for a while.

21
22 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I just wondered
23 because we know when we trail stake that the caribou
24 are getting used to the trail stakes so they know
25 there's a lot of moss right around the trail stakes.
26 So they go knock them down and eat whatever they can
27 from them. So I'm just wondering these look pretty
28 stable.

29
30 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, these are chainlink
31 fence panels that have been bolted together, I think
32 three hinges per panel there. So they're quite rigid
33 there.

34
35 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Raymond.

36
37 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38
39 I guess I got a number of things that I
40 see has been happening, but I want to make it as a
41 simple question. As we all know that archeological
42 projects have been closed across the country that's
43 been four years now it's been completely closed across
44 the country. Now they were up at Kiana for quite some
45 times, now tomorrow National Park going up to Kiana
46 again tomorrow and authorize that project archeological
47 in Kiana again. Are you aware of that?

48
49 MS. JOHNSON: As the wildlife nerd in
50 the office I'm afraid I'm not -- have not been involved

1 with that decision making process or those meetings,
2 but Frank Hayes can speak to that and Willy Goodwin
3 have been involved with that.

4

5 MR. STONEY: Would Ken know all about
6 that, they got a archeological project that's happening
7 again in Kiana area?

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair, Mr.
10 Stoney. Not really other than about as much knowledge
11 as Marci has on it. All I'm aware of it is that Dr.
12 Anderson has applied for another permit and that's in
13 the process and I believe there are consultation
14 meetings that you mentioned scheduled for tomorrow.
15 Beyond that I'm not really sure where it's at in the
16 mill.

17

18 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
19 questions, comments, audience.

20

21 Go ahead, John.

22

23 JOHN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
24 Council.

25

26 I listened really carefully to all of
27 you and I think about things you guys say after these
28 meetings, in between meetings and stuff. And I know
29 sometimes the truth hurts and I got a dose of truth
30 this morning and, you know, I'm kind of stung, but it
31 is true. When it comes to what our people do out there
32 all the time, I don't have the caliber of any of you.
33 And my concern is that I try to -- when I do work
34 related to stuff that's really important to people up
35 here I try to do the best I can. But I take some of
36 what I've heard up to this point as constructive
37 criticism and there's a need that you folks want met.
38 I absolutely agree that the more of our people that
39 live this way, that get into the types of jobs that
40 I've gotten, I totally support that. I don't feel good
41 right now, I haven't talked to my supervisor yet about
42 this, Shelly Jacobson, but I feel that I should free up
43 this position and perhaps if it -- if they do fill it
44 they'll fill it with somebody that has more credibility
45 than me.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
50 questions, comments.

1 Moto.

2

3 MR. MOTO: Question for Mr. Anderson
4 [sic]. I was wondering, you know, we -- I was on the
5 Muskox Commission and when we first started out that we
6 were -- they were going to find out how much of our
7 growth of our muskox would be before they start
8 thinking about like guide hunting. And, you know, a
9 lot of our subsistence people are against that. But I
10 -- we were wondering are you at the point where you
11 could allocate some for guide fishing or guide hunting
12 or are you -- do you have to have enough data?

13

14 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair, Mr.
15 Moto. Yeah, unfortunately you weren't here yesterday
16 when we went through the muskoxen presentation. Some
17 of the page and a half handout I provided has kind of a
18 history a little bit of the population growth and
19 decline. The sport hunting thing, the whole question
20 of sport hunting, non-resident hunting is except for
21 the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board to say
22 close Federal public lands to non-subsistence use is
23 really managed under the State system. And as of
24 November, 2011 at the Board of Game the State
25 restructured its regulations in 5 AAC related to
26 muskoxen and it's now set up as a tier system that
27 reflects the tier two, tier one and general hunting and
28 sets thresholds of population amounts for that. And I
29 got -- provided copies of the State regs in there.

30

31 The point that I guess I would make is
32 that the threshold between tier two and tier one, tier
33 two is just a really tightly controlled subsistence
34 hunt by permit that you apply for. Tier one is still
35 kind of a subsistence hunt, but it's a registration
36 hunt. And the threshold in that for the population is
37 99 allowable, an allowable harvest of 99 animals. And
38 this year we're like at 31. So all of that sport
39 hunting and all those drawing permits that existed out
40 there since 2008 are all gone away. And it's probably
41 going to be a pretty long time before the population
42 recovers to a point that some of that comes back.

43

44 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you.

45

46 Any other questions, comments.

47

48 Hannah.

49

50 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1 Marci.

2

3 For Calvin's clarity about internship,
4 we do get emails from NANA Development Shareholder
5 Development Office in Anchorage about internship
6 openings and job fairs and whatnot. And I'm sure you
7 keep in touch with Christina Patrick when you have
8 internships opening. They let us know what's open out
9 there for us, college students that are working and
10 sometimes they get recruited right away to Red Dog.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. Through the
15 Chair. I'll check also, I think our Interpreter Staff
16 that hire -- does most of the hiring, I think they do
17 that, but if I get the funding to get an intern of my
18 own I'll definitely go that route.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. BALLOT: I just had one more quick
23 one. These videos or these copies are they -- is there
24 a charge for some of this stuff you guys have?

25

26 MS. JOHNSON: Oh, if you'd like any
27 printouts just contact me directly and I'll mail them
28 or deliver them somewhere if you need. Yeah, I'd be
29 happy to help with that. No charge, of course. And I
30 have a -- some of these other copies I'll just pass
31 around so you can just see. You're welcome to them if
32 you'd like, but I didn't want to bombard you with
33 stacks of these so it's just a sampling.

34

35 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: You say Frank will
36 possibly be here shortly?

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: He was planning to.

39

40 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you.

41

42 Any other questions, comments.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you.

47

48 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.

49

50 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Let's take a brief

1 break.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Let's call the
8 meeting back to order, please. I see the National Park
9 Service Superintendent just walked in. We'll continue
10 and let him have the mic. Frank.

11

12 MR. HAYES: Thanks, Mr. Chair and the
13 Council members. Sorry I was late. We had -- as you
14 know Federal budgets have been cut by 5 percent and our
15 regional office was giving some directions as how we're
16 going to be implementing the 5 percent cut. That's
17 about \$180,000 out of our budget so it's fairly
18 substantial. I think it was Calvin Moto yesterday he
19 was asking about impacts on SRCs and RACs and so forth.
20 Since that's mandated by ANILCA and so forth, you know,
21 it's just -- and it's also good business, we are
22 funding -- maintaining funding for those meetings. So
23 that won't be affected at all. We'll be not filling a
24 couple positions or reducing a couple other projects,
25 but our consultations with the villages and our SRCs
26 will be fully funded.

27

28 I wanted to give you a quick update on
29 our delayed entry stipulation for the western part of
30 the Noatak. That's west of the Kugrukruk River and
31 west of the Miumerix (ph). I don't know that last year
32 was particularly a good year, it was the first year
33 we've implemented that and, of course, everybody knows
34 it was quite rainy so we're not sure how much demand
35 for transporters into that area would have been there
36 with better weather. But it's our intention to
37 maintain that delayed entry stipulation for 2014 and
38 potentially beyond. We're reaching out to both the
39 villages and the transporters to find out what worked
40 well, what didn't work well and then we'll potentially
41 adopt or adapt our approach in the future.

42

43 We have and to help us better
44 understand some of the issues, we have initiated a
45 traditional ecological knowledge study to build upon a
46 lot of the great work that's been done in the past
47 especially by the Department, ADF&G, to help us
48 document especially around the village of Noatak some
49 of the traditional ecological knowledge regarding the
50 caribou and the caribou migration. And that's being

1 done in cooperation with the University of Alaska,
2 Fairbanks with Dr. Gary Kofinis. And so we've already
3 had an initial meeting with the Noatak Tribal Council
4 to kick off that project.

5
6 And then the second component of that
7 is a focused research project to work with -- to help
8 us better document with use of sound monitors and using
9 the collar data from the caribou and so forth just the
10 actual impacts that we might be able to document
11 regarding sounds and noise, aircraft, on caribou
12 migrations. There's been a long history of people
13 talking about that so we're trying to do some formal
14 research designed to help us understand exactly what's
15 happening. So that will inform our management of
16 commercial use authorizations in the future.

17
18 And basically those are the key areas I
19 wanted to update the RAC on. I do have a list of our
20 proposed projects and research projects that I'll hand
21 out to everybody that we have so far proposed for the
22 four Park units.

23
24 And I'll open it up to question. Did
25 you have something to add, Ken?

26
27 MR. ADKISSON: Raymond had a question
28 earlier about the Anderson project and consultations.
29 If you could speak to that maybe.

30
31 MR. HAYES: Sure. So not having heard
32 the question specifically, but we are actually
33 traveling to Kiana tomorrow. Two years ago we issued a
34 research permit for archeological work on the Kobuk
35 River. There was an inadvertent discovery of human
36 remains during that excavation. That automatically
37 triggers the NAGRA process, the Native American Grave
38 Repatriation Act process which mean we as the National
39 Park Service formally consult with affiliated villages
40 through the Tribal Councils to determine the approach
41 that the villages would like us to pursue as far as
42 what to do with those inadvertent remains, the remains
43 that were inadvertently discovered. We have completed
44 our consultation with the Tribal Councils, they pretty
45 much have all deferred to the Kiana Traditional Council
46 for Kiana to make the recommendation to the Park
47 Service as to what they would like to have done with
48 that particular site and the Traditional Council
49 expressed to us a desire to see continued excavation at
50 the site to better understand what happened there. And

1 so we have agreed to go along and -- ahead and permit
2 continued excavation working with Dr. Anderson. Dr.
3 Anderson has provided us a plan of action for how that
4 excavation would take -- move forward. And tomorrow
5 we'll be reviewing that plan of action with the Kiana
6 Traditional Council. And so with Dr. Anderson
7 completing the work later this summer.

8

9 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Raymond.

10

11 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 One thing that the archeological
14 concern that concern us very heavily, that -- one thing
15 that I know because I was right there, what North
16 American Indian, American Councils, in other parts of
17 the states, the National Council of American Indian,
18 they sent a resolution to the congress to stop all
19 digging across the country and it took a complete year
20 to go through that process. And after a year later the
21 congress sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior
22 ordering all excavation around the country will be
23 stopped, that including Alaska. They said it will be
24 stopped. Now after you got the information now again
25 there was application to go back to where they were a
26 year ago. So that what concern us here that I thought
27 the National Park, you know, said -- gave orders to
28 contractor that your excavation, you know, it should be
29 stopped, but they know that.

30

31 MR. HAYES: Thanks, Mr. Stoney. So
32 I've actually not seen any direction from the Secretary
33 to stop excavations, but the -- actually the main point
34 of the NAGRA consultation was to reach out and listen
35 to the tribal -- the Traditional Council in Kiana and
36 the Traditional Council in Kiana has requested that we
37 proceed with the excavation. So we are complying with
38 the request directly from the Traditional Council. You
39 know, we'll -- I'll verify, but I've not heard anything
40 through our regional office or anywhere that has --
41 that's there's been any direction from the Secretary's
42 office on curtailing excavations. That's something
43 I'll be glad to follow-up on and report, but really my
44 whole intent for permitting -- going back into that
45 particular site on the Kobuk River was at the -- in
46 compliance with the request from the Kiana Traditional
47 Council to do so.

48

49 MR. STONEY: Again.....

50

1 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Raymond.

2

3 MR. STONEY:the request from
4 Traditional Council I'm not aware of at all because I'm
5 one of the members of the group. So evidently that how
6 are -- how they working with you I have no knowledge
7 whatsoever.

8

9 MR. HAYES: So we last -- Mr. Stoney,
10 last summer we -- you know, we had met and came through
11 Kiana and talked, I'm not sure if you were at that
12 particular meeting, but it was a very specific request
13 and direction from the Traditional Council to --
14 actually to fast-track this process as much as
15 possible. And so we fast-tracked it. The outreach to
16 other Traditional Council and have the request to move
17 forward and so tomorrow we'll be in Kiana to talk about
18 the plan of action meeting with the Traditional
19 Council. And I know the Tribal Administrator there,
20 Mr. Stots (ph), is actually I think trying to pull
21 together any community meeting for other interested
22 parties of the community to attend.

23

24 MR. STONEY: So it's legalized for the
25 contractor to go to this same area and do excavation so
26 the Secretary is aware of this project's happening?

27

28 MR. HAYES: So we do not normally
29 report those kind of activities to the -- directly to
30 the Secretary. Like I said I've not seen anything from
31 the Secretary's office that would keep us from pursuing
32 excavation. I think the key point to remember is this
33 is the Kiana Tribal Council, Traditional Council has
34 asked us to continue with this. And we're per NAGRA
35 the Native American Grave Repatriation Act, that is
36 actually how the process is set up is for us to work
37 with the affiliated Tribe and to take their
38 recommendations into consideration which is what I've
39 done and what we've agreed to pursue.

40

41 MS. LOON: (In Native language).

42

43 I'm going to translate to the best that
44 I can, but I can say it in Inupiat better. Who does
45 the -- what does the Native Village of Kiana, who are
46 their -- who are the members that are speaking on
47 behalf of the whole community. Do they understand
48 indigenous that so and so is coming and to dig in our
49 places because throughout our livelihood in our pre-
50 nomadic days we leave things alone. We leave places

1 like place of no spending the night over there. (In
2 Native language), those are what you call them, you
3 cannot spend the night there. There are traditional
4 and local laws where you cannot, you have to leave
5 things us, us Eskimos. No matter what leave them
6 alone, leave the dead there, let them sleep, leave them
7 alone. Will it help us in the future that if you find
8 your findings what happened to them, it don't matter
9 because all these years we've always left them alone.
10 It don't matter to us to know except to, you know, look
11 to our future, to try to save our way of life from
12 development and all that. And I wonder does Percy
13 Jackson know, the elder, he knows things must be left
14 alone. And I don't know even if Kiana have their
15 annual meetings, did the whole community vote for it,
16 yes or no.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. HAYES: Thanks for those
21 observations. And, you know, I think that's something
22 that the Traditional Council -- by NAGRA we are --
23 that's the Act that is guiding this, we are directed to
24 work directly on a government to government
25 relationship with Kiana and we reached out to the other
26 Tribal Councils across the region that had any
27 affiliation or possible affiliation to the site and
28 those Councils deferred to Kiana. So I think it's
29 important for Mr. Stoney and folks in Kiana to make
30 sure they're working with their Traditional Council to
31 help us inform this -- that decision. And we will be
32 there tomorrow and I -- as far as I understand from Mr.
33 Stots, the Tribal Administrator, they have once again
34 invited the broader community to attend the discussion
35 about the plan of action to move forward at the site.

36

37 You know, I'm really reacting to what
38 the Kiana Traditional Council has requested. And
39 that's the -- what, you know, I'm trying to do is
40 comply with what the community desires. I do think --
41 I mean, I would offer to the Chair, the RAC here, if
42 you would like to have a more in depth discussion about
43 archeology and the National Park Service and our
44 thoughts about excavations and so forth we would be
45 glad to provide that at a future meeting.

46

47 MS. LOON: I would like to also add Mr.
48 Stots from Barrow, he's not a res -- I mean, he might
49 be a resident of Kiana, he didn't grow up there.

50

1 MR. HAYES: Thanks. Well, he's the
2 Tribal Administrator so we're working through him, but
3 it's with the Traditional Council when we -- all our
4 correspondence has been through the Traditional
5 Council.

6
7 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Raymond.

8
9 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 What concerned me very much now today and then for
11 several days now that we are not aware of the request
12 of the Traditional Council requesting this situation
13 for that project. We don't know -- we don't know
14 because none of us is aware that this project is going
15 to go on. So we'd have to meet with the -- at Mary's
16 trailer (ph) to see what's going on. That I don't
17 know. So he never advise us that this was going to
18 happen. But we know you were coming for some reason.

19
20 MR. HAYES: So thanks, Mr. Stoney.
21 I'll just refer back to the meeting last summer when
22 actually I don't remember all the Traditional Council
23 that was in attendance, but the direction at that
24 meeting and actually subsequently before and after has
25 been very strong from the Tribal Chair there that -- to
26 continue with this work. So I -- you know, we'll be
27 glad to listen to the Traditional Council and work
28 through them. And so I would suggest working through
29 the Traditional Council to express your concerns
30 because it's my intent to try to comply with the
31 desires of the community where it's appropriate.

32
33 MR. STONEY: Frank, it'd be nice that
34 if you get a written statement from the Administrator
35 and then we go through it, we --it probably work out
36 better that way.

37
38 MR. HAYES: Yeah, we have -- we'll be
39 glad to do that with you.

40
41 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Moto.

42
43 MR. MOTO: I was wondering, you know,
44 our Tribal Council in our village are concerned when
45 Fish and Wildlife or any of you people come. Yeah,
46 we'll try to make sure that the elders know about it so
47 they could have some input on it. A lot of times when
48 the agency come to the villages they forget about the
49 elders, you know, they have -- we have elders councils
50 in every village, which I'm on the elders council of

1 our village. But we concern too about some of the
2 issues that you bring up on these Park Service things.
3 And the elders would like to be informed also that
4 they're invited because sometimes they say are we
5 invited or what do we have to do.

6

7 MR. HAYES: Thanks, Mr. Moto. And so
8 Willy Goodwin, of course, works for us and he helps to
9 set up our tribal consultation meetings. I'll work
10 with Willy to make sure the Tribal whatever Council,
11 there's a Traditional Council or an IRA, has reached
12 out to their local communities. Generally that's been
13 our understanding that's been done, but I'll have Willy
14 to make sure that folks are always invited to come to
15 our consultation meetings. And at the decision of the
16 Council, whatever the Council decides. You know, by
17 law, by consultation law we have government to
18 government relationships between the Federal government
19 and the Tribal Councils. And so it's our duty to work
20 through the Council and then -- but we can make that
21 extra effort to make sure elders have been informed as
22 much as possible.

23

24 MR. STONEY: Thank you.

25

26 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Mike.

27

28 MR. KRAMER: One thing I hear a lot
29 when it comes down to the agencies, you know, is about
30 funding. If Alaska Department of Natural Resources
31 can, you know, bid pieces of ocean to gold dredgers out
32 of Nome, you know, why can't the agencies bid off guide
33 use areas for transporters and guides and specifically
34 use those funds for studying and future studies of, you
35 know, our animals that we -- our subsistence resources.
36 You know, you're just talking about a cut right there.
37 You know, why can't there be a bidding process for
38 these guide use areas to fund future studies for our
39 natural resources. I mean, if Alaska of Department of
40 Natural Resources can get away with it why can't
41 everybody else. I mean, I made a recommendation to BLM
42 last year for the Squirrel River area, you know, I was
43 really hoping that they would take that into
44 consideration because a lot of those places are left a
45 mess, you know, it's just -- everybody's screaming
46 about funding. Well, why don't you ream the benefits
47 from them.

48

49 And that's all I have to say on that.

50

1 MR. HAYES: Thanks, Mr. Kramer, through
2 the Chair. Just to respond quickly even though, you
3 know, we have \$180,000 cut, we actually have
4 prioritized very highly continuing the SRC meetings,
5 funding those. And we've actually funded the high
6 priority, the information that helps us do the work up
7 in the Noatak to help us make those management
8 decisions. Those are not being cut, we're looking at
9 other issues. Those are high priority items that we
10 want to make sure those projects get done and so we
11 will continue that.

12
13 As far as going toward concessions or
14 some sort of approach to gain income from commercial
15 interests, that is a possibility. Up in the Noatak
16 right now we're trying to manage that at the lowest
17 possible kind of bureaucratic level which is while
18 there are a couple of guide concessions in the Noatak
19 that the transporters right now are being managed
20 through what's called a commercial use authorization
21 which is a lower bureaucratic kind of approach than
22 full blown concessions process. But that's something
23 that's open to us in the future that we can look at
24 that would generate some income for the Park Service in
25 the future.

26
27 MR. BALLOT: See I applaud the Park
28 Service for trying to comply with NAGRA, I suggest some
29 communication between the public and the community or
30 the administrator in regard to what can happen from now
31 and I'm pretty sure you guys will work this out.

32
33 MR. HAYES: Thanks, Mr. Ballot. Yes,
34 we're -- I mean, I'm really wanting to actually comply
35 with the community -- the Tribal Council wishes and I
36 really don't have a particular preference in this case
37 of whether the excavation goes forward or not. I'm
38 more in tune with what the Traditional Council says.

39
40 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you. I have
41 one. You spoke briefly of transporters/outfitters.
42 The Kelly River was closed to the middle of the month
43 last fall. That was a shot in the arm for Village of
44 Noatak for a while. Soon as it opened up at least the
45 caribou had a corridor there for a while. They got
46 enough to tide them over until freeze-up and then my
47 big concern they had to revert to putting down females.
48 In the future is there any possibility that corridor
49 might be able to be closed for the rest of the month?
50

1 MR. HAYES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 So -- you know, so as I mentioned we're
4 intending to keep the current delayed entry stipulation
5 in place until September 15th for 2014, but in the
6 meantime we're doing a traditional ecological knowledge
7 study, we're doing another research study to help us
8 better understand the issue and to have some more
9 informed data for help me make a management decision.
10 And it is a possibility in the future. I can say that
11 we could extend the delay for the western part of the
12 Noatak. I can say that the -- we were able to
13 implement the delayed entry stipulation for 2013 based
14 on working closely both with the villages, affected
15 villages, but also with the transporters and had good
16 support from the CUA holders, the commercial use
17 authorization holders for operating transport services
18 into the western Noatak. And it was a collaborative
19 process to get to the point where we did, it'll take a
20 bit more effort if we need to extend the data further
21 into the future. And so it's -- I think it's going to
22 depend on some good data for me to have -- to extend
23 the delayed entry any further.

24

25 Yeah, we'll be evaluating -- we'll be
26 evaluating that because it is -- I mean, I -- this is a
27 short-term fix. Well, not even a fix, it's just a
28 short term attempt to start to move toward some sort of
29 approach that provides for the subsistence priority,
30 but then also allows for the sports hunting
31 opportunities in the Noatak.

32

33 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
34 questions, comments, Council.

35

36 Hannah.

37

38 MS. LOON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Is there
39 also another -- I'm curious if you could extend the
40 corridor more out further for transporters like 20
41 miles.

42

43 MR. HAYES: Thanks for that question,
44 Ms. Loon. That's a potential and again I'll just refer
45 to, you know, we're -- the traditional ecological
46 knowledge study that we're trying to embark upon and
47 then this other research project will help inform
48 broader decisions. It's going to take some effort both
49 on the research side, but also working with the
50 effected villages and the transporters to see how we

1 can best implement a process that works better. But
2 we'll be evaluating all alternatives into the future.

3

4 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Verne.

5

6 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, I work for NANA
7 Trespass Officer. And we went to one of these camps
8 where these flight camps were there at the Squirrel
9 River and boy it was a lot of mess, I tell you that.
10 One guy left his mess right there and it's still there.
11 No cleaning -- no cleaning up or anything. I would
12 like to know how do -- flight camps are if they keep
13 leaving a mess like that then man, it's going to get
14 terrible.

15

16 MR. HAYES: Thanks for that
17 observation, Mr. Cleveland. So I would urge -- and we
18 try to reach out as much as we could through the KOTZ,
19 through the villages. Willy was instrumental in
20 helping try to get the word out that to set up a phone
21 number at the Park Service to report any kind of these
22 problems that people see while they're out in the
23 Preserve or the Parks. And I would -- I know the
24 Squirrel River's either on BLM or State land so, you
25 know, it -- we wouldn't have jurisdiction there, but
26 we'll again reach out and I would welcome any ideas on
27 how we get word out to the communities of how to
28 contact us so we can follow-up with these kind of
29 reports and make sure appropriate actions, follow-up
30 actions are taken.

31

32 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
33 questions, comments.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you, Frank.

38

39 MR. HAYES: Thank you. Thanks,
40 Council. Appreciate it.

41

42 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Next one on our
43 agenda is BLM. I don't see a BLM -- okay, here we go.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MS. JACOBSON: I'd like to thank the
48 Chair and the Council, this is the first time I've done
49 a presentation by myself and one of the first times
50 I've been at your guys' meeting. But my name is Shelly

1 Jacobson, I'm the Field Manager for BLM Central, Yukon
2 Field Office. I work out of Fairbanks. And it's a big
3 field office, big even by Alaska standards for BLM so
4 it covers this region, about 6 million acres out here
5 and about 26 million acres of BLM managed lands within
6 a really large segment of interior Alaska and all the
7 way out here to the coast. So we -- just to give you a
8 little bit of introduction, the BLM Administrative
9 Units that overlap the Northwest Arctic Region are
10 mainly managed out of my field office, in the Central
11 Yukon Field Office. But a small area is also managed
12 out of the Anchorage Field Office and that area out on
13 the Seward Peninsula. So today I'm representing the
14 Central Yukon Field Office, but I'm certainly able to
15 take questions and get information back for the
16 surrounding BLM units.

17

18 I just wanted to give a little bit of
19 background about BLM. It's a multiple use Federal
20 agency so a little bit unusual up here because the
21 Forest Service isn't a big agency except on the coast
22 in Alaska. They're also a multiple use Federal agency
23 and what that means is that our enable legislation,
24 FLPMA, says that unless there's reasons to close lands
25 which are there plenty of reasons to close them to
26 different types of development, but in general we start
27 from a position of being open to the public land laws.
28 So a lot of the conservation system units, particularly
29 the Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service,
30 their legislation that allows them and requires them
31 really to have lands closed to a lot of forms of
32 development so there's a lot of opportunities or
33 situations where we have to at the BLM at least
34 entertain an application for certain types of
35 development where other agencies are not in that same
36 situation. So it's pretty similar to the Department of
37 Natural Resources in terms of trying to strike a
38 balance between economic development and conservation,
39 but major difference between BLM and the State that is
40 a huge thing we have in common with the Park and the
41 Refuge is we all have the same obligation to protect
42 subsistence resources and the opportunities to harvest
43 and access those resources. So it's a constant
44 challenge and I'll go through some of our programs,
45 it's a mix of both permitting authorities that we have
46 and I'll give you updates on those permits within the
47 region that we're working on as well as to the extent
48 we have time and funding usually more through
49 partnerships we're able to meet or at least scratch the
50 surface of some of our obligations, our custodial

1 obligations for inventorying it and just monitoring and
2 being able to report on the status of important
3 resources that occur on BLM lands. And one of the down
4 sides too of not having conservation system units is
5 that our lands don't have names that are well known
6 nationally, you know, Parks and Refuges have a higher
7 profile because they have name like Kobuk Valley
8 National Park and you can call them like that. The BLM
9 lands we try to refer to them by their closest
10 communities or rivers through the area, but they're not
11 -- even the Squirrel River which we seem to be coming
12 quite known for out here is not all managed by BLM and
13 so a lot of times I think people don't know which lands
14 are ours because we're really -- even though there's a
15 lot of -- millions of acres, they're scattered parcels,
16 things that either the State or the corporations didn't
17 select that end up still in BLM management. So certain
18 communities know us if we have lands near them, other
19 communities may not.

20

21 So with that, just a brief update on
22 our Squirrel River planning. In 2008 we did a resource
23 management plan for all of the lands within this region
24 that were managed by BLM and it was known at that time
25 that we had a user conflict issue with our guides and
26 transporters and the activities that they were doing on
27 the BLM lands in the Squirrel River. And so we agreed
28 to do another level of planning where we would develop
29 additional rules and try to hone in on that problem and
30 see what we could do to solve it. So we've been
31 spending a lot of time listening at working groups,
32 also at these RAC meetings and I take a lot of notes, I
33 hope people will be pleased when they see the draft,
34 we're hopefully within a couple months of having a
35 draft available for public review. We've gone out to
36 Kiana a couple of times and Noorvik, here in Kotzebue
37 we outreach to the various tribes and had a lot of
38 interest particularly from Kiana and Noorvik and
39 partnering with us so we've -- we're trying to
40 incorporate a lot of the good ideas that we've heard at
41 those into a preferred alternative and I think folks
42 will be happier than they are today with the management
43 of the BLM lands in there. Also we've paid attention
44 to what the Park Service and Frank and Willy really
45 stepped out front with the delayed entry on the
46 transporters and even though last year may have not
47 been a typical year to notice if that was partially
48 responsible for the success downward in the migration
49 of the caribou, but it seems like a really good idea.
50 We've heard that at the GMU 23 working group meetings

1 as well and so that's a feature of our preferred
2 alternative that we're going to suggest as well as
3 trying to work out a delayed entry date. And really
4 welcome -- I'm going to meet later today with Frank to
5 talk about how they or how we might do that in the
6 future as far as utilizing both the collar data that we
7 have available as well as local intelligence from the
8 various communities on whether the animals are starting
9 to pass through and then our own or other agency
10 overflights that might be able to tell us whether the
11 -- what the timing should be for that start date for
12 the transporters.

13

14 So again the GMU 23 meeting that's
15 looking at the beginning of May is also the date that
16 I'm targeting to try to get that out for public -- in a
17 draft form for the public to review and comment on so
18 that we could hopefully get it finalized before the
19 hunting season.

20

21 Last year -- we currently have a total
22 of seven guide permits in the 23-06, only two of the
23 guides -- those are people that kept active permits,
24 but only two of them actually reported use in the
25 Squirrel River last year. And there was an additional
26 law enforcement issue that created a lot of problems in
27 various ways during the beginning of the hunting season
28 which may have been partially responsible for the lower
29 numbers, but those two guides reported take out a total
30 of 22 clients and they harvested 12 caribou, two moose
31 and three grizzlies. We've had no request for new
32 permits and each year we've had a variety between six
33 to eight usually permits that people will stay active
34 with as far as the guides go, but last several years
35 we've had, you know, just usually three or four people
36 that actually pick that unit and take folks.

37

38 The -- since 2009 all the transporters
39 that are taking clients into the BLM managed lands on
40 the Squirrel River are required to have a BLM permit.
41 We're aware of the fact that most of the landing places
42 along the rivers where the guide or where the
43 transporters are dropping people are actually State
44 lands so we've reached out to both the Northwest Arctic
45 Borough and the State of Alaska and offered to see if
46 they would be interested in partnering with us on our
47 plans so that it would be -- effect all of the lands
48 and not just the BLM lands. And the Northwest Arctic
49 Borough followed up with us and accepted our invitation
50 to partner so that's an ongoing relationship with the

1 Planning Department here. And then the State of Alaska
2 although they didn't officially -- weren't able to
3 officially partner with us, they did give us some
4 points of contact. They've been working on a guide
5 program statewide, I heard yesterday the legislature
6 might not be funding that so I'm not sure if that's
7 going to go forward, particularly not statewide for the
8 State of Alaska, but maybe the legislature's still in
9 session, but I'm still hopeful that on the Squirrel
10 River lands that they would be agreeable to some of the
11 management proposals that we're putting forward in our
12 plan.

13
14 Let's see, on the post-use of those
15 transporters we issued four permits to transporters in
16 2012 and one permit reported no use during the hunting
17 season, the other three reported a combined total of 28
18 clients. That was down from the previous year where
19 the four transporters had taken a total of 59. So
20 those are being renewed year by year right now and
21 that's one of the points that will be coming forward in
22 our plan as far as right now it's looking like or what
23 I'm proposing is that we first just try to utilize the
24 delayed start date to limit the season in half for the
25 people that need commercial transport, but we aren't
26 restricting ourself simply to that, if that doesn't
27 solve the problems we can continue to look at either
28 delaying the -- or reducing the number of permits that
29 we issue or also looking into reducing the number of
30 clients that are allowed. So we're trying to keep
31 options open and stay adaptive.

32
33 Just to give a full disclosure on the
34 other guide use areas within the region, we had -- I
35 don't have the number of clients with me, but in 23-01
36 which is the area up by Kivalina, there's two guides
37 permitted to use BLM lands there. 23-04 has two
38 guides, 23-05 has one and then as I said the 23-06
39 really sticks out like a sore thumb with seven guides.
40 And I've seen the statewide maps, there's only two or
41 three areas in the whole State that are up at that
42 level and they are all having user conflict issues. So
43 we really need to try to model some of the guide use
44 areas that aren't experiencing that conflict and
45 probably target a lot lower numbers.

46
47 I wanted to mention as I made a note on
48 Mike's comment about the cost recovery and charging the
49 users fees. We do -- we don't fully collect the cost
50 of what it administratively costs us to issue permits

1 from the transporters or guides, but we do collect fees
2 from them depending on the percentage of time that they
3 use the BLM lands. I think we get 2 percent of the
4 gross that they -- whatever they collect from their
5 clients, they have to report that to us as well as the
6 percent of time that they spend and then there's a
7 formula so we get that money into a special account for
8 BLM, it's called fee demo. It's the same account we
9 use for the fees we collect from campgrounds and other
10 recreation permits. And then we use that money for our
11 law enforcement and our -- it's not really enough to do
12 much with our wildlife studies, but it does help defray
13 the fuel cost for our law enforcement and compliance
14 checks. So we're starting and it's a possibility --
15 that's a national system of cost recovery so there's
16 always the possibility that the rates could go up or it
17 could be suggested to go up so I made a note of that.
18 We should also do a little bit more -- we try to at
19 campgrounds to let the public know how we're using the
20 fees that we're collecting so that -- so I made a note
21 to get the word more out to people about that.

22

23 On our Fisheries Program, our fisheries
24 biologist, Dave Parker, has been doing work for the
25 last couple of years, he's had some weather delays, but
26 he's been trying to look into the Kivalina River and
27 mapping some of the upper limits of the dolly varden's
28 spawning and rearing habitat. He's been going out in
29 mid to late August and this is the last year that he
30 will be trying to finish up that project. And it says
31 it's the -- he's looking at the middle fork of Grayling
32 Creek is the focus. And then if time and weather
33 permit he's wanting to get into the upper reaches of
34 the Kobuk River. And a BLM open file report which is
35 where we summarize the results will be available and
36 hopefully within the next year, Dave's really good at
37 getting his results out into the public.

38

39 So let's see, mining. We're not having
40 any -- anticipating any new mining plans on BLM lands
41 although we're keeping an eye of the Ambler Mining
42 District and aware of the increased interest and
43 there's a possibility a lot of lands -- there are
44 mining claims within the region and if those go into
45 development or get leased our possibly to Nova Copper,
46 we -- that may increase. We did transfer the last of
47 the remaining Federal mining claims around the Lik
48 project up near Red Dog that was a Federal -- partially
49 Federal mine that -- with a lot of exploration lately
50 going on up there, but those are all now State mining

1 claims.

2

3 We're continuing to -- one of our --
4 the next program I wanted to mention is our Realty
5 Program, this is the program where we issue rights-of-
6 ways. If there ever would be a road to the Ambler
7 Mining District or even inter-village roads or other
8 rights-of-ways like that, if it would cross BLM lands,
9 there's a lot of public easements and other things
10 already in existence, but if the -- there was a need
11 for an upgrade or a major road of any kind that would
12 need a right-of-way that's -- there's also permits they
13 issue for communication sites under the Realty Program.
14 So right now we don't have any applications for new
15 rights-of-way as far as road goes, but we've been
16 working with GCI on an expansion of a project that was
17 pretty successful in Southwestern Alaska called Terra
18 Southwest. Now this one is called Terra Northwest and
19 we had some scoping meetings out in Nome and Buckland
20 and Kotzebue during the last year. They -- they're
21 wanting to put up five communication site towers and
22 three of those would be on ridges within this area.
23 And we've just completed the draft environmental
24 assessment so that'll be available for the public to
25 review on our website. They are hoping to start
26 construction of those towers I think this summer so
27 we'll probably be looking in the next month or so to
28 make a decision on that.

29

30 On our Wildlife Program, this is --
31 we've had a lot of turnover, we recently -- we
32 benefitted from our Fish -- our wildlife biologist we
33 got from Fish and Wildlife Service, but now he's moved
34 on to our Anchorage Field Office so we've got a vacant
35 position. It advertised and closed and we didn't --
36 then it -- now we're in the sequester so we aren't --
37 we haven't interviewed yet. I did talk to John about
38 the possibility if we had an applicant that wanted to
39 have a duty station in Kotzebue and he thought that was
40 a good idea so I'm going to talk to our State Director
41 that some of you may have met yesterday and see if he
42 would support alternate duty station. Right now you
43 probably know we've only ever had recently -- they used
44 to have two people out here for BLM, but over the last
45 20 years that I've been here we've had just one person
46 in this office and then they coordinate all the various
47 programs and permits back with the headquarters in
48 Fairbanks.

49

50 So we do have an ecologist back in

1 Fairbanks that is focusing a lot more not on the
2 wildlife studies, but on the habitat studies and
3 vegetation. And she -- we continue to work with the
4 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and this year
5 we provided funds for the youth as well as for the
6 working group to meet for their annual meeting with the
7 partner agencies, Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game and
8 the Park Service, and those meetings are just another
9 good opportunity for us to get ideas that we can move
10 forward in our various plans and programs.

11
12 I was hoping before I got up here,
13 Verne, that I would have the rap sheep on the fire
14 retardant. I do have some maps that I passed out at
15 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meeting
16 that showed the acreage of fire history for the last --
17 since 1950 and then it shows the acreage that was
18 burned last year. And we talked a lot about that at
19 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meeting
20 as well as the fire retardant, but just -- I'll pass
21 these out and just -- you can probably get a lot of
22 different things out of them, but what I get out of
23 them is that if we pay attention through mapping these
24 fires over time we can report, you know, not just the
25 number of acres, but with a little bit of number
26 crunching what the average number of acres was and
27 reflect on goals that we have. So relate it back to
28 what we'd like to see and last year we were -- we
29 burned a total of 152,000 acres within the entire range
30 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. That was .08
31 percent of the total range which is lower than the long
32 -- the long-term average is 1.9 percent that would
33 normally burn in a given year. So the average fire
34 size was about 5,000 acres and it was a pretty low fire
35 year, well below the five year average. So a lot of
36 the Alaska Fire Service does the fire fighting for
37 wildland fire in the northern half of the State for all
38 the lands, in the northern half of the State they fire
39 a -- they follow a fire management plan that lays out
40 ahead of time a limited, modified or full and critical
41 for certain sites protection level and then we make
42 some decisions within the season, but last year there
43 was a lot of critical fire protection going on in the
44 Kobuk River area for Native allotments or -- and
45 private property and cultural sites are usually in
46 critical protection so they get direct initial attack
47 and direct fire fight protection usually with smoke
48 jumpers. We do have restrictions on the use of fire
49 retardant. There's -- it's not allowed to be used
50 within a certain distance of a water body so that

1 limits that particular fire fighting tool. We did have
2 the chemical -- the representative from the company
3 that we buy the fire retardant come out and talk to us
4 a couple years ago about the chemical make up of the
5 product and I appreciate Mike's mention about the MSDS
6 sheet that I'll try to get a copy of that before the
7 end of the day so if you'd like to see it we'll have
8 it. But they have made improvements so that's not as
9 toxic as it used to be, but it's still not completely
10 benign, it does breakdown in sunlight and also in water
11 into non-toxic substances, but there's -- there's still
12 concerns over it and they occasionally have had
13 inadvertent releases of the fire retardant a few years
14 ago into a lake near Hughes and so we did some follow-
15 up studies with that to see how it was breaking down.
16 And I think it -- it did breakdown, but I don't have
17 any of the information that I brought to the Western
18 Arctic Caribou Herd so I.....

19

20 I'll try to speed up, I know I'm taking
21 a long time on some of this, but I'm trying to go --
22 get through it.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 MS. JACOBSON: Okay. Thanks, Mr.
27 Chair. I'm sorry to -- I'm a little nervous, but I'll
28 try to speed it up here.

29

30 The -- what I wanted to say a little
31 bit more about the wildlife is that last year we were
32 able to participate a little bit further with the Onion
33 Portage collaring and the school that they -- one of
34 the schools they picked was Kivalina. And so we helped
35 get those kids flown down to Kobuk so that they could
36 participate in that project. And we're really pleased
37 to be a partner with Fish and Game and the Park Service
38 and Fish and Wildlife on that effort.

39

40 We're also trying to continue to find
41 out opportunities for other youth projects like culture
42 camps. We've chipped in the last couple of years on
43 the Kotzebue Sisalik camp through the Kotzebue IRA.
44 And then we're hoping maybe we can work with the
45 Buckland culture camp down there and extend that offer
46 to other communities if they have an interest, we
47 probably don't have any -- other than John or one or
48 two people in Fairbanks, options for helping with
49 instructors, but it seems like more just the fuel and
50 the food and other logistics ways we could help. So

1 we're open to that. We're also interested in working
2 with some of the partners on the Borough -- Northwest
3 Arctic Borough Subsistence Mapping Project, one of the
4 ideas came forward to have youth and elders get more
5 engaged in the project and we're starting to talk with
6 them about having like a film festival or other ed
7 outreach efforts that Megan Nedwik and Fish and Game
8 are interested in working with the schools and there
9 was a school teacher in Selawik that was at the
10 conference that was particularly interested in getting
11 the Selawik kids involved. So and then also I --
12 Calvin's not here, but just to mention many -- about 20
13 years ago I coordinated a BLM program called the Wraps
14 Program and at that time we were hiring kids from rural
15 Alaska, it was kind of near and dear to my heart. We
16 had a really great student from Deering that worked for
17 us, Walter Greg. He came back several years. That was
18 a pretty successful internship we had. I think he went
19 on to the military, but I wrote down the name that
20 Hannah mentioned of the NANA Intern Coordinator and
21 talked to John about making sure that any youth
22 internships right now that's a big initiative
23 department-wide for youth hires and education. So
24 we're -- they're not always out here in Kotzebue and we
25 have had the limiting of the housing especially for the
26 high school kids when we've hosted them in Fairbanks.
27 But every -- sometimes with relatives or other help
28 we're able to find suitable housing.

29
30 Law enforcement, we've had a vacant law
31 enforcement position for about two years. We've
32 recently filled that with a wonderful and quite
33 experienced pilot law enforcement ranger, Seth
34 McMillan. And he's currently onboard and doing his --
35 some follow-up BLM training down in the lower 48 right
36 now. But we were able to get funding to buy a
37 Supercub, it's on its way up to Anchorage right now to
38 get outfitted with some radios, but that's going to be
39 a real asset to us to be able to have more capability
40 in the field and this is the -- one of the main -- one
41 of two high target areas for our field office so we'll
42 be trying to utilize it as much as possible, but also
43 we need some help with him and the plane in the Cold
44 Foot area. I'll try to introduce Seth to the RAC and
45 also to the GMU 23 Working Group in May. I've asked
46 them to come out and he'll be trying to participate
47 with the Village Trespass Officers Program and get up
48 to speed.

49
50 We have an Archeology Program, we have

1 one Archeologist. Mostly what he does is evaluate the
2 sites before a permit application to make sure that
3 there's no known cultural resources in the area. But
4 occasionally he -- he doesn't usually get actively
5 involved in excavations, but occasionally he'll find a
6 site or there'll be a permit from the University or
7 somebody asking to excavate something on BLM lands
8 within the region. So there was an interesting find
9 near Kivalina. It was a hunting site that had some
10 points and other artifacts that were found that created
11 a lot of interest with the University of Alaska and the
12 National Science Foundation and they funded -- have
13 been funding some follow-up work on that site. We've
14 had kids from Kivalina come up, we've tried to do brief
15 -- we've done some briefings, Bill has with Kivalina
16 and here in Kotzebue to make sure people know what
17 they're up to and what they're finding.

18

19 So I think that concludes my
20 presentation and I'm up for any questions.

21

22 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Raymond.

23

24 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 I guess I got a number of questions, but maybe I'll
26 just ask one. So we all know that the school normally
27 is managed by BLM for quite a few years now. And then,
28 of course, they issue these permits for the clients for
29 the Squirrel River, but point is -- my question is does
30 National Park also issue permits for the Squirrel River
31 and BLM?

32

33 MS. JACOBSON: Through the Chair, Mr.
34 Stoney. I don't believe that the Park Service has any
35 lands, they may have just -- I don't believe they do in
36 that Game Management Unit so it -- those guides are
37 just BLM or the State. And now the Borough, actually
38 now the Borough may be issuing permits of their own
39 because some of the State lands came over to the
40 Borough.

41

42 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead.

43

44 MR. STONEY: Okay. One more comment
45 that I follow-up on Mr. Clementson's statement which is
46 a very important thing. I know the permits when BLM
47 issued them to the client, their agreement with the
48 client is to leave the camp perfectly clean, that's how
49 it's supposed to have been. So like when you said when
50 you see that -- what's not that way that, you know,

1 that's when the law enforcement has to be needed. When
2 we request for law enforcement for quite a few times to
3 do more patrol at the Squirrel, but the -- there was
4 always not enough law enforcement, not enough time for
5 enforcement when they -- whenever they showed up. So
6 like you -- like you said you're requesting an officer
7 that will be stationed at the field office in
8 Fairbanks?

9

10 MS. JACOBSON: Right. He'll be -- his
11 duty station will be in Fairbanks, but during the
12 hunting season he'll be -- he'll bring the plane out
13 here for part of it, part of the season. And I -- just
14 to follow-up if I could, I'm really concerned about
15 those reports as well of the litter. A couple of the
16 guides have base camps that stay there year round, but
17 they're supposed to be clean and stuff stored in a
18 proper way. The spike camps same way, those are
19 supposed to fully be cleaned and taken out. So we need
20 to increase our patrols and make sure we're staying in
21 communication so we can follow-up with the problems.
22 It's also -- the proposal in our plan is to have a
23 competitive process so if we go forward with that to
24 compete a limited number of guides, people who have a
25 history of non-compliance are probably going to not
26 score very well and may not be offered a chance to come
27 back. So.....

28

29 MR. STONEY: Now what would happen if I
30 was the client and I was -- had a permit from BLM to go
31 to Squirrel and I leave my camp unclean, what would
32 happen, they'd contact me or contact you?

33

34 MS. JACOBSON: I'm -- if I understand
35 your question you mean if one of the guides' clients
36 left a -- or the guide left a messy camp and it got --
37 I'm sorry, I didn't quite understand that. Yeah, they
38 could -- it -- I guess the Village Trespass Officer
39 Program the way I was understanding that is people
40 might feel more comfortable or be more timely if they
41 could report to somebody in their community so they're
42 trying to have the trespass officers available for that
43 in a community and then as long as we know who they are
44 then we can check in with them, but they could also
45 report to John which is our local contact and he can
46 help us make arrangements. We often can -- the Park
47 Service and Fish and Wildlife have been helping us as
48 well as the troopers to follow-up on reports of
49 problems. And we've caught a few things, mostly from
50 the troopers right now, but pretty soon if that's going

1 on I think we'll be able to be more responsive.

2

3 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Hannah.

4

5 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6

7 You know in Kenai people down there are
8 really conservative about their fish, you know, they
9 could close certain days and open certain days and
10 people are elbow to elbow on the Kenai, Ninilchik. Is
11 there some way you could since we've discussed about low
12 -- we are going to come into a low caribou population
13 sooner or later in the future although we were -- we
14 are told not to worry right now, and the concern I'm
15 hearing from this floor is the female calves and
16 sometimes they have one or two babies. If they're
17 going through Squirrel River sometimes we don't know if
18 they're going through coast or way up river or Squirrel
19 River and Onion Portage. We don't know, but, you know,
20 how these fisheries react right away down in Kenai, can
21 we react through local policy or something to allow the
22 females to go. I know we -- in Selawik we are told to
23 leave the first bunch, let them go and then the caribou
24 will follow, you know, later on the bulls will follow.
25 Can we put closure or stop for a while to let the first
26 females go and then later on people like bulls, you
27 know.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MS. JACOBSON: Mr. Chair, Ms. Loon. We
32 -- I think that was -- that that knowledge and practice
33 of letting the leaders and the females through at the
34 beginning came through and we talked different times
35 about follow-up studies, TEK studies like the Park
36 Service or other types of studies that might lend some
37 more information to that, but I think it went on the
38 record enough times to satisfy me that that's a good
39 practice. And not that I'm not interested in following
40 up on all the particulars of why that might be a good
41 idea, but that's kind of what led to this idea of -- it
42 took a long time, now it seems simple when you hear it,
43 but that fisheries idea of the escapement and letting
44 some through, they troubled with that for a long time
45 on the GMU 23 Working Group and people said can't we
46 have an escapement for caribou, you know, the same kind
47 of idea. And it really wasn't until the Park Service
48 and Willy and Frank kind of helped the idea gel into
49 the delayed start date. So that's what that's about,
50 it's trying to figure out how to let the big -- the

1 leaders through wherever they're going and then have an
2 opener. Right now we're just looking at the Squirrel
3 River, delaying the start for those transporters there.
4 And later I was going to talk to Frank, it sounds like
5 he already knows for this coming year that he's going
6 to have a delayed start for part of his area in the --
7 already knows that he's going to cut the season in half
8 just on probably general principles which is -- that's
9 a little bit easier that way than the way I'd been
10 thinking of it which is sort of in-season management of
11 trying to figure out as they're moving and it's less
12 predictable for the transporters. So but whatever day
13 -- if you pick the wrong day ahead of time it might not
14 work out too so I'm trying to just figure out what's
15 realistic. But I think it's a really good way and I
16 was thinking if we had some reporters, observers in the
17 communities that could tell us if the caribou are
18 coming through, then we would be able to use that
19 because we don't have enough collars to -- and they're
20 probably not on the leaders anyway.

21

22 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Buckland.

25

26 MR. BALLOT: You mentioned -- I would
27 like a copy of your written -- your report written.
28 You gave us a lot of information that I think is really
29 important for us. And you used some numbers like 7206
30 and all that and I know you said that we're not like
31 Park Service where we have named places, so I was kind
32 of curious to know what all those places are. Because
33 while we have -- you had user conflicts in like
34 Squirrel River and that's part of your job, it's also
35 part of our job to monitor and assist with their
36 concerns in those areas. So I hope we could get what
37 those places are.

38

39 I'm really concerned also about our
40 area in Buckland. I heard you say there's some weather
41 stations or something and I had some talk about the
42 other day some hunters ran into them. I don't know
43 how. The same question I asked Park Service earlier
44 about how are you using that information about you're
45 putting it there and what you're going to use for what
46 and, you know, how it's protected from people that
47 might run into them or things like that. So I was
48 hoping that there's a way that we're sharing that stuff
49 with the villages.

50

1 You also mentioned about the northern
2 station or road or something, a test road or something.
3 So I need -- I'd like to see more information on that
4 if you got anything written down on a road that you say
5 in north -- northern -- what was that term, northern
6 station.

7
8 MS. JACOBSON: Oh, was that the Terra
9 Northwest?

10
11 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Terra Northwest.
12 Yeah. Well, whatever. So I think we need to share
13 that with our villages because Buckland's real
14 concerned and don't really want roads around there. I
15 know that and people going on, but we to share that, we
16 need to share that with people like Buckland.

17
18 And we really like working on the
19 culture camps, really thank you for that.

20
21 And I didn't even know what you meant
22 by post-use when you give guides permits so I'm just
23 wondering what you meant by that.

24
25 MS. JACOBSON: Okay. Well, through the
26 Chair, Mr. Ballot. I'll address the concerns and
27 questions as I can.

28
29 I will make a copy of this written
30 report as well as a map available that will show the
31 BLM managed lands that are -- the color coding on the
32 map, I'll try to put a little appendix that shows the
33 lands. It's a little bit confusing because the State
34 and Native conveyance is still going on so in the
35 meantime those lands, they show up as selected in a
36 different color, but they're still managed by BLM. So
37 I'll try to clarify that on the map. There are a lot
38 of BLM lands around the Buckland area. So I'll follow-
39 up before the end of the day on those two things.

40
41 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Because when we see
42 that registration is saw a picture of it, that's the
43 first I ever seen it and somebody could just run right
44 into there in a ground storm or someone could get hurt.

45
46 You also -- I would like to see who had
47 those guide permits in the Buckland area, you know, I
48 heard you see Squirrel River and Kivalina, but it would
49 be nice for us to get that information too because we
50 do have concerns about transporters that leave things

1 up there and we've seen things blown down from the --
2 float down from the river during the flood. And I
3 don't know if you have a process, I wanted to follow up
4 on one of the questions that when somebody has a site
5 up there and they're using it for transporting, does
6 BLM go up there and check the sites or do you get a
7 report on how it's left and things like that because
8 we've seen drums float down, canoes float down and
9 stuff like that. And I know up there you have a permit
10 for a whole year use you said and all that kind of
11 stuff we need to kind of hear what's going on so that
12 we know and are aware of issues that might pop up with
13 these hunters or transporters up there.

14
15 MS. JACOBSON: Okay. Well, I -- I'll
16 answer as much as people will allow me today, but also
17 extend the offer to anyone for additional follow-up.
18 I'll be here in town through tomorrow and then still
19 feel like I'm going to have enough funding to pretty
20 well follow-up for any kind of meeting if the community
21 might want to have a special meeting to talk more about
22 the permitting. We're trying to make people aware of
23 our permits through a couple of ways, we post them
24 ahead of time when we get an application on our
25 website. We don't permit transporters any place on BLM
26 lands, any place in the country or in the State except
27 in the Squirrel River. It's not that we can't, it's
28 just that we've never done that. So we're doing it
29 right now for the first time in the Squirrel River and
30 it's possible that that may -- if it's a good idea it
31 might be a good idea in other places too and so we can
32 follow-up on that. But when we get permit applications
33 I think the area around Buckland is 2304, does that
34 sound right. I'll see on the -- there's Game
35 Management Units and they get subdivided and I'm not
36 quite sure which one that is, but so the public can
37 find out on our website, but then we also send out
38 letters to the IRA and sometimes the RAC. OSM has
39 helped us in the past distribute to the RAC members.
40 Different forms of outreach, not all of them are always
41 that effective, but we're trying to get the public
42 aware and then to give us comments on not just for or
43 against although that's fine, but also any kind of
44 particular stipulations that might be good to include.

45

46

47 So following up on those weather
48 stations, that was something that the Western Arctic
49 Caribou Herd had -- Working Group had a Science
50 Committee that thought it would be good to have more

1 weather information to help figure out and shed more
2 light on the thing that -- well, I've heard mostly from
3 Jim Dau on the icing events in the wintertime and
4 whether that is part of the reason that the caribou
5 herd might be declining. And so they didn't have
6 enough local weather information from various places
7 and so those stations are called RAWS stations, I'm not
8 exactly sure what it stands for, but I think it's
9 something like remote area weather station or something
10 like that. And those ones also have thermistors,
11 little probes that go down into the ground and help get
12 more info on the soil temperatures and stuff. But they
13 didn't put them right up on ridge tops like they often
14 do. They really wanted them to be located in areas
15 that the caribou were actually using so they're a
16 little bit partway down the slopes where the better
17 habitat was. We tried to do our standard ways of
18 notifying the public, we did an EA, environmental
19 assessment, we put a -- we do those for our own
20 projects as well so we put public notice out, but
21 obviously probably didn't do a good enough job because
22 a lot of people sounds like aren't aware of it. So
23 we'll -- the information that's coming off of those
24 weather stations will be available online, but we'll
25 also try to make sure we make it a part of our updates
26 so people know how we're using the information and also
27 how the working group and the other agencies might be
28 using it, they're part of a bigger, statewide network
29 of remote weather stations.

30
31 And also I don't know if that's close
32 enough to the community, but sometimes I know Fish and
33 Wildlife Service has gotten youth involved in some of
34 the snow surveys and other work that goes on near those
35 weather stations. So if it's close enough sometimes
36 the school kids could get involved in it.

37
38 And I'm sorry in terms of the follow-up
39 on the permits, I know we've tried to follow-up on some
40 reports last year. I think some of the helicopter
41 reports that were bothering people was actually maybe
42 our own agency aircraft that was slinging the pieces of
43 the weather station out to that spot. But again, I
44 think we'll have a little bit more capability with our
45 aircraft and we're focusing on the squirrel because
46 that's where we've got right now most of our permits,
47 but we're definitely wanting to use that to support
48 compliance throughout the regions. So.....

49
50 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I think it's

1 important to share like you're doing now for next year,
2 if something's going to happen we know somebody's going
3 to go put something out there and we share that way
4 ahead of time the concern I'm having about you got it
5 going on. And I saw that lady earlier today that she
6 had -- was doing some weather stuff. I forgot her
7 name. But she -- I don't know, she said she's got not
8 funding to do that stuff, but yet somebody else is
9 doing it so I don't know why or how. You guys could
10 work these things out that you're working together,
11 you're doing the same thing, but different time or
12 whatever.

13

14 MS. JACOBSON: Yeah. You know, it's
15 interesting, probably might not seem like it, but
16 actually a lot of us are coordinating either through
17 the working group or on these weather stations they --
18 the Alaska Fire Service had been the main user of the
19 data for a long time to do fire predictions and
20 droughtiness and weather and other things with them.
21 They're able to meet their needs with less stations so
22 they've started not putting as many out and, in fact,
23 taking some offline because they're expensive to
24 maintain. But at about the same time the resources
25 part of the agencies were noticing that they were
26 important for climate change detection and other
27 wildlife relationships with the weather and so we
28 increased our desire to have them out and now we're
29 having to come up with the money to do the construction
30 and maintenance and data management and other things.
31 So we'll never have as many as we'd like, they're
32 really expensive, but yeah, we do need to keep looking
33 for opportunities to work together. We're applying for
34 similar grants and funding streams to put them out and
35 those particular weather stations they're are a couple
36 on BLM lands, but there's also -- I actually think that
37 Fish and Wildlife Service may have gotten the money for
38 them and then we just coordinated the permits with them
39 because they were on our lands.

40

41 MR. BALLOT: Well, I'm going to follow-
42 up one more time. When you do these things I'm just
43 concerned that you have a plan, you're going to come
44 and take them out within a certain amount of time,
45 they're not -- just not going to be left out there with
46 no funding or project or something like that because,
47 you know, we enforce our laws, to the people, to the
48 sport hunters, to subsistence, something about leaving
49 waste out there. And that means we shouldn't be doing
50 it when we're doing it for our studies.

1 MS. JACOBSON: Okay. So those -- if we
2 ever can't maintain them we will take them down, but
3 the plan is that they're long-term so we're hoping that
4 they'll stay out there for really the foreseeable
5 future. And we do intend to fund them and maintain
6 them, but that's a fair point, we don't have any
7 exclosures at the moment, but we have in the past put
8 them up and lost track of them and had to go basically
9 pick up litter because it got blown down. So we have
10 to follow-up on our own work as well as the work of our
11 permittees.

12
13 I just -- I had forgotten I wanted to
14 follow-up to clarify that the Terra Northwest, those --
15 that communication projects, they're a right-of-way,
16 but they're not a road. So there's no road as part of
17 them. They'll helicopter the stuff up to the ridge
18 tops for the repeaters. And yeah, so no road
19 applications at this time, no new work. We may
20 continue to chip in if we can on the trail marking
21 projects, but there's no roads at this time for us.

22
23 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any questions,
24 comments, for BLM.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: If not we're going
29 to have to break for lunch. What is the wish of the
30 Council.

31
32 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman. I see that
33 we still got two more items, important items that won't
34 get done quick enough or you want a lunch break?

35
36 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: I'll leave that up
37 to the Council. If you want to continue and finish our
38 agenda, we could do that.

39
40 MS. LOON: I'm for finishing the
41 meeting.

42
43 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: What is the wish of
44 the Council.

45
46 MR. STONEY: So like I said.....

47
48 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Okay. I heard two,
49 they want to go eat. 1330 we'll be back then, take
50 care of the last two items.

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(Off record)

(On record)

VICE CHAIR KARMUN: ADF&G, are they present? Okay. You're up.

MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. My name is Drew Crawford, I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Federal Subsistence Liaison Team. And I -- as I told you yesterday I'm a fishery biologist by trade. But I wanted to tell you a little bit about our group, that basically there's myself and one other person on this team and our job is to basically try to make sure that if you have any data requests from the Department or you want to read about a particular report or you've been at another AC meeting or -- and heard some -- one of the Department people give you an update on one of their projects that you can access this information. And the way you'd find -- what you'd have to do is to submit your request to your OCM [sic] Council Coordinator which is Melinda Hernandez, she'll get in touch with us and then we'll do our best to make sure that you get the information that you need.

That's about all I have for you at this time. Charlotte Westing, I talked to her before lunch, she said she had a few things that she could tell you folks, but I don't think she's gotten back here yet. So do you have any additional questions for me at this time?

VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Yeah, I have one on that Caribou Working Group. What kind of impact does it have in your opinion, have you ever watched on the State Game Board and the concerns around the region concerning the Western Arctic Caribou Herd?

MR. CRAWFORD: I'd like to defer that question to Charlotte, if I may. Which she just showed up.

MR. BALLOT: I might have one for him real quick. Is your other AC groups that are meeting, have there been that proposed -- have any of them met yet regarding -- I know we did in our Seward Peninsula, but I'm just wondering about the others that had any controversial proposals that were put forth.

1 MS. WESTING: Oh, you're talking about
2 the -- excuse me, through me. Through the Chair, Mr.
3 Ballot. Are you referring to advisory committee
4 meetings?

5
6 MR. BALLOT: (Inaudible response).....

7
8 MS. WESTING: Okay. There was a recent
9 string of advisory committee meetings including one in
10 Buckland. We've gone to five AC meetings since
11 November and just Jim Dau came, I went to -- let's see,
12 we went to Noatak, Noorvik, Buckland and we've had a
13 couple meetings here in Kotzebue and Ambler. So at
14 this meetings Jim basically just gave an update on the
15 Western Arctic Herd, Survey and Inventory Programs and
16 then also on the information about caribou collars and
17 relationship to roads and some of the things that Jim's
18 looking into because of the increased interest in the
19 Ambler Mining District. So.....

20
21 MR. BALLOT: What I was wondering about
22 is that there's a letter from Southeast I think or
23 somewhere that had -- was pertained to bycatch and the
24 amount of bycatch that's limited now. I'm just
25 wondering how the other ACs were -- felt about that
26 letter of support to -- I think it's to limit the
27 number of bycatch they catch in the ocean?

28
29 MS. WESTING: Okay. So I'm a wildlife
30 biologist, but I'll do my best to answer. The
31 fishery's really a good question. So at some of these
32 meetings they did talk about fisheries proposals and
33 they specifically talked about these area M proposals
34 which I think is maybe what you're referring to. So
35 it's the concern that some of the stocks that are bound
36 for rivers in western Alaska are potentially being
37 intercepted down in area M. Is that where you're talk
38 -- is that what you're talking about?

39
40 MR. BALLOT: (Inaudible response).....

41
42 MS. WESTING: Okay. So we briefly
43 discussed some of those fishery proposals at some of
44 those meetings, I know we talked about it in Noatak and
45 then we talked about it in Ambler. But number of the
46 different advisory committees that they actually wanted
47 specific fisheries meetings and they wanted fisheries
48 scientists to come and talk to them and commercial
49 fisheries representatives to come and talk to them
50 about those proposals specifically. So some of those

1 fisheries meetings have happened and some happened.
2 And because I'm not a fish biologist I'm not actually
3 going to those meetings so I'm not exactly sure. I
4 know that some advisory committees have chosen to
5 abstain from voting on them and others have taken some
6 action. But I can't get you the specifics, but Carmen
7 Daggett, our Board Support Representative, could
8 forward you some minutes if you're interested.

9
10 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Ballot. And our
11 last if I remember right here in Kotzebue on the
12 incidental catch of fish on high seas, the ones that
13 are -- come out of the U.S. are getting some
14 restrictions put on them, but it's the other
15 international countries, the policies or restrictions
16 imposed on U.S. boats don't apply to the other
17 countries. And they're open and there's -- they have
18 to go through international channels to address those
19 concerns from the other countries. Take in
20 consideration there's Russia, China, Korea, Japan,
21 Formosa, out there. And the U.S. has no control over
22 those other countries and the nature of the way they
23 handle their incidental catch on the high seas.

24
25 MS. WESTING: So I'll ask Carmen if she
26 can send you the minutes from those meetings if you're
27 interested in those votes on the.....

28
29 MR. BALLOT: I was at the -- our
30 regional AC meeting, I just wanted to know what the
31 other ACs in the State had made any comments toward
32 that because I was worried that not everybody had met
33 yet. And I wanted to know what their thoughts were
34 regarding the bycatch that these people get.

35
36 MS. WESTING: Okay. And so in
37 preparation for the Board of Game meeting all of those
38 advisory committee meetings from all around the State
39 will be summarized and their comments will come into
40 the -- it'll be presented to the public before the
41 Board meeting. So you should be able to get that, the
42 whole State consolidated, and that's everything from
43 Bristol Bay to the villages that are part of area M
44 fisheries to our ACs up here. So yeah, stay tuned.

45
46 MS. LOON: Just for my own
47 understanding you keep saying advisory committee
48 meeting. Is that -- is that specifically for Fish and
49 Game Advisory Committee?

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. WESTING: Yes, Ms. Loon. Through
4 the Chair. I'm sorry.

5

6 MR. KRAMER: I also sit on that
7 Committee. I know a lot of the decisions that we made
8 on our meeting here were -- a lot of the proposals that
9 came up were specifically for, you know, different
10 areas of the State, trying to make rules and
11 regulations for the remainder of the State. So we shot
12 down a lot of those and a lot of those we just kind of
13 left undecided. We did make some decisions on some,
14 but -- you know, that might have an affect to our
15 region. Because we had a joint meeting with Kobuk
16 River -- yeah, Lower Kobuk AC, and they just trying to
17 make fisheries rules and regulations for the whole
18 State for just one specific area. And we kind of
19 tossed them aside. But other than that that was about
20 all we had to talk about on that one mostly.

21

22 MS. WESTING: Ms. Loon, your question.
23 So there are five Fish and Game Advisory Councils that
24 provide recommendations to the Board of Game and the
25 Board of Fish about resources in their area. And Board
26 of Game is in theory weighs very heavily upon the
27 recommendations of these Advisory Councils. So we have
28 the Kotzebue Sound Advisory Council, the
29 Noatak/Kivalina, we have the Lower Kobuk, Upper Kobuk
30 and we have the Northern Seward Peninsula. And now
31 your area, Selawik, used to be part of the Northern
32 Seward Peninsula with Buckland and Deering, but now
33 there is a change going on because Clyde Raymith and
34 others it sounds like in that community felt like it
35 would be more appropriate to be lumped in with the
36 Lower Kobuk. So then the process of changing their AC
37 affiliation.

38

39 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, just like where a
40 Federal region -- Federal Subsistence Board, they deal
41 with State lands, State issues.

42

43 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
44 questions, comments for Charlotte.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MS. WESTING: Well, Mr. Chair, if I
49 may.....

50

1 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you.

2

3 MS. WESTING:if I may I'd like to
4 update everyone on some of the information we've
5 collected about moose and just give you all a little
6 update about what we've been up to the last -- since
7 our last meeting if that's all right.

8

9 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead.

10

11 MS. WESTING: Okay. So just wanted to
12 give you all an update on some of the things we've been
13 up to. Most of the work that we do is in concert with
14 our Federal partners, so that's the National Park
15 Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of
16 Land Management. So last spring we did a population
17 estimate. Every spring we focus on really trying to
18 understand how many moose we have in a given area. And
19 since our game management unit is so large we generally
20 focus on one major drainage per year. So last spring
21 we looked at the Lower Kobuk, and that basically goes
22 all the way up to the Ambler River, it's Ambler River
23 downstream including the Squirrel River. And the last
24 time we'd looked at that area was 2006. And we found
25 pretty similar results as far as the number of adults
26 that we saw on that survey. We estimate about 2,500
27 moose and the -- but the most remarkable thing that we
28 saw was just that our calf production in 2012 -- what
29 we had as far as calves that were almost a year old,
30 was much poorer than it had been in 2006. And that's
31 something that we really want to keep an eye on. We
32 know that in this part of Alaska our recruitments are
33 never really great, we never have are bringing just
34 lots and lots of young animals into the population.
35 But years of poor recruitment, especially when you have
36 numerous years of poor recruitment, can really
37 definitely keep your population from growing and can
38 cause it to slide and have a decline. So for right
39 now, you know, our results in the Lower Kobuk are
40 pretty comparable with what they were six years ago,
41 but that calf recruitment number is concerning and
42 could be something that we definitely want to keep an
43 eye on.

44

45 This fall we looked in the Lower Noatak
46 and did fall composition surveys and found about 45
47 bulls per 100 cows. That's considered a really healthy
48 bull/cow ratio, generally you want to shoot for
49 something over 30, anything over 30 is considered
50 really, really good. So 45 bulls per 100 cows is

1 considered very good. But what we saw is 12 calves per
2 100 cows. And the general rule of thumb of you need
3 about -- at least 15 calves per 100 cows to really have
4 good recruitment. So again the calf recruitment
5 information or the calf numbers that we saw are
6 somewhat concerning. We'll expect those to be a bit
7 lower this spring because some of those calves will
8 have died by the time we look at them again this
9 spring.

10
11 Another thing that we were looking at
12 and I've been talking to people that live in Noatak
13 about is just we were kind of concerned about the lack
14 of moose that we saw in the Noatak Drainage. And it
15 was pretty striking the last time that areas been
16 looked at was 2008 and just looking at raw numbers, and
17 that was in the spring so I can't really compare my
18 spring and fall numbers, but the -- we saw many more
19 moose in the spring of 2009 than we did this last fall.
20 I'm curious about the impacts of high water. We all
21 know last fall was a very abnormal water year and that
22 may have influenced where moose were and what they were
23 doing and how easy they were to see. But I'll be very
24 surprised if we don't see a decline in our Noatak moose
25 population from what we saw in 2008.

26
27 So be looking for that information,
28 we're going to start those surveys on the 19th of
29 March. Park Service will again be helping us. I've
30 been talking to BLM about their interest in the
31 project. And I think Fish and Wildlife Service will be
32 providing their pilot for that. So we're very curious
33 about what the information is we're going to get and
34 we're just really keeping an eye on these moose
35 populations because understanding what's going on and
36 with these -- with calf production it's going to be
37 pretty important.

38
39 And then just a -- I guess two more
40 things. We just finished up muskox surveys of the Cape
41 Thompson population so that's the population that
42 exists north of town. And when we look at that we
43 basically looked at a core area that we know doesn't
44 include the entire population, but it used to and we've
45 surveyed it year after year after year and we've kind
46 of used it as -- just to monitor what's going on with
47 the population even though we know in recent years
48 they're using that area less and less. So we just
49 wrapped up those surveys last week on Saturday and
50 we're going to be wrapping up and getting an estimate

1 for that population soon. Well, not the population,
2 but for that area.

3
4 And then final comment, so I brought up
5 these -- this idea of calf recruitment and just calf --
6 how many calves we're seeing on the ground and how --
7 there's concerns about how many are making it to
8 adulthood. And I know people are very curious about
9 predators and that's something that we don't have very
10 much information on except we are hearing from elders
11 and people who are getting out in the country a lot
12 that they're concerned that they're seeing more bears
13 and more wolves. The -- we have two additional pieces
14 of information that we think may tell us what's going
15 on. One is incidental observations of bears while
16 we're doing other survey work have increased over time.
17 And then a second thing and that's that the Park
18 Service did a study in 2008 and Fish and Game
19 contributed heavily in that. And we're still waiting
20 for the final results from that study, but just looking
21 preliminarily at the raw numbers it suggests that we
22 may have two to two and a half times as many bears as
23 we had about 20 years ago so in that area of -- in that
24 survey area which was around the Red Dog Mine and the
25 Lower Noatak.

26
27 So obviously we'd like to look at these
28 things farther, but bear work and wolf work are some of
29 the most expensive work that we can do. And it's tough
30 budgetary times for everybody. We're also sensitive to
31 the fact that the most effective way to study bears is
32 to put radio collars on them and we know that people
33 have had concerns in the past about radio collar
34 studies on bears. So we want to be sensitive to that
35 and if any studies were planned that would involve
36 radio collars we need -- we recognize that we need to
37 proceed cautiously and in a way that's sensitive to
38 people's concerns.

39
40 So with that, that's the only thing
41 that I've got and I'll take any of your questions.

42
43 MS. LOON: Did you mention the Selawik
44 Drainage on moose population?

45
46 MS. WESTING: Yeah, Ms. Loon, through
47 the Chair. We've looked at the Selawik Drainage a
48 couple different times. We did a spring estimate in
49 2011, we did an estimate in 2007 and then we also
50 looked at it in the fall of 2008 and 2010. And we

1 think it paints a similar picture to the Lower Kobuk
2 where for the most part things look pretty stable.
3 It's a bit hard to tell because of the length of time
4 that we have to go between looking at an area and just
5 looking at moose in low density areas, the numbers kind
6 of bounce around a lot. But we basically look to be
7 pretty stable and Selawik had some of the more healthy
8 bull/cow ratios, calf/cow ratios and just overall
9 density within the unit. So I think things for the
10 moose -- we share our concerns about moose with Selawik
11 as well, the same concerns exist, but overall I think
12 they're doing okay.

13

14 What do you think about the moose
15 population around Selawik?

16

17 MS. LOON: I know for -- we do see
18 moose, but mostly old cow, cow with babies, we don't
19 get those. And all of us are aware we don't do that.
20 And we look primarily for maybe two year old once it
21 opens. And the moose are very smart, August 1st they
22 go. When you're berry picking they are right there
23 before August, they're right in front of you and you
24 can't, you know, shoot them. But come August 1st
25 they're out there someplace.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MR. BALLOT: So when moose congregate
30 in big numbers what are they doing, do they migrate or
31 move from one area to the other because I heard you say
32 about numbers are changing sometimes?

33

34 MS. WESTING: Well, we know that moose
35 use the -- use habitat in different ways and different
36 times of year. So in the fall they like to -- all the
37 cows like to get together and their bulls, you know,
38 close by trying to court them and keep their harem of
39 females in a group. They like to be in other places in
40 the spring once the snow gets deep. And they like to
41 be where they can get good food. So there are little
42 changes that go with how they use the habitat and how
43 they occupy the country, it's nothing like caribou,
44 it's nothing like the movements that they do. And
45 that's why we feel like we can pretty safely look
46 within a drainage over time and kind of monitor a
47 population. It's not like caribou where they might use
48 a completely different, you know, part of the country
49 one year to another. So.....

50

1 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Moto.

2

3 MR. MOTO: Yeah, I was wondering, you
4 know since you've been monitoring False Pass fisheries
5 how much increase percent of our -- population of our
6 salmon increases. Is there -- is it significant
7 because I remember we used to have low numbers of chum
8 in this area and low numbers of pink and silvers.

9

10 MS. WESTING: Okay. I don't know very
11 much about this issue and so I will not be able to
12 answer your question adequately. But I know that they
13 have started to use genetics to examine this idea of
14 how much potential interception goes on in these
15 fisheries like down in False Pass that some people call
16 intercept fisheries. So they're trying to understand
17 what proportion of the fish that are caught in these
18 places are from local stocks and which of them are
19 bound for other places such as here or such as Bristol
20 Bay. I think all the baseline markers have been taken
21 to do that genetic analysis so you have to be able to
22 tell -- you have to be able to uniquely identify
23 different strains in different areas of the State, but
24 I don't know how much of the actual catch is being
25 tested or when those results would be available. And
26 to my knowledge none of them are out yet.

27

28 MR. MOTO: I have kind of an idea. I
29 was -- I was on the Regional Fish and Game Advisory
30 Council for three or four years and we -- this was one
31 of our bone of contention that how the salmon was not
32 being -- coming up here someplaces. I know that there
33 was a period of time when opening and closing the
34 subsistence sometimes was six hours opening and
35 sometimes 12 hours opening, depend. But a lot of us
36 hadn't -- now we get more again. And it's good for us,
37 but so I was just wondering about that myself and
38 thought I'd bring it up.

39

40 But on the count of a moose our village
41 we were careful with one or two moose we get and that's
42 just for our -- for the whole village. Caribou's our
43 main thing that we -- I know that when that burn behind
44 Deering and Bear Mountain, that area, which was kind of
45 good because it opened up a lot more feed area, new
46 feed, burned all the bushes and stuff. And our feed
47 for the caribou was a lot better. We see a lot fatter
48 caribou back home now.

49

50 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Verne.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, are you guys
2 studying Upper Kobuk where the mine really starts.
3 We'd like to know -- see what's happened before and
4 after. Is there any plans or studies. I know there's
5 -- the sheep finally came back right -- right behind
6 Shungnak and right behind Kobuk on the mountains. Now
7 the mining is coming up and I was wondering if they're
8 doing any studies or anything before -- before and
9 after.

10
11 MS. WESTING: Yes, Mr. Cleveland,
12 through the Chair. The last time the Upper Kobuk was
13 looked at was 2006 and so at that -- in 2006 the entire
14 Kobuk Drainage was looked at and it was a lot to bite
15 off so we've decided to not do that in the future.
16 This year I talked with the Park Service who's our --
17 also a huge contributor in this study and a partner in
18 this study, if they would prefer to do the Noatak or if
19 they'd prefer to do the Upper Kobuk with the mining
20 concerns in mind. And basically with the funding
21 structure, how much money they had and how they could
22 contribute it, worked better to look at the Noatak this
23 year. But we're very aware of how timely it would be
24 to look at the Upper Kobuk again. There's definitely
25 interest in monitoring that area and making sure that
26 it's very healthy, there's a fair amount of pressure on
27 moose in that area. So definitely on our radar screen
28 we'd like to look at it in the near future and for
29 those same reasons getting baseline data in case more
30 interest is in development in that area.

31
32 MR. CLEVELAND: Because I flew with the
33 Regional Advisory or with the Resource Advisory and I
34 flew choppers up there last summer. We didn't see
35 nothing. I saw one moose maybe within 50 miles I would
36 say, one moose all the way back because of so much
37 traffic in that area. All because they're aware of
38 that, because boy, there was planes, just floatplanes
39 just going back and forth. We're sitting there and
40 there was four or five planes, floatplanes just keep
41 flying by, you know, I was wondering gee, I wonder
42 who's monitoring the Gates of the Arctic because
43 they're coming out of Bettles. And we happen to get to
44 the river, to Kobuk River and falltime there was a lot
45 of planes up there on the river. And they're coming
46 straight out of Bettles, guides, hunting guides. So
47 somebody got to be -- stay on top of it or be aware.

48
49 Thanks.
50

1 MS. WESTING: So, Mr. Cleveland,
2 through the Chair. The non-resident season on the
3 Upper Kobuk is part of drawing permit process. And so
4 only a few permits are offered for non-residents to
5 hunt up there. So that's pretty closely regulated for
6 non-residents. For residents of the State it's one of
7 the less popular parts of Unit 23 for moose hunting,
8 but there definitely is some interest in moose hunting
9 there. So I don't -- you know, I'm not sure if they
10 were hunting -- would be hunting caribou or hunting
11 moose, but it's -- we definitely have some measures in
12 place to make sure that our harvest of moose is not
13 more than our populations can withstand.

14
15 MR. CLEVELAND: I also hunt moose up
16 there when I get a chance in Upper Kobuk. And they are
17 a lot of hunters, by golly that's a -- because the
18 price of gas and some of the locals don't go as far.
19 But it was -- unfortunately we made it up, me and Carl
20 Weizner (ph) with our jet boat and we were surprised to
21 see how many planes and hunters were up there. So and
22 I say hey, Carl, maybe I'll report this to State
23 agencies or someone to check on this. We didn't get no
24 plane numbers or nothing, but we was nice, but somebody
25 got to check into it.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. BALLOT: I have one question. Are
30 you -- who does the report on permits or how many
31 transporter permits are in Unit 23, how much does ADF&G
32 know?

33
34 MS. WESTING: Mr. Ballot through the
35 Chair. To my knowledge there's not really any
36 regulation of transporters as far as limiting the
37 number of people that can participate as transporters
38 in Unit 23. And that's one of the things that entities
39 like the Unit 23 Conflict Working Group and then the
40 different Federal land managers have tried to make or
41 tried to address is the fact that there isn't any
42 limitation on the number of transporters. Are you
43 asking about the number of permits that are available
44 on different hunts?

45
46 MR. BALLOT: I think so, yeah.

47
48 MS. WESTING: So it -- so I control the
49 number of permits available for most of my hunts in the
50 area. So, for example, the number of brown bear hunt

1 -- non-resident brown bear permits for your area. I
2 also control the fact that there aren't any non-
3 resident moose permits in your area. So is that what
4 you're referring to or is your question about muskox?
5

6 MR. BALLOT: No, just permits in
7 general, I guess.
8

9 MS. WESTING: Yeah, so from -- well, on
10 those examples that I brought up as far as how many
11 non-resident brown bear permits, the fact that there
12 are not any non-resident moose permits and then the way
13 the number of permits is determined for the tier two
14 system are all decisions that I make.
15

16 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other
17 questions, comments for Charlotte.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Is that it, Shelly?
22

23 MS. JACOBSON: That's all I have. Do
24 you have anything else, Drew?
25

26 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Let me just make a
27 comment or an observation from last fall. You spoke
28 briefly of bear predation, but my opinion they were
29 pretty aggressive last fall. And I spent a little over
30 a week around Hunt River. And we had to move. But it
31 was surprising how many moose we saw around the mouth
32 of Hunt River last fall. But I've never seen, whether
33 it be a black bear or grizzly, that aggressive of all
34 the time I ever spent up around there. We had to move.
35 We were just talking with some guys from Kiana and our
36 final conclusion was for the lack of feed there was
37 really no berries last fall for them to feed on. But
38 you could hear them clicking their teeth when they were
39 -- when they get mad they click their teeth pretty
40 good. And they were close, too close. But that's just
41 an observation I thought I'd let you know.
42

43 Any other questions, comments, for
44 Charlotte.
45

46 (No comments)
47

48 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you, lady.
49 The last one on our agenda, Native organizations.
50

1 Do we have anybody here representing
2 Native organizations.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Hearing none, what
7 is the wish of the Council, each Council member want to
8 speak on behalf of their locality.

9
10 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

11
12 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Ballot.

13
14 MR. BALLOT: I'm just going to mention
15 -- well, it might be my Council comment then, but I
16 wanted to assure Jack about the consultation process
17 and that I was really just concerned more so about
18 while we do have Tribes that are involved in the people
19 and Tribes that were involved with that process, in
20 developing it, I do know who they are, I just -- and
21 there's information about corporations in there and
22 them being involved. I just felt that our non-profits
23 like Maniilaq or we have a Tribe Committee. In the
24 Borough we have a subsistence -- people that just
25 didn't see any relation or how they were involved in
26 how this thing was developed and I felt that should
27 have been done too. But otherwise what I saw from the
28 product was very good.

29
30 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Go ahead, Moto.

31
32 MR. MOTO: Just an observation. I was
33 wondering this past year I don't know whether it's
34 ADF&G or Park Service, they'd hired some observers for
35 Dutch Harbor and one for up the Barrow area. I was
36 wondering if that was Fish and Game, probably Fish and
37 Game. It was during the fishing season that they were
38 hired to be observers on the ships. So I was wondering
39 who would -- which is good for us because they come
40 back and report to us what they saw and all that stuff,
41 but on a whole I think I -- I enjoyed some of the
42 comments and some of the things that were said about
43 our caribou herd, our muskox and some of our other
44 resources that we have. It's a -- I know it's a big
45 job for the few people that do work for Park Service
46 and ADF&G to try to cover Alaska which is a big, vast
47 area. And I'd like to say I appreciate the fact that
48 you put the time and effort to give us information on
49 most of our fish and game species.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Anybody else want
4 to make any comments.

5

6 Verne.

7

8 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you for the --
9 giving us all this information. Boy it's been a long
10 meeting. But try and put everything all in your head
11 it takes a while. But with our hunting right now as we
12 speak I'm missing a lot of hunting. That's danger.
13 You know, we got to be traveling next week, I guess, in
14 Kiana, the yearly meeting, right, is next week. And
15 we're trying to help out Kiana gathering some caribou
16 meat for them people up there because we're going to
17 have a big gathering for the French church and the NANA
18 meeting. So you guys are all welcome to come up to
19 Kiana for our celebration with our friend's church and
20 NANA Day.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any comments from
25 the audience.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Hannah.

30

31 MS. LOON: I thought this was a really
32 calm meeting and although I've been here for three
33 meetings and my term is coming up and I still have lots
34 to learn with agencies and this is a good meeting and
35 thank you for your information from the agencies.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Being as that was
40 the last item on our agenda I think I'll -- okay,
41 Helen, you got it.

42

43 MS. ARMSTRONG: You have one more item.
44 You need to set the date for the next meeting, the two
45 meetings dates.

46

47 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: We'll get to that.

48

49 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. All right. I
50 just thought you were skipping over that.

1 I had one thing I just wanted to say
2 too if I could. This is my last meeting because I am
3 going to retire and after being -- working for the
4 Federal Subsistence Program since as I say time
5 immemorial because I was involved in writing the EIS, I
6 just -- I've served and supported this Council for many
7 years and I wanted to thank you all for all of the kids
8 years I had in coming up here and helping the Council
9 and solving a lot of issues.

10

So thank you.

11

12
13 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Do you know who
14 your replacement is going to be?

15

16 MS. ARMSTRONG: No, I don't. We were
17 in the process of putting out an advertisement when
18 there was a hiring freeze put on last week. So we
19 don't know what's going to happen. I will probably
20 stay a little bit longer since we do have a hiring
21 freeze on, but I'm -- I don't think I'll be here in the
22 fall.

23

So thank you very much.

24

25
26 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Well, I wish you
27 all the best, lady, in your future endeavors.

28

Thank you for your service.

29

30

MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

31

32

33 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Next one. Next
34 meeting time and place. It says Kiana. With the
35 budget crunch right around the corner if it's not
36 already taking place, I don't know, what is the wish of
37 the Council.

38

Kiana, go ahead.

39

40

41 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman. Right now,
42 you know, it kind of has been mentioned twice before at
43 the meeting. At the time of December I'm not prepared
44 to make any commitments or statements for next meeting
45 at Kiana, but I'll find out tomorrow and let the main
46 office know in Anchorage what my colleague thinks about
47 it. So I can't make that decision myself. So I'll
48 find out tomorrow, Mr. Chairman. And then Helen will
49 probably or somebody will notify.

50

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: That's correct, Mr.
2 Chair. If we can just say Kiana and then we'll work
3 with Raymond and see if it can work and if the budget
4 will allow and otherwise I assume it would be in
5 Kotzebue, the wish of the Council.

6
7 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: I would like to
8 leave the door open myself on that being as our
9 Chairman is medically out for this meeting. But I
10 would kind of like to leave it up to our Chairman,
11 leave that open if that's okay with the rest of the
12 Council.

13
14 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, you're the
15 Chairman right now and.....

16
17 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: That's just for
18 right now.

19
20
21 MR. BALLOT: Yes, but I think we still
22 need to stick with trying to get the intent to Kiana
23 because that's where I would like to meet also too
24 because we could -- this is just about the time that we
25 wanted to meet with the people on the Squirrel River
26 issues and I think it's important that we be there if
27 there's a way. We could come here, we had how many
28 people on teleconference today that was -- that shared
29 enough information that a system like that could work
30 if we kind of get everybody up there along the borders
31 up there and then key players are up there and I think
32 it's feasible.

33
34 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: My concern about
35 something like that, I have nothing against meeting in
36 the village, but my concern would be the lack of
37 logistics. We shall see. That's why I'd like to leave
38 the door open to the Chairman.

39
40 MR. BALLOT: I'm just going to add on
41 that we only have so many people here. If all the
42 people from church could go to a village and spend a
43 whole week I guess we could spend two or three days.

44
45 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: You have to
46 remember they're all interrelated.

47
48 As to the date. Helen.

49
50 MS. ARMSTRONG: We just want to

1 reconfirm the date for -- that you -- the Council set
2 previously. The date was August 21st to August 22nd if
3 that's still good for everybody.

4
5 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Yeah, if those
6 dates don't conflict with any other local activities
7 that's going to impair the or be in conflict with this
8 meeting I would go for it.

9
10 What's the wish of the Council.

11
12 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chair.

13
14 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Verne.

15
16 MR. CLEVELAND: That's right smack in
17 our caribou hunting right there, bring a lot of game
18 bags.

19
20 MS. LOON: That's all.....

21
22 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Hannah.

23
24 MS. LOON:that's also right smack
25 in the blueberry season and broadnose fishing in
26 Selawik.

27
28 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other comments?

29
30 MR. BALLOT: We made this a year ago.
31 So I've got it written down and I'm planning to go
32 there I hope.

33
34 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, if I could.
35 If people wanted to turn to Page 117 of their books,
36 that's the calendar schedule so they could see if
37 something else worked better. I'm sorry, 116. And
38 then we have to set this date for the winter meeting.
39 So the limitations are for the fall meeting that we
40 can't have -- generally speaking we can't have more
41 than two meetings a week because we have a court -- the
42 court reporter has to -- they can do it, I mean,
43 obviously there's -- September 23rd we have three, but
44 it has to be approved because it's really difficult to
45 -- with the court reporters and with our Staff to have
46 enough Staff to go. So you can see where the -- those
47 weeks are all blank because of, I think, caribou
48 hunting everywhere. But there would be availability
49 the week of October 14th and October 21st and October
50 29th as well. If you want to change it it's not a

1 problem, it's up to the Council, you -- we just have to
2 make sure it works with what's already established.

3

4 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Well, if it's --
5 the meeting is two days could -- could we leave these
6 open to the call of the Chair; is that possible? He
7 should be up and running and healthy by then.

8

9 MS. ARMSTRONG: We -- I think it would
10 be better to have some dates -- a dated talked about
11 here and then confirm it with him because he's -- we
12 usually have to call all the Council members and
13 confirm it with each person, but I don't know if there
14 are any other dates that would work better than the
15 beginning of August for you if people want to look at
16 those dates.

17

18 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: What is the wish of
19 the Council.

20

21 Raymond.

22

23 MR. STONEY: Well, whatever the Council
24 thinks about, you know, it would be all right with me.
25 But however, you know, like -- just like Mr. Cleveland
26 said, you know, it's hunting season, dates for -- both
27 dates, you know, that shouldn't happen. However, we'd
28 have to go through this, it's waiting for a RAC
29 meeting. So like you said I'm not prepared, let's go
30 to Kiana, I've got to find out from my colleagues first
31 if -- what they think about it. If they say might be
32 too busy, is that meeting in Kiana or the -- I'm not --
33 I won't say yes or no, but I'll find out by tomorrow
34 night though.

35

36 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you, Raymond.

37

38 Ballot.

39

40 MR. BALLOT: Well, what was the
41 question?

42

43 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: The meeting dates
44 are for August 21, August 22, in Kiana.

45

46 MR. BALLOT: Those are -- like I said
47 these are dates we made some time ago. That was the
48 quorum of this Board and I would just stick with what
49 we've got unless something else showed up to where we
50 have to have a -- I don't mind altering the dates, but

1 the place is Kiana.

2

3 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you.

4

5 Mike.

6

7 MR. KRAMER: I think we should leave
8 the fall dates as is and then have February 18th and
9 19th for our winter meeting. Other than that I'm okay
10 with that because most of the caribou and everything
11 happens in September anyway.

12

13 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you, Mike.

14

15 Moto.

16

17 MR. MOTO: Well, I'll go along with
18 whatever the Council decides on the Kiana. Myself I
19 think I'd like to go to Kiana for that meeting.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you, Moto.

24

25 Hannah.

26

27 MS. LOON: I would prefer that we keep
28 the dates August 21 and 22 regardless of things going
29 on. And then place to be determined after Raymond get
30 back and if not I know August -- October 20, all that
31 week is going to be busy with AFN, probably in
32 Fairbanks. I don't know, but last week of October is
33 good. That's when it's freezing and nobody goes
34 nowhere in the village.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Verne.

39

40 MR. CLEVELAND: It's just a short ride
41 to Kiana from Noorvik so I -- I'll be there.

42

43 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you, Council.
44 Sounds like it's Kiana, Helen. If it could be pulled
45 off let's go for it.

46

47 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Sounds good.
48 And it sounds like 21st and 22nd are okay. That's what
49 I was hearing.

50

1 Okay. If you turn to page -- the next
2 page for the winter council meeting calendar. Mike
3 suggested February 25th and 26th and that will work
4 with us. I mean, no, I'm sorry, 18th and 19th, right,
5 Mike? There's only one other Council meeting that week
6 so that week works if it's the wish of the Council.

7
8 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: What's the wish of
9 the Council on that winter meeting.

10
11 MS. LOON: Seems like it's a good date
12 before anybody mark those dates we might as well grab
13 them.

14
15 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you, Hannah.
16
17 Verne.

18
19 MR. CLEVELAND: I second the motion.

20
21 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Raymond.

22
23 MR. STONEY: I don't have any comments
24 on that.

25
26 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Mike.

27
28 MR. KRAMER: I'm all for having the
29 meetings on the 18th and 19th of February.

30
31 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Here again it
32 sounds unanimous. We'll let it stand as is.

33
34 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

35
36 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Looks like good
37 days to me.

38
39 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
40 Chair.

41
42 MR. BALLOT: I prefer it during
43 Greenhill basketball in March, but I'll go with the
44 majority.

45
46 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Any other comments,
47 audience.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Hearing none,
2 anybody care to adjourn?
3
4 MS. LOON: I make a motion to -- for
5 this meeting to be adjourned.
6
7 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: There's a motion on
8 the floor to be adjourned. Do I hear a second.
9
10 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.
11
12 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: All in favor.
13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.
15
16 (No opposing votes)
17
18 VICE CHAIR KARMUN: Thank you, people.
19
20 (Off record)
21
22 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

