

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 National Park Service  
7 Multipurpose Room

8  
9 Kotzebue, Alaska  
10 October 8, 2010  
11 9:00 a.m.

12  
13

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15

16 Walter Sampson, Chairman

17 Attamuk

18 Percy Ballot (Telephonic)

19 Leslie Burns

20 Jon Gregg

21 Victor Karmun

22 Pierre Lonewolf

23 Austin Swan

24

25 Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Atoruk

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 10/8/2010)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I will call the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting to order at this time. It is now 9:00 a.m. And we will have a moment of silence please.

(Moment of Silence)

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: (In Inupiat)

Our meeting's going to be conducted in Inupiat today, so if you can't understand, you need to find someone to sit next to so you can get some interpretation and.....

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: (In Inupiat)

I'll have our Secretary do the interpretation, please. Oh, no. I was just teasing you.

(Laughter)

MS. ATORUK: .....our forefathers and how they lived and how they survived through hardships that our environment has today for us and he says that our forefathers worked together. They went out and gathered and fed their families because that's the only way that they can survive and they worked together. They've always worked together, discussed things before they did anything, and then take the best course of life to go out and do these things.

Today we face a lot of different kind of encounters in our lives because we have sit here at a meeting with all this paperwork in front of us, but then we have to go forward and a lot of times, it's the people that we grew up with, that we work with out there that we are concerned about and a lot of times, we run into walls and we have to work with those walls a lot of times to get over and past and work with the other side and to keep on going with our lives.

Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
2 Barb. I didn't really mean to. I thought I was just  
3 teasing our lady secretary there that's doing the  
4 recording.

5  
6 REPORTER: You did.

7  
8 (Laughter)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, that's how true  
11 this is. You know, first of all, I want to welcome each  
12 and every one of you to our meeting this morning.  
13 Certainly this is a very important meeting to all of us  
14 because of the very fact that the issues that we will be  
15 addressing will have an impact on the way of life of  
16 people.

17  
18 Good 85 percent of our people in this  
19 region continue to live off the land, whether it's on  
20 private land, whether it's on regional corporation land,  
21 whether it's on State land, whether it's on Federal land.  
22 Those provisions that were placed on the Federal side are  
23 only protection for some of these people that utilize the  
24 resource off Federal lands. There's times and over time,  
25 we've attempted as a Native community to work with the  
26 State of Alaska in changing the Constitution to reflect  
27 what the Federal system has in place for all of us so  
28 there could be some consistency in regulations and how  
29 they're written.

30  
31 But to date, we've been unable to do  
32 that. Yes, there's times when we work together to come  
33 together so we can make those decisions based on what  
34 people want and how they want them.

35  
36 I get reminded periodically during the  
37 BIA days when the Federal system came we were forced to  
38 learn English as first language. We were forced to do  
39 that. There's times that very concept today is also used  
40 on the Federal side of the picture, where you put  
41 together plans that would reflect management. But we  
42 also as people have asked that if there's to be changes  
43 based on the impacts that it will have on our way of  
44 life, we want to be on the table. Certainly that  
45 opportunity is here today as a Regional Advisory Council.  
46 Our role, we all need to understand as a Committee, need  
47 to be reflected on what the people want and it's  
48 critically important that we address those very issues.

49  
50 Sometimes you and I can come together and

1 we'll hit a brick wall from outside interest groups that  
2 would say no, that's not it. But even with that, we need  
3 to continue the process and making sure that we address  
4 the needs are reflected that about 80-85 percent of our  
5 people in this region continue to live off the land and  
6 we want to make sure that we address those things to meet  
7 the needs where some of these families that are living  
8 off the land will continue in that way.

9  
10                   It's just been 30 years that ANCSA was  
11 passed and it's been just short of time for the Federal  
12 system to -- for the parks, monuments, preserves, or  
13 whatever those may be were created. But the provisions  
14 that the Federal System has is the only protection that  
15 we have for the user group that live off the land within  
16 those areas.

17  
18                   So it's always critically important to  
19 all of us, whether you're a planner, whether you're a  
20 staff, or whether you work somewhere else that we make  
21 sure that we reflect those needs and address them in that  
22 way.

23  
24                   Just within the last three years maybe,  
25 we've finally come to a point where we've been partnered  
26 together as organizations, as entities, as a Federal  
27 system, and as a State. And we need to continue to work  
28 to even better what we have in place so we can hopefully  
29 better come out with provisions that would have better  
30 allowances for those that really live off the land. As  
31 cash economy today is being -- even getting harder for  
32 some of the folks, especially for a small community with  
33 no jobs in the community, life is much, much harder for  
34 them.

35  
36                   Cost of living within this region is much  
37 higher than anywhere in the State. When you have to pay  
38 \$15 a gallon for fuel, some of these families are  
39 purchasing their fuel at five, ten gallons at a time and  
40 that's only what they can afford. But yet as an  
41 organization, sometimes we forget that these people are  
42 really living off the land and sometimes as planners, as  
43 a Board, as a Commission, we forget that and we start  
44 placing much harsher, harder regulations for them to use.

45  
46                   I think these are the issues that we as  
47 a Commission, as an Advisory Council also need to reflect  
48 as we work through the process of making recommendations  
49 to the Federal Board. It's good to also note that the  
50 Federal Board slowly hopefully will be making its change.

1 As the Secretary of Interior Office is making its  
2 recommendation in adding on to the Federal Board at least  
3 two rural community people to sit on that Federal Board,  
4 that is really a start. Hopefully that will have an  
5 impact on the way the system is set up so we can really  
6 participate more within the Federal Board.

7  
8 We all know the existing Federal Board  
9 and how it's set up. It's the management of the -- upper  
10 management of the Federal system. How many of those  
11 people do really know how people live at the real  
12 community. They might have heard a lot of stories, but  
13 they've never been out to the real bush to see what's  
14 happening and how people live off the land. But it's  
15 critically important for all of us as managers, as Staff,  
16 as Council members to the RAC to reflect our decision  
17 based on the need of those that we will impact on their  
18 daily lives.

19  
20 Again I want to thank each and every one  
21 of you for participating here this morning. At this  
22 time, if we can, we'd like to go through a roll call,  
23 please.

24  
25 MR. SWAN: Mr. Ballot.

26  
27 MR. BALLOT: Here.

28  
29 MR. SWAN: Leslie Burns.

30  
31 MR. BURNS: Here.

32  
33 MR. SWAN: Victor Karmun.

34  
35 MR. KARMUN: Here.

36  
37 MR. SWAN: Jon Greg.

38  
39 MR. GREGG: Good morning.

40  
41 MR. SWAN: Pierre Lonewolf.

42  
43 MR. LONEWOLF: Here.

44  
45 MR. SWAN: Walter Sampson.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Present

48  
49 MR. SWAN: Enoch Shiedt, Sr.

50

1 MR. SHIEDT: Here.  
2  
3 MR. SWAN: And myself. Mr. Chairman, we  
4 have a quorum.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
7 At this time, if we can, we'd like to go through the  
8 process of interviewing. Please identify who you are and  
9 who your represent. So we'll start with the back.  
10  
11 MR. ERLICH: John Erlich, Bureau of Land  
12 Management, Kotzebue office.  
13  
14 MR. GREGG: Charlie Gregg, Northwest  
15 Arctic Borough.  
16  
17 MR. GOODWIN: Willie Goodwin, Park  
18 Service.  
19  
20 MR. MILLS: Good morning. Dave Mills.  
21 I'm the Subsistence Manager for the National Park Service  
22 for the Alaska Region.  
23  
24 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National  
25 Park Service, Nome, and Mary McBurney, our Acting  
26 Superintendent for the Western Arctic Parklands, is going  
27 to be just a little late at the meeting, but she will be  
28 here.  
29  
30 MR. MAGDANZ: Good morning. Jim Magdanz,  
31 Fish and Game, Kotzebue.  
32  
33 MS. BROWN: Good morning. Cole Brown,  
34 Wildlife Biologist with Office of Subsistence Management.  
35  
36 MS. SWEETMAN: Joni Sweetman, Bering  
37 Strait Fisherman's Association, Anchorage.  
38  
39 MS. JOHNSON: Marci Johnson , National  
40 Park Service.  
41  
42 MS. DAVIS: Alicia Davis. I'm a new  
43 anthropologist with Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of  
44 Subsistence Management, in Anchorage.  
45  
46 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department of  
47 Fish and Game, Subsistence Liaison Team.  
48  
49 MR. SHULTS: Good morning, Brad Shults.  
50 Wildlife Biologist for the Park Service.

1 MS. ORLANDO: Ann Orlando, Refuge  
2 Biologist for Selawik Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
3 Service.  
4  
5 MS. GEORGETTE: Good morning. I'm Susan  
6 Georgette with Selawik Refuge here in Kotzebue.  
7  
8 MS. SWEENEY: Brittany Sweeney, Selawik  
9 Refuge in Kotzebue.  
10  
11 MS. AYRES: LeeAnne Ayres, Refuge Manager  
12 for Selawik National Wildlife Refuge based here in  
13 Kotzebue.  
14  
15 MS. HYER: Good morning. I'm Karen Hyer,  
16 Subsistence Division at OSM.  
17  
18 MS. BUCKNELL: Susan Bucknell, KOTZ  
19 Radio. Excuse me for not standing.  
20  
21 MR. KRON: Tom Kron, OSM.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What's OSM?  
24  
25 MR. KRON: Office of Subsistence  
26 Management.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you.  
29  
30 MR. HOLT: Michael Holt, Archeologist,  
31 National Park Service here in Kotzebue.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.  
34  
35 REPORTER: My name's Tina and I'm the  
36 court reporter.  
37  
38 MS. ATORUK: Barb Atoruk, Coordinator for  
39 Northwest Arctic and North Slope Regional Advisory  
40 Councils.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Again thank you very  
43 much for coming in to participate at this very important  
44 meeting. And all of you should have a copy of an agenda  
45 before you. Council, what is the wish of the -- is there  
46 any changes to the agenda.  
47  
48 Is there any additions, deletions to the  
49 agenda.  
50

1 Barb.  
2  
3 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Under National  
4 Park Service, we had Lois DalleMolle and then I thought  
5 she would be here this month and then I didn't realize,  
6 so maybe we ought to put just there on Staff. That'll be  
7 -- I know Mary McBurney will be here and Tim is here and  
8 so is Gabe, so one of them will be here for under Park  
9 Service and BLM, I had Tim Hammond there because he's  
10 always here, but there's someone here from BLM.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Jon.  
13  
14 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: John.  
17  
18 MS. ATORUK: John's here and I think  
19 there's supposed to be.....  
20  
21 MS. JACOBSON: Yes. And also -- excuse  
22 me. Mr. Chair and Barb, this is Shelley (ph) Jacobson.  
23 I dialed in on the phone line.  
24  
25 MS. ATORUK: Okay.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Shelley.  
28  
29 MS. ATORUK: And we have -- I just put  
30 Staff down on Fish and Game and then George Pappas is  
31 here, so that's all I have.  
32  
33 Thank you.  
34  
35 Unless someone else has something.  
36  
37 (No comments)  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So Mary  
40 McBurney is an Acting Superintendent for the Northwest,  
41 so we'll ask -- then we'll have John Erlich from BLM and  
42 I don't know who from Fish and Game.  
43  
44 Is there any other changes or any  
45 additions to the agenda before you? What's the wish of  
46 the Council?  
47  
48 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chair.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

1 MR. SWAN: I move to accept the minutes  
2 with the revised agenda.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We're approving the  
5 agenda at this time.....  
6  
7 MR. SWAN: I'm sorry.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: .....with the changes.  
10  
11 MR. SWAN: I move to approve the agenda  
12 with the revisions.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. There's a  
15 motion that's been made by Austin to adopt the agenda as  
16 amended.  
17  
18 MR. LONEWOLF: Second.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's been second by  
21 Pierre. Discussion on the motion.  
22  
23 MR. BALLOT: Question.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question has been  
26 called for. All those in favor of the motion to adopt as  
27 amended signify by saying aye.  
28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.  
32  
33 (No opposing votes)  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's adopted. Review  
36 and adoption of the minutes. And you also should have a  
37 copy of the minutes from our previous meeting. Is there  
38 any corrections. Barb.  
39  
40 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. There's an error  
41 there in the minutes on the booklet. Please use this  
42 blue copy. I submitted the wrong minutes, so please use  
43 this blue copy. I have some also back there on the  
44 table.  
45  
46 Thank you, sir.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Barb.  
49 Loose leaf, blue copy is the minutes from the February 19  
50 meeting. Is there any corrections or any changes to the

1 minutes of February 19th, 2010, meeting.  
2  
3 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes. Go ahead.  
6  
7 MR. BALLOT: I just have a question  
8 regarding the minutes.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.  
11  
12 MR. BALLOT: Is there a motion to approve  
13 them already?  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I can't quite hear  
16 you, Percy.  
17  
18 MR. BALLOT: I just have a question on  
19 the minutes.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.  
22  
23 MR. BALLOT: On Page 7, there's the BLM  
24 managed lands, about requiring all transporters, guides,  
25 and air taxis to have permits, but it says only in the  
26 Squirrel River area. I was just wondering why it does  
27 not say all BLM lands.  
28  
29 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Barb.  
32  
33 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair, he's got the  
34 different minutes. He doesn't have the correct minutes.  
35  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
38  
39 MS. ATORUK: I thought he would be here  
40 today, but he wasn't able to because the plane got to  
41 Buckland earlier than expected, so that's why he missed  
42 his plane. So.....  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy, what we're  
45 looking at is a loose-leaf minutes. The minutes within  
46 the booklet are different minutes. So that's what you're  
47 looking at I think. So what we're looking at is a.....  
48  
49 MR. BALLOT: Okay.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: .....a loose-leaf and  
2 we'll make sure that during one of our breaks you get a  
3 copy of our minutes. Maybe what we can do is defer the  
4 minutes until Percy gets a copy and we'll need your fax  
5 number, Percy, so we can fax you the copies of the loose-  
6 leaf minutes.  
7  
8 MR. BALLOT: Okay.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do you have a fax  
11 number we can send it to.  
12  
13 MR. BALLOT: I'm going to give you one  
14 right now.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. And what we'll  
17 do is we'll defer the minutes for a little bit later in  
18 the meeting, give Percy some time to take a look at the  
19 loose-leaf minutes that we have.  
20  
21 MR. BALLOT: The fax number again.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Go ahead.  
24  
25 MR. BALLOT: Yes. 494-2192 for the fax  
26 number.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: 494.  
29  
30 MR. BALLOT: 2192.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: 2192. Okay. We're  
33 faxing it right now, Perc. We are getting it faxed to  
34 you at this time, Percy, so you will get that and we will  
35 act on it towards the end of the meeting.  
36  
37 MR. BALLOT: Okay.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So with that we will  
40 move on to our agenda. Election of officers, would you  
41 like to go through the process or would you want to wait  
42 for -- who all's -- so Percy is the only one then and  
43 who's the other that's not present here.  
44  
45 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair, you'll be getting  
46 I think two new members again in your winter meeting.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
49  
50 MS. ATORUK: And then you should have a

1 whole Board of ten.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
4  
5 MS. ATORUK: In your March or February  
6 meeting.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
9  
10 MS. ATORUK: So it's up to you to decide  
11 what you guys want to do. Thank you.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So what -- since we  
14 got a winter meeting coming up, what's the wish of the  
15 Council? Would you want to wait until then or what or  
16 would you want to go through the process of election?  
17  
18 MR. LONEWOLF: Wait I would prefer  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. What's.....  
21  
22 MR. BALLOT: I don't know what would be  
23 the difference, why we can't do them now, Mr. Chairman.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Go ahead,  
26 Victor.  
27  
28 MR. KARMUN: I'd rather wait until we  
29 have a full Board.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So what's the  
32 -- I'm looking for some feedback here.  
33  
34 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Maybe we should wait  
35 until we have full Board -- Attamuk here.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
38  
39 ATTAMUK: That way -- and I could put it  
40 more into a motion if it's need to.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. That's -- yeah,  
43 go ahead, Percy.  
44  
45 MR. BALLOT: I think we've got a full  
46 Board. We've just got one vacant seat and I'm on  
47 teleconference.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's two vacant  
50 seats.

1 MR. BALLOT: Oh, two.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. So what's the  
4 wish of the Council then? Go ahead, Attamuk.  
5  
6 ATTAMUK: I propose that we wait until we  
7 get a full -- our Council are full, all 10.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So there's a  
10 motion on the floor to defer our election for later until  
11 we get a full Council on the table.  
12  
13 Is there a second.  
14  
15 MR. KARMUN: I'll second.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a second.  
18 Discussion on the motion.  
19  
20  
21 (No comments)  
22  
23 MR. SWAN: Question.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question has been  
26 called for. All those in favor of the motion, signify by  
27 saying aye.  
28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.  
32  
33 (No opposing votes)  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries. Come  
36 on. Be hyped up a little bit. We're starting a new day.  
37 We'll go down to village concerns at this time. We'll  
38 start with you, Percy. Village concerns.  
39  
40 MR. BALLOT: (Indiscernible-telephone  
41 connection) but we have (indiscernible-telephone  
42 connection) much again, so (indiscernible-telephone  
43 connection) where they're all at.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Go ahead. Go  
46 ahead, Perc. We're trying to get people to hear you,  
47 Perc. If you can restate.  
48  
49 MR. BALLOT: I was just saying there  
50 hasn't been very much going on up here except we hadn't

1 been seeing very much caribou and we just got a lot of  
2 shallow water.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Okay. Is that  
5 it?

6

7 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you very  
10 much, Percy. And we'll go to Austin.

11

12 MR. SWAN: Good morning. We have had a  
13 lot of concern about the fish, most -- especially the  
14 grayling now on the Wulik River. This past fall when we  
15 were doing the seining for winter subsistence, we caught  
16 quite a few grayling with pus sores and a lot of  
17 abrasions and probably triple the number of grayling now  
18 in the river. That's a lot more than what we used to  
19 catch before during seining season.

20

21 And we do have a lot of the trout and  
22 salmon also that are coming up sore in the river, lot of  
23 pus, lot of abrasions. A lot of pus is my big concern or  
24 abrasions. I know that happens, you know, when they're  
25 trying to get away from something, but the sores and  
26 stuff, the pus, it's -- that's getting to be a real big  
27 concern for us.

28

29 The other one is the texture of the trout  
30 in the springtime when we're catching them for drying,  
31 they're not as firm as they used to be, so -- whether  
32 it's the weather, whether it's something else, climate  
33 change, I don't know, but there's a lot of difference.

34

35 The other -- we had a few complaints  
36 about transporters chasing caribou away from rivers, but  
37 those were not -- nobody had any pictures taken and  
38 whatever. It was just hearsay on that, but, you know,  
39 with the caribou not coming around and gets even harder  
40 for us. We're just glad the moose are there.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, very much,  
45 Austin. We'll go to Attamuk.

46

47 ATTAMUK: Yeah, we don't have much, but  
48 I would refer to Austin that I testified before at Aggie  
49 that they were getting a lot of sores and I was scared it  
50 was going to spread out. And I testified that it was --

1 I started maybe three years ago on the rainbow trout at  
2 Aggie and I see it also on the whitefish in Sisolik when  
3 we're camping when we're making for dry. Yeah, he's  
4 right. They weren't firm this year. For some reason,  
5 they're starting to spoil real quick and we don't know  
6 why. It's all due to global warming.

7  
8 And I did get a lot of call son caribou  
9 from the villages that nobody's getting any caribou  
10 except the short run that happened at Onion Portage. And  
11 they were crossing above Ambler and Kobuk. So even I get  
12 calls from Noatak even last week and I also get a lot of  
13 calls even from Anchorage that a lot of sporthunters was  
14 coming to Kotzebue.

15  
16 I mean it's getting -- these years when  
17 I'm getting calls from Anchorage, see and check the  
18 airport, but I couldn't check on it because I was out of  
19 town. They called my cell. So I think what we need to  
20 do is we need to worry that timing without a date for the  
21 transporters to come in because due to that global  
22 warming, our caribou is just not coming. I mean we as  
23 Natives have to accept global warming, but it's being  
24 also impacted from outside because I can't afford to go  
25 buy fuel. I went to Onion Portage twice and I run into  
26 a boat that the family he's on Social Security and he  
27 went far as he could go with his boat and he was just a  
28 few miles about Kiana and he had to stop because he run  
29 -- he was going to run out of gas coming back to  
30 Kotzebue.

31  
32 I mean these are really getting serious  
33 where a guy going far as he could and yet he was short  
34 and I told him if I'm lucky, I'll give him one or two,  
35 but I had to give him one because I didn't get that much.  
36 But he was happy, but he waited for me and I traveled  
37 with him and I give him extra gas to make it home because  
38 he was going to be short. I mean that's how serious it  
39 is. Our people are feeling the impact and the high price  
40 of gas -- not only the gas, we talk about the gas only.  
41 The cost of the equipment, the boat and the motor also  
42 went up. We don't look at it like that.

43  
44 So it's really affecting our people and  
45 if they're hurting, I'll tell you one thing, they're  
46 going to call Maniilaq and I work for Maniilaq and we'll  
47 hear it, that they need help. I think what we need to do  
48 is start planning with more transporters and outfitters  
49 to see how we could delay or somehow work agreement where  
50 once they cross up to the Aggie or Noatak River, yes,

1 they could drop off at a certain point because our  
2 transporters, the way I hear, they're going way up north  
3 to get their caribou.

4  
5 Two weeks ago, a friend of mine called me  
6 up. He said there's an outfitter here that got caribou  
7 that he want to give away. The thought is great, but the  
8 caribou was spoiled. It's too long. And I think what is  
9 happening is we need to start enforcing the condition of  
10 the caribou dates not taking care of it. They're putting  
11 it in plastic bags again. When we put in place to put  
12 them in canvas or whatever will air it out, it's not  
13 working because they're not here. I think we need to do  
14 is get our agencies to put a pamphlet together how as  
15 Natives take care of their caribou because they're --  
16 when we went to Labor Day weekend to Onion Portage, it  
17 was so warm, the butterflies were still flying. And we  
18 -- and I -- and when we talk and I try -- and I tell the  
19 guy that go see me up there and I said we Natives need to  
20 learn with the weather global warming.

21  
22 So I think we need to do instead of talk,  
23 I think there's actions need to be taken to help us  
24 Natives because me personally, even I'm working, I'm  
25 feeling it because when I go Onion Portage, just on gas  
26 alone, I spent almost \$600. So that's an example. And  
27 if a guy is on limited income, \$600 and he can never get  
28 any meat, how he's going to feed his family because he's  
29 over the limit to get food stamp to feed his family.  
30 It's hitting us both ways. Our people and that's what  
31 I'm getting. One guy says I make \$200 a month too much  
32 and my family can't quality for food stamps and he's the  
33 breadwinner and he's just getting Social Security.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
38 Attamuk. Pierre.

39  
40 MR. LONEWOLF: The only thing people have  
41 been talking to me about is the muskox hunting and I have  
42 to find more information about that. Some people had  
43 mentioned some things about outfitters and that's all I  
44 have right now.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Pierre.  
47 Leslie Burns.

48  
49 MR. BURNS: Yeah. I'd say all over I  
50 think I'm doing -- in Noatak, we're going as far as

1 Kougarak and upper. To the caribou, it's getting tough  
2 to after, I think if we keep going we're going to have to  
3 start eating muskox because there are lots of muskox too  
4 now. Our fishing is -- this year is different. Our  
5 salmons spawn early. When we eat dry fish, it's --  
6 climate change is different. Not much people make a  
7 salmon (In Inupiat) and yes, we all got to live off the  
8 land. We can't depend on the store especially our  
9 children and grandchildren. We got to teach our children  
10 to each off the land. You can't depend on microwave all  
11 the time. It's hard to -- like they said, our gas in  
12 Noatak is high. We got limited to go as far as we could  
13 go. I'm not working. Only money I make is just going to  
14 meeting. That's how I pay for my gas and try to teach my  
15 grandchildren and children to live off the land before,  
16 like mushrooms, berries. Got to teach them that and our  
17 salmon is this year is different.

18

19                   They spawn early and lots of high water  
20 when it rains. Now it's -- right now it's low water.  
21 You can practically ride all the way up river with Honda.  
22 Maybe we'll have to start putting boats away so our  
23 hunting -- hunting with Honda and -- we're just like  
24 everybody else. We depend on our caribou and moose and  
25 maybe we will start eat -- have to start getting muskox  
26 to see -- that's going to be our next resource of food.  
27 And then I'll have to start -- I'll have to get a muskox  
28 license if it's going to have to be that way to have our  
29 next food.

30

31                   And that's all I got.

32

33                   Thank you.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Leslie.

36 Jon.

37

38                   MR. GREGG: The only thing I have, Mr.  
39 Chair, is it seems like there's been -- people have told  
40 me a lot of anecdotal reports of bears in the lower  
41 Noatak, seems like more than normal. Myself, I've seen  
42 quite a few and when I saw lower, I'd say from the Eli on  
43 down.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is that it?

46

47                   MR. GREGG: That's it.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Victor

50 Karmun.

1 MR. KARMUN: Thank you. Very unusual  
2 summer or fall. I finally headed upriver myself the 22nd  
3 of September waiting for my nephew. It finally started  
4 cooling off a little bit and we thought being as a little  
5 cool weather would start to make the caribou move, but up  
6 until that time at 6:00 in the morning, it would still be  
7 50 degrees when there should be frost on the ground. So  
8 we headed up anyway. I made it as far as Hunt River. I  
9 think I was out of town two weeks total. I had to turn  
10 around and come back. I was scared I might get stuck up  
11 there due to low water. So I came back down to the  
12 mouth, hung around the north shore of Kobuk Lake. All we  
13 saw was bears. Didn't even see a moose, not one caribou  
14 in two weeks

15  
16 I would have taken a moose if we saw one  
17 this trip. Didn't even see one. I did earlier, but it  
18 was too warm in my opinion.

19  
20 As to the transporters/outfitters, I  
21 check the Internet almost every day. Bunch of unhappy  
22 campers out there. When I'd go check the airport, I'd  
23 talk to some of these drop-offs and they were pretty mad.  
24 They did not even see an animal themselves and the ones  
25 that did luck out and get a caribou or a moose, they said  
26 they had to fight off the bears.

27  
28 Corridors of -- where most of their luck  
29 was, was the Kelly River, Howard Pass, (Indiscernible)  
30 near as I could find out from the Internet. But outside  
31 of that, there was a whole bunch of unhappy campers. One  
32 of the first times I ever went to the airport, no racks,  
33 no meat, nothing. Empty. Just like the boats going up  
34 the Kobuk or Noatak coming back: empty.

35  
36 Anyway thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
39 Victor.

40  
41 Percy -- oh, I did. Okay. I did get.  
42 Yeah. Thank you. Minutes were sent to you, so you got  
43 the copy of the minutes.

44  
45 MR. BALLOT: They're going to bring them  
46 up in a little bit.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. That's good.  
49 I just want to make sure that you have a copy.

50

1 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, they're bringing them  
2 up.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you very  
5 much.

6  
7 As we listen to some of the issues and  
8 some of the concerns, it will an ideal thing to look at  
9 and discuss those very issues. I know we've got the  
10 expertise here in this room. We've got biologists that  
11 can tell us what might be some of the issues, what might  
12 be some of the problems, both at the State and Federal  
13 level. We'll depend on your information so we can pass  
14 this very information onto the people. Better yet, we've  
15 got KOTZ here that's recording that will certainly get  
16 some information that will be hopefully aired over the  
17 radio with some of the issues that's been addressed. And  
18 I think it's critically important to all of us when we go  
19 down to the agency reports that you reflect some of the  
20 problems and issues to this point as to what you might  
21 know -- what we should expect and how we should look at  
22 in making sure that we address those things. If it's a  
23 bear problem, then we need to make a recommendation and  
24 make and propose regulation changes in taking of those  
25 resources more and I reserve some of the issues that we  
26 need to look at.

27  
28 And it's time -- it's good to hear that  
29 somebody else is irritated because they didn't catch  
30 nothing. That's been the very basic message that we try  
31 to provide to everybody every fall. It's good to hear  
32 somebody else is having -- is being irritated.

33  
34 We have additional person here in the  
35 brown shirt there that walked in late. Can you introduce  
36 yourself, please.

37  
38 MS. WESTING: Yes. Charlotte Westing,  
39 I'm the Area Biologist for the State of Alaska. I live  
40 here in Kotzebue.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you.  
43 Good. But these are the issues that we certainly have to  
44 have some discussion on and we will be listening to the  
45 biologists in regards to these very critical issues.

46  
47 So with that, we will move on to the  
48 priority information needs for 2012 Fisheries Resource  
49 Monitoring Program. Karen.

50

1 ATTAMUK: Walter.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.  
4  
5 ATTAMUK: Could I put an addition on my  
6 report which I forgot two little things.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.  
9  
10 ATTAMUK: I get a call -- Enoch here,  
11 Attamuk here. I get a call also from Point Hope, couple  
12 of call that they did not get any caribou all summer and  
13 I get a call from Wainwright asking how was our spring  
14 hunt. They said they did not get any due to the ice  
15 leaving early and it went out and they wanted to know how  
16 was our luck. They just wanted to see how we did versus  
17 they did. That way they could keep track.  
18  
19 Thank you.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Karen.  
22  
23 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and  
24 Council members. What I'm going to talk to you today  
25 about is the draft priority information needs and they  
26 start on Page 12 of your booklet.  
27  
28 And in November, we will be advertising  
29 for requests for proposals for the 2012 Fisheries  
30 Resource Monitoring Program and we anticipated about \$2.7  
31 million available for new projects for this call. And  
32 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is a program  
33 run by the Office of Subsistence Management. It's  
34 designed to provide information needed for management of  
35 Federal fisheries.  
36  
37 And the key part of this request for  
38 proposals will be this priority information needs and we  
39 use this as a guide for investigators so when we go out  
40 with this call asking for proposals, we also send out  
41 this priority information needs to let the investigators  
42 know what is considered priority in the regions and so we  
43 do this statewide. And the proposals that we get are not  
44 always limited to this priority information needs list  
45 and we accept the best proposals out of the total  
46 package, but this really is helpful to our investigators.  
47  
48  
49 So that's what I'm here to present today  
50 to you. We get these proposals in and then they go

1 through a review process and then we ask for  
2 investigation plans after the proposals, which also go  
3 through a review process and then we will put a package  
4 together at the end that comes back to the RAC for their  
5 approval. So this is an ongoing process that we're just  
6 starting.

7  
8 But if you turn to Page 14, you'll see  
9 the Northern Region priority information needs and this  
10 -- again this document is draft. This list was put  
11 together by OSM Staff and the local managers and so I'm  
12 going just read this list to you and this is what's  
13 applicable to the Northern Region and then we will go to  
14 the back and there's some multi-regional information  
15 needs. But this is at this point is what we will be  
16 posting with the call. And so the first one is baseline  
17 harvest assessments and monitoring of subsistence  
18 fisheries in Northwest Arctic and North Slope Regions.

19  
20 The second one is historic trends and  
21 variability in the harvest locations and harvest uses of  
22 nonfish. The third one is Inupiat taxonomy of fish  
23 species, Inupiat natural history of fish, land use, place  
24 names, mapping, species distribution, and methods for  
25 timing and harvests. Species of interest include  
26 sheefish, northern pike, other subsistence non-salmon  
27 fish in the Northwest Arctic Region.

28  
29 And then the last one is spawning  
30 distribution, timing, and stock structure of Selawik  
31 whitefish species. So that's specific to the north and  
32 then if you turn to Page 17, under the section that says  
33 Multi-Regional Priority Information Needs, and this  
34 priority need applies to actually climate change and then  
35 issues that might cover more than one region. And I'd  
36 just like to remind you for the Northern Region, there  
37 are three Councils. We have the Seward Peninsula  
38 Council, we have the Northwest Arctic Council, and we  
39 have the Northern. So it's a huge area and so many of  
40 these issues would apply throughout that area.

41  
42 But the first one is changes in  
43 subsistence fisheries resources and uses in context of  
44 climate change where relevant, including but not limited  
45 to fishing seasons, species targeted, fishing location,  
46 harvest methods and means, and methods of preservation.  
47 And then we ask them to include management implications  
48 and that ties back to some of what you just talked about  
49 a few minutes ago.

50

1                   The second one in this list applies to  
2 the Yukon and Kuskokwim Drainage, so it doesn't really  
3 apply to this area, but the third one is evaluate  
4 conversion factors used to estimate edible pounds of  
5 individual fish and from unorthodox units such as tubs,  
6 sacks, and buckets because often people will talk to us  
7 about collecting fish in buckets.

8  
9                   So this is an action item. I will ask  
10 you to approve the list when we get to that point, but  
11 right now, I'd be very interested in hearing from the  
12 Council what additional things possibly they think might  
13 be on the list or what they think is on the list that  
14 shouldn't be on the list and again this is the guide that  
15 we put out to investigators that will submit research  
16 projects for this area.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions.

19  
20                   (No comments)

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Suggestions from the  
23 Council. Pierre.

24  
25                   MR. LONEWOLF: Yeah. This is Pierre.  
26 How far back historically were you planning on going for  
27 fish usage say like 1900? Tracking back all commercial  
28 fisheries or how far?

29  
30                   MR. HYER: As far as commercial  
31 fisheries, a lot of that is documented, but as far as  
32 subsistence fisheries, a lot of it isn't. Again what we  
33 -- I think we'd be open to investigating about going back  
34 as far as possible, but we put these out and then we  
35 receive proposals. So we don't actually do the research  
36 ourselves, but I think when it comes to climate change,  
37 a lot of happening, so if we can get a good handle on  
38 what was, it'll be a lot easier for us to just check to  
39 what is going to come. So I think we'd be open to going  
40 back as far as we could get the knowledge.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

43  
44                   (No comments)

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Comments. Victor.

47  
48                   MR. KARMUN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Thank  
49 you. I just wonder could we as a Northwest Arctic  
50 Regional Council make comments on the incidental catch on

1 the high seas on chinook and chum?

2

3 MS. HYER: We have a process we're going  
4 through with the bycatch and, Barb, help me out here.  
5 I'm sure you could make comments on that. That would be  
6 different than directing research. We don't have the  
7 authority to do research for that area because that is  
8 marine waters and we don't have jurisdiction there. So  
9 our research only applies to waters we have jurisdiction  
10 over, which are the navigable streams.

11

12 But we have a whole separate component  
13 and I can talk to you about that maybe later, where we  
14 are working with the bycatch issue and making  
15 recommendations as OSM.

16

17 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others. Go ahead.

20

21 MR. GREGG: I'm just interested in if  
22 you've gotten as far as figuring out what type of  
23 mechanisms you would try to use to assess your base -- or  
24 set your baseline harvest limits. Have you gotten that  
25 far. I'm just wondering how are you proposing to figure  
26 that out -- to get a hard number.

27

28 MS. HYER: We have in the past funded  
29 some harvest surveys and the State has funded a lot of  
30 harvest surveys where they actually go out and interview  
31 people. We currently have a project in this area where  
32 we have an investigator from the university doing that  
33 and she's just actually started her work. So we don't  
34 actually again propose. We just list the priorities and  
35 then investigators come to us with the proposals, but a  
36 lot of what they're doing now is actually going to  
37 villages and talking to people and trying to get this  
38 historical harvest information documented.

39

40 MR. GREGG: Sure. Okay.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Karen, you mentioned  
47 the issue in regards to navigable streams. Can you  
48 clarify for me exactly where the navigable streams that  
49 you're talking about? Are these within Federal lands?  
50 For instance on the Kobuk Valley, those water bodies on

1 the Kobuk River are Federal waters. Is that.....

2

3 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, that's correct  
4 and probably the best guide for what we have jurisdiction  
5 over is actually your regulatory book that has the area  
6 and the maps. But, yeah, the Kobuk is and we currently  
7 have a sheefish project on the Kobuk and of course the  
8 Selawik is also.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess the issue that  
11 I also have on my list is as you go through the process  
12 of trying to get people to do what needs to be done, is  
13 there any agency putting these out for contract or is it  
14 the agency themselves that will be doing the actual work?

15

16 MS. HYER: We actually put things out as  
17 you said for contract. We use several different funding  
18 vehicles, but we currently have a research project by the  
19 University of Fairbanks which the Refuge is also involved  
20 in. We have one that's by actually Fish and Wildlife  
21 Service. The Refuge is also involved in that one. And  
22 we have -- well, I guess we have two because the harvest  
23 monitoring one is also done through the University. And  
24 then although it's removed from here, it's still Northern  
25 Region, we have a project run on the Unalakleet River  
26 which is cooperative between the State and BLM and two of  
27 the local organizations.

28

29 So it just depends on what mix we get  
30 when these proposals are submitted.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I'm asking these  
33 because of some of the issues that will be raised by the  
34 communities. What I'm getting at and to the point is  
35 that if an agency is to be doing these things, we only  
36 ask that as far as information is concerned be provided  
37 to the communities in regards to exactly what you folks  
38 are planning to do, how that information will be used,  
39 and who will be collecting that information.

40

41 People need to understand that clear  
42 process. If it means hiring additional people to make it  
43 sure that you hire an interpreter so people can  
44 understand. That is also something that you also need to  
45 consider. Not everybody speaks English and writes  
46 English. We've got some of the older folks that don't  
47 understand. Sometimes they'll sit in a meet confused.  
48 So we need to make sure that the consideration is placed  
49 before them, that you have adequate people to make sure  
50 that they understand.

1                   If you can hire a consultant somewhere  
2 and pay them umpteen dollars, those folks that you hire  
3 as consultant for interpreter should be no different than  
4 hiring consultants somewhere else. And that's one thing  
5 that we always seem to not get the message across to the  
6 agencies.

7  
8                   And secondly, when studies are being  
9 done, too often one too many times that these studies  
10 will be used against those very people that are trying  
11 live off the land -- off the waters. So making sure that  
12 people understand what it is that what the agency's  
13 trying to do and once they understand exactly the intent  
14 of the study, people will open up.

15  
16                   But if you're not clear and you're not  
17 getting the message across to people, people will stay  
18 zipped in the mouth. Then they will say why is it that  
19 you're doing this for the agency and not for the people.  
20 Too often plans in the past, studies in the past have  
21 been done by agencies without any consultation of people.  
22 That's one thing that's always missing. We're only  
23 asking that through the process of designing these things  
24 that you get the people to participate in through the  
25 planning of the study.

26  
27                   Let them become part ownership of these  
28 things because we will have an impact on their way of  
29 life and it's critically important that we get that  
30 message to them in that way. So I just want to make sure  
31 that you consider that and it's good know now that  
32 navigable streams or navigable waterways are within the  
33 monument even as far as the Kobuk Valley is concerned.  
34 As far as the Selawik River is concerned I'm sure is part  
35 of that as well too. Because we'll get challenged by  
36 outside interest group about that very issue in regards  
37 to that term navigable waters and it's good to know that  
38 you have that.

39  
40                   And once the study's been done and has  
41 been completed, making sure that those very communities  
42 that you visit get a copy of those various studies so  
43 they can have something in place. I can't emphasize  
44 strong enough that what we want to do is to making sure  
45 we need to have people have part ownership of these  
46 things. For too long, they've been the recipient of  
47 plans that were designed elsewhere by people who don't  
48 know how people make their living off the land.

49  
50                   So that's why I'm trying to address the

1 process as you go through to making sure people  
2 participate in through that very process. What I'm  
3 getting is that we don't want after-the-fact plans by the  
4 agency. We want to sit on the table to be part of that  
5 process.

6

7 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. I think those  
8 points were very good and we do have a capacity building  
9 component in our evaluation process and it's -- I agree  
10 with you. Everything you said is extremely important.  
11 Alicia here would like to say something, so I'm just  
12 going to turn the mic over to her.

13

14 MS. DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
15 This is Alicia Davis with the Office of Subsistence  
16 Management. As you were saying, it's important to have  
17 a local component and local input into our research needs  
18 and that's we are presenting them to you today and we are  
19 very interested to get your feedback and all the things  
20 that you said we're taking into consideration and many of  
21 the ideas that come from the Northern Region have come  
22 from past research and from past discussions at RAC  
23 meetings through the idea that people were speaking of --  
24 about what they're seeing in their areas and that's how  
25 the list was sort of comprised.

26

27 But we are open to your suggestions and  
28 thoughts on what local communities -- what you all think  
29 local communities want to see and we're very open to  
30 working with the RACs, to work with local communities in  
31 terms of disseminating the information and assisting any  
32 way we can to help you all share the information with  
33 your communities and the communities where the research  
34 takes place.

35

36 So we thank you for your ideas.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much  
39 for addressing the past RAC process that we've gone  
40 through. I hate to tell you that the past RAC process  
41 has failed many time. I say that because I know some of  
42 the information that we provide are not getting to people  
43 that needs to see exactly what some of the issues are.

44

45 We need to make sure that the Department  
46 of Interior in D.C. are getting the adequate information  
47 that are being discussed at the regional meetings. Many  
48 times -- not only many times, but, you know, when times  
49 -- comes to an opportunity for those of us in the  
50 leadership position have a chance to have some

1 discussions with Department of Interior in D.C., we will  
2 ask that very question are you receiving any information  
3 from the regional offices in Alaska on issues pertaining  
4 to these very issues. Many times they will tell us  
5 partial information and that's where the issues are  
6 sometimes.

7  
8 I'll give you a good prime example. When  
9 we did put together a hunting plan for Kobuk Valley,  
10 eight years it sat in the regional office collecting dust  
11 before it got the Department of Interior. That's why I  
12 raise the issue in regards to the failure of a process  
13 that can be something that needs to change as far as  
14 process is concerned and it's critically important that  
15 it just don't go the regional office and sit and collect  
16 dust there. Remember, we're part of the Federal system.  
17 That's why there's parks and monuments up here. That's  
18 why there's preserves up here because of the very fact  
19 that this region supported the creation of these Federal  
20 lands within this region. I just want to make sure that  
21 it's clear that this is addressed in that way. So with  
22 that, I thank you. Karen.

23  
24 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. If there's no  
25 more input to this list, then I would ask somebody make  
26 a motion and we accept it.

27  
28 ATTAMUK: Yeah. I just got a question,  
29 probably being dumb. Your proposals are open for 2012.  
30 Is it right to the end of December or not -- proposal  
31 open for request 2012.

32  
33 MS. HYER: What will happen -- and I  
34 don't have the exact timeline in front of me, so this is  
35 a general timeline. But what will happen is in November  
36 we'll ask for proposals which are short, two page kind of  
37 ideas that we look at. We make sure that they're good  
38 ideas, that they're tied to Federal lands, that they have  
39 all the components we ask for. And then from there, we  
40 go back to the investigators. So this is a year-long  
41 process and we say this is a good idea, please develop it  
42 into what we call an investigation plan which is a many-  
43 page document that tells us exactly how they're going to  
44 do the research.

45  
46 And then that goes through a review  
47 process. And so -- and then it goes to the Federal  
48 Board. Well, it'll come back to the Regional Advisory  
49 Councils for their approval and then after that it goes  
50 to the Federal Board. So by the time this whole process

1 is over, actually when we say 2012, that that is the  
2 first summer or winter depending on if it's the summer or  
3 winter project, that we will give them money to do the  
4 research and that's why that date is so far out. It  
5 takes the process that long to complete.

6  
7                   ATTAMUK: Okay. I got another one. You  
8 said you want to do surveys regularly. Are you talking  
9 about for two years straight, three years straight  
10 because our surveys are really important through the  
11 changes that are happening not only with our fisheries  
12 here. Some are spawn -- coming in earlier and some are  
13 coming in later. The spawning, the eggs are a little bit  
14 different. They're not in prime yet. As of last week,  
15 when I check whitefish at Ania (ph) across the bay,  
16 they're not in prime to have them spit it out yet.  
17 They're not ready to spawn yet. I mean you could tell  
18 they're not even (In Inupiat) yet. As of -- so these  
19 things are need to be into consideration. Not just a  
20 timing of the fish, also you have to look a lot further  
21 of what's happening because it's going to affect us  
22 because if they don't take caribou, they have to take  
23 something else to be in place for the food on the table.

24  
25                   MS. HYER: And our funding cycle is up to  
26 four years. So if you submitted a proposal and it was  
27 funded in 2012, we -- depending on what an investigator  
28 asks for, we can fund a project up to four years. Now,  
29 our program has funded things like -- well, the weir on  
30 the Unalakleet. We did fund that for four years, but  
31 we've had a chinook issue down there and probably in four  
32 years, we will not know the answer to that question. So  
33 it's very likely after the four year time that  
34 investigator will come back to us with a new proposal  
35 saying the last four years, this is what I learned. I  
36 need, you know, maybe up to four more years' worth of  
37 funding to keep this weir and to really understanding  
38 what's happening because even a chinook life cycle, you  
39 can't get the whole life cycle in four years.

40  
41                   So some of our projects we have funded  
42 for many, many years because that's what it takes in  
43 fisheries research to get to an answer. It really  
44 depends on the project and the investigator, but -- and  
45 the confines of our system is four years, but often after  
46 those four years are up, people will come back to us and  
47 they'll get another four years' worth of funding and  
48 another four years. So we do have some long-term  
49 monitoring projects.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

2

3 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Because I do have a  
4 problem with that four years and the project is over with  
5 and it could be these problems that we have with our  
6 fisheries, when you guys do investigation or a survey, it  
7 ends after four years, but the problem still goes on  
8 after four years. And I think the Federal need to  
9 understand that you guys need to keep on going because  
10 you will never fund it again for probably another eight,  
11 ten years down the road and you will say, okay, we're  
12 ready for another proposal.

13

14 In the meantime, they could decline and  
15 we will have a crash, and who's going to worry about it  
16 when it's too late. That's why it need to be followed  
17 year by year basis as we take -- Natives see it because  
18 we are the eyes of the North and we're the ones that out  
19 there and harvesting the fish, harvesting the animals,  
20 and when we try to propose that something's happening,  
21 we're being heard too late and they will crash on us and  
22 they will put restrictions how much we could take.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: One other issue before  
29 we make a recommendation by motion, what are the folks at  
30 the North Slope side, brothers and sisters on that side,  
31 think -- what's their thoughts in regards to the very  
32 question that you're raising to us here. Sort of -- I  
33 just want to get a feel of what they're thinking and are  
34 they supporting this or where are they at with this.

35

36 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. They have  
37 supported this. One of their big concerns is always the  
38 same thing I think I heard here. They're very concerned  
39 about climate change and they're seeing the effects of  
40 it. I'd say more than anything else that was brought up  
41 at that meeting is what's happening over time as the  
42 climate changes and things are changing.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Any others.

45

46 MR. GREGG: Walter. .

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes. Go ahead, Jon,

49

50 MR. GREGG: Of your proposed \$2.7 million

1 budget, how much of that will go to fund these legacy  
2 projects that you say you're going to continue that  
3 you're going to bump out for another cycle?

4  
5 MS. HYER: The 2.7 is actually for new  
6 projects. So there is -- and I'm sorry, I don't have  
7 that number off the top of my head, but there is a number  
8 that we currently have projects in the water that will be  
9 in the water in 2012 and that money has already been set  
10 aside. And what we often do -- and it really depends on  
11 the proposals we bet. But if we don't, we have had years  
12 where we haven't gotten as many proposals as we actually  
13 have money for and so then we'll take that money and  
14 we'll -- we call it forward funding. But we'll take a  
15 four-year project and we'll set aside that money for  
16 those four years so it won't come out of the next call.  
17 But the 2.7 is for new projects.

18  
19 MR. GREGG: Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So what's the wish of  
26 the Council.

27  
28 ATTAMUK: Are you looking for a proposal  
29 for us to accept this?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No. What's she asking  
32 for is the support by motion to accept this I think if we  
33 plan to support this, what we also need to make sure you  
34 address that in a form of a motion as far as a process is  
35 concerned that the agency work with the communities in  
36 regards to making sure that they participate in through  
37 that process.

38  
39 ATTAMUK: Attamuk here, Walter. I would  
40 like to support it, but I'm looking at Susan to do some  
41 work with me to make some proposals because I do have  
42 interest on these fish here in our area, you know, and  
43 due to the changes and when I went up to Kiana and they  
44 were telling me this and that about the fish that they're  
45 not as fat as they used to be and maybe there's too many.  
46 We don't know. And so I will support this proposal  
47 because I'm going to apply for a grant on these here, not  
48 only just for Kotzebue and I will contact my villages  
49 that might have interest in it. As Kivalina, they -- I  
50 know they get whitefish there and no tag and all the

1 people that get it all the way to Kobuk that have  
2 interest they don't want to do it, I will ask them if  
3 they want me to check on it. So I will support this  
4 proposal.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So your motion then is  
7 to -- making sure that we are clear -- is to support the  
8 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program with the provisions  
9 that the village participate through the dialogue of a  
10 discussion of the process of the studies.

11  
12 ATTAMUK: Yes

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is there a second.

15  
16 MR. LONEWOLF: Second. This is Pierre.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. There's a  
19 second by Pierre. Discussion on the motion.

20  
21 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chairman. I think it is  
22 quite important that they go ahead and do the.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Just a second, Percy.  
25 We got somebody -- we got Austin first.

26  
27 MR. SWAN: I won't be long, Percy.  
28 Sorry. But I think it's important because we have  
29 climate change and that's affecting our wildlife, whether  
30 it be fish or land animals.

31  
32 I'm in support of that.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Percy.

35  
36 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. 2012 we picked  
37 up proposals that the priority information needs as -- I  
38 hear it was just mentioned trends and stuff, but it  
39 doesn't say anything in there about whether -- what  
40 they're talking about having sores on the -- the health  
41 of the fish and stuff like that for these studies.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's the purpose of  
44 the study as well too, Percy, as I understand it.

45  
46 MR. BALLOT: Okay.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Karen.

49  
50 MS. HYER: One thing, Mr. Chairman, is I

1 just want to refer you to Page 17 and it says changes in  
2 subsistence fisheries resources and uses in the context  
3 of climate change where relevant including but not  
4 limited to fishing seasons, species targeted, fishing  
5 locations, harvest methods and means and methods of  
6 preservation.

7  
8 Now, we could put in there -- the list  
9 says -- you know, this is ideas, but it's not limited to  
10 this. But we could also put fish health in that list.  
11 I did hear many Council members speak on that and if that  
12 would be agreeable to Council, that's something we could  
13 do.

14  
15 MR. BALLOT: Great.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Perc.

18  
19 MR. BALLOT: That's a -- I think that's  
20 a good idea.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. To include that  
23 provision on the studies as they go through in regards to  
24 the health of fisheries, so I guess you got the -- go  
25 ahead.

26  
27 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. It was just  
28 suggested to me instead of using the fish health, use the  
29 fish quality because that might have -- it might -- that  
30 might include the health of the fish as it's harvested  
31 but also the drying and the processing.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

34  
35 MS. HYER: Would that be.....

36  
37 ATTAMUK: Yeah.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Okay. That  
40 will be included as part of the motion.

41  
42 REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Further discussion on  
45 the motion.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 MR. SWAN: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question has been  
2 called for. All those supporting the motion to support  
3 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program signify by saying  
4 aye.

5  
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.

9  
10 (No opposing votes)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries. One  
13 other issue that we will probably -- well, we'll touch on  
14 later. We'll worry about that. Let's take a quick 15-  
15 minute break. Before we go on break, we do have the  
16 Acting Superintendent here, Mary McBurney. Welcome to  
17 our Regional Advisory Council meeting. Let's take a  
18 quick 15.

19  
20 (Off record)

21  
22 (On record)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We will reconvene at  
25 this time, please.

26  
27 Do we have any new people that just  
28 walked in for introduction.

29  
30 MS. JESSE: My name's Linda Jesse. I'm  
31 the head of the education department here for the  
32 National Park Service.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others. Okay. I  
35 guess we have a Shungnak issue we need to also hear. Go  
36 ahead. Barb.

37  
38 MS. ATORUK: Henry.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Henry, go ahead.

41  
42 HENRY: Okay, hi, this Henry. On the  
43 village concern up here, I'm on the caribou migrating  
44 trails, there's been a lot of -- most of the hunters I  
45 talked to, they see a lot of wolves and lot of bears.  
46 That's -- I think that's what's affecting the caribou  
47 herd. You know, and another concern I've got is the  
48 waste -- wanton waste on the caribou. After the, you  
49 know, when they already go on the rut, you know, when  
50 they get (indiscernible) there's some people using

1 caribou for dog food, you know, and then I've seen it  
2 myself, you know, people taking in some caribou for their  
3 dog food and if they don't use it, they take it back out  
4 and they put it back out in the country. And, you know,  
5 that's kind of thing I was concerned about too.

6

7 And another thing is when I was up at the  
8 Arctic Caribou and working there was a lot of people  
9 hunting and -- well, people going up there to the Slope  
10 to hunt for caribou, I guess.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is that it? Is that  
13 it, Henry?

14

15 HENRY: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, thanks. Do we  
18 have anybody else, Barb?

19

20 MS. ATORUK: No.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We will go into the  
23 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. And I think  
24 it's critically important where that working group is.  
25 We've got some people that were also involved in  
26 participating I'm sure from some of this group as well as  
27 some of the Staff here in Kotzebue.

28

29 So with that, I'll turn that over to  
30 Barb.

31

32 Barb.

33

34 MS. ATORUK: Good morning, Council. I  
35 was invited to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working  
36 Group last December and when I attended there and  
37 listening to people and discussing all different sorts of  
38 caribou movements in the Arctic Region, I noticed that  
39 the North Slope and Northwest Arctic Councils were not  
40 represented on this working group and I started  
41 questioning and asking the people who ran the place and  
42 they said that they were only limited to 20, but then  
43 that if the North Slope or the Northwest Arctic Council  
44 wrote a letter and that they have so-and-so person to  
45 represent them that they would be able to accept that  
46 representative in.

47

48 And then this went before the North Slope  
49 Council last fall and what they have decided is that they  
50 ask in a motion form to have their Chair or a designee to

1 attend this meeting. They always meet every December --  
2 first week of December in Anchorage. And to go -- just  
3 to go check it out to see if their Council -- the North  
4 Slope Council does need a representative on the Western  
5 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and that's why I bought  
6 this before you today, to see what your thoughts would be  
7 on it.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
12 Barb, I think it's critically important. I know Raymond  
13 Stoney used to sit as the Chairman of this group and if  
14 you look at the working group annual meeting, we do have  
15 some folks from this region that participated if you take  
16 a look at the picture and in fact we have some even  
17 elders that participated.

18

19 But other than that, I guess as that herd  
20 is pretty much I think stable and if there's issues that  
21 needs to be addressed, those very issues also needs to be  
22 brought to this working group who is also should be part  
23 of that working group as an agency even though this is a  
24 State working group because there is a lot of Federal  
25 lands within this region and there's got to be some  
26 representation at least to provide information to them in  
27 regards to what's happening within this region. And I'm  
28 sure that we do have some representation from the agency.  
29 If you look at the picture, we have a Staff here, Willie  
30 Goodwin from Northwest as part of the working group there  
31 and Beula Ballot and I'm sure Sally and Beula probably  
32 represent it as well as some other students.

33

34 But I think it's critically important  
35 that we also hear from them in regards to what their  
36 thoughts might be in regards to the Western Arctic Herd  
37 and what they're planning -- where they are with planning  
38 and what they plan to do or what they -- the expectations  
39 are in regards to getting -- receive input from other  
40 entities in this region. So do you have any others,  
41 Barb?

42

43 MS. ATORUK: No. The only one that was  
44 represented there and they've had that representative  
45 there for a long time is Seward Peninsula always had  
46 Elmer Seetot, Jr., as their representative and he's --  
47 that's why he's showing up here and he also represents  
48 Brevig, and -- but he also represent the Seward Peninsula  
49 Regional Council on there and then he gives a short  
50 report, either written or verbal, whenever they have a

1 meeting on -- regarding the caribou -- after the meeting.  
2 Go ahead, Attamuk.  
3  
4 ATTAMUK: Walter, I think there's -- you  
5 misunderstand. Raymond was for the Lower Kobuk  
6 representative and Sally was the representative for Upper  
7 Kobuk. I think you need to understand that.....  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. I just read  
10 that on the.....  
11  
12 ATTAMUK: .....on this Council.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes. I just read  
15 that.  
16  
17 ATTAMUK: We need a representative here  
18 from the Council. Okay.  
19  
20 MR. BALLOT: Chairman.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.  
23  
24 MR. BALLOT: I agree we need a  
25 representative there too. My mom and them were there  
26 just to give the history on caribou and uses of it at the  
27 meeting there. We have two representatives that's from  
28 our region. It's Ron Moto and Roger Clark. But they  
29 weren't there at the meeting as I understand it. I think  
30 we need to have representatives that are there to share  
31 communications, the actions or the ideas that the working  
32 group is putting together regarding our caribou as we  
33 couldn't -- we weren't allowed to attend the board, the  
34 representative if I understand that right at the time,  
35 but I think it would be real good for us to appoint a  
36 representative that can report their actions, issues to  
37 us too for our villages.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thanks, Percy.  
40 You have anything else, Barb?  
41  
42 MS. ATORUK: If you do go for nominating  
43 a representative at this time, we'd have to do a letter  
44 and that would be drafted from the office and then go  
45 through you for approval to see if it's okay to send it  
46 to them to see if a person would -- representing  
47 Northwest would attend their next meeting.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. That shouldn't  
50 be no problem. I don't have no problems doing that and

1 certainly I will -- we will ask the agency to put  
2 together a draft that can be sent out and so that way we  
3 will have our representation.

4  
5 MS. ATORUK: It has to be in a motion  
6 form.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

9  
10 MS. ATORUK: It is an action item.

11  
12 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Willie. Go  
15 ahead, Willie.

16  
17 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 Members of the Council. I'm speaking for myself here.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

21  
22 MR. GOODWIN: I represent Kotzebue on the  
23 working group and I have been involved with the  
24 organization since it first started early on, helping  
25 Dave write the first draft -- Dave Spirtes. And there  
26 was a lot of discussion at the formation of the group was  
27 coming together as far as representation.

28  
29 Because there was so many organizations  
30 out there that had a potential of being represented and  
31 the cost of holding these meetings it's getting harder  
32 and harder to pull them together. Right now the agencies  
33 are footing the bill to have the meeting because the  
34 State quit funding them a couple years ago. In the early  
35 days when a discussion on a representation was discussed,  
36 we knew that the Regional Advisory Council played a  
37 critical role as far as making recommendations for  
38 regulations and such and also the State advisory  
39 committees for Fish and Game. Those two are mentioned in  
40 the working -- in the plan where coordination from the  
41 caribou working group will happen before those two  
42 committees, like yourself and the advisory committee,  
43 before any regulations are proposed to the Board of Game  
44 and the Federal Subsistence Board to get your blessing.

45  
46 The caribou working group is just an  
47 advisory group to plan and put together so certain things  
48 happen when the population changes. So far they haven't  
49 made any recommendations for any regulations except for  
50 what we see from the advisory committees and those have

1 been submitted through the Department of Fish and Game.

2

3 Now, if you take a look at the  
4 representation, it is from the groupings and villages,  
5 from the advisory committees, those representatives are  
6 chosen to let us go out of interest from those villages  
7 for a certain seat. I represent Kotzebue. The tribe  
8 wrote a letter for my consideration to be seated at the  
9 last meeting and I was seated as a Kotzebue  
10 representative.

11

12 Now, even though the Regional Advisory  
13 Councils are a critical part in making regulations and  
14 such for the caribou, there is no standing requirement  
15 for any group except those that are listed as far as  
16 transporters, hunters, and the conservation groups. Now,  
17 it's up to them to decide who's going to sit on the  
18 working group. Now keep in mind that these are all users  
19 of the caribou herd. So that's how it was brought up.

20

21 I represented Kotzebue before. Enoch did  
22 because we sat on the RAC. So, you know, if there's  
23 supposed to be any type of reporting, then you've got a  
24 coordinator here that can do it if she attends the  
25 meetings.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
30 Willie. Barb.

31

32 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. It was just by  
33 chance that the last time I attended the meeting. I  
34 usually am not asked to attend any meetings, but last  
35 December was the first time that I was ever asked to  
36 attend this meeting. So I would be able to give you minutes  
37 of the meetings that would come out and then sometimes  
38 they could come out from the Fish and Game. Mr. Bente is the  
39 one that do write up the notes for this group. And --  
40 but it is your choice to do what you want to do on this  
41 matter.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
46 Barb. I think it's critically important that we do by  
47 motion pass that we participate in that -- if that's what  
48 it is, and I'll be more than willing to take that role  
49 because it's crucial to this region. We -- that's the  
50 only herd that this region really hunts and it's

1 critically important that we also let the agencies know  
2 that would be interested in sitting on this organization.

3

4                   And I'm sure that we probably can find  
5 some funding source if that's what it is and if the  
6 Federal Government can spend -- study grasses somewhere.  
7 I'm sure that we can find some funding to send people to  
8 these meetings that have more important role on take of  
9 and use of as well as providing information to this  
10 region in regards to what's happening to a half million  
11 caribou with -- on that herd. So I think it's crucially  
12 important that we do that.

13

14                   Any discussion from the Council.

15

16

17                   (No comments)

18

19                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: (In Inupiat)

20

21                   MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Go ahead, Perc.

24

25                   MR. BALLOT: Yeah. I guess I'm just  
26 trying to it that I know the makeup of that group and I  
27 know we have representatives from our subregion like  
28 Buckland and Deering on that committee, but they weren't  
29 there and if you can ahead of time confirm that these  
30 folks are going to be there to represent us -- to  
31 represent us there on those committee gatherings that  
32 somebody from our villages should be able to do it  
33 because you could find a way to get there. We can send  
34 funds to get there because the caribous are real  
35 important for our village over here and we want to keep  
36 on top of things that are happening too.

37

38                   That's the only point I was trying to  
39 make, I guess.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you much, Perc.  
42 Any other comments from the Council.

43

44                   MR. LONEWOLF: Yeah. This is Pierre.  
45 I'm of the opinion that we need some presence at the  
46 meeting just to make sure that our views are -- at least  
47 a report is given to us. I know sometimes it's hard for  
48 people to make meetings, but especially with Western  
49 Arctic Caribou Herd, we need to have somebody that  
50 represents the area as a whole I think not only just a

1 small subregion.  
2  
3 Thank you.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Victor.  
6  
7 (In Inupiat)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others.  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So what's the wish of  
14 this body.  
15  
16 Jon. (In Inupiat)  
17  
18 MR. GREGG: Pardon me.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What's your thoughts.  
21  
22 MR. GREGG: I had to go to my  
23 interpreter.  
24  
25 (Laughter)  
26  
27 MR. GREGG: I think it's a good idea and  
28 I agree with Pierre that we should be represented as a  
29 whole and I wonder if maybe in the interim before we're  
30 able to hammer this out, could we ask one of the sitting  
31 working group members to report to us?  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's no problem  
34 doing that, yeah. Yeah. Any others. Who is -- Willie,  
35 can you quickly -- somebody can quickly highlight -- just  
36 a highlighted version of where things are with the  
37 Western Arctic. Do -- not with detail but sort of a  
38 highlighted version if you can.  
39  
40 MR. GOODWIN: With Karen both being --  
41 well, LeeAnne was there, but we heard a lot of discussion  
42 on the status of the herd, the -- to some extent some of  
43 the migrations and of course the transporters were  
44 brought up again even in those meetings, but the herd  
45 itself was stable and this year you see that the herd got  
46 a little bit more than the last count a couple years ago.  
47 But as the plan states is if it starts to decrease, then  
48 the frequency of the caribou count will increase and then  
49 when it reaches a certain amount like 200,000 I believe  
50 it is, there's going to be some regulatory proposals to

1 change the harvest from the sporthunters.

2

3                   So these things are in place. That will  
4 probably happen, but if that happens, then the proposals  
5 will come to you guys and also to the Board of Game.

6

7                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: LeeAnne.

8

9                   MS. AYRES: Yes. I -- one of the other  
10 things I guess that was a main event at the last meeting  
11 was looking at the current management plan, that's the  
12 cooperative management plan for the Western Arctic Herd.  
13 And this is a great opportunity for this group too to  
14 kind of be involved. We're at the process now -- or the  
15 stakeholders are at the process of looking over that  
16 management plan and seeing whether it needs to be updated  
17 or what things need to be changed on it.

18

19                   So that was a big portion of the last  
20 meeting were breakout groups where they looked at the  
21 different elements from education to population  
22 monitoring and just seeing whether they were still in  
23 line with what folks wanted.

24

25                   One of the things that the agencies used  
26 to plan for quite a bit is to prioritize our work. We  
27 really look to the users of the herd to let us know where  
28 they think issues are that need to be addressed by the  
29 agencies. So these meetings are a really great  
30 opportunity for exchange of information between the users  
31 and hunters of the herd and the agencies that are  
32 involved with the resource monitoring and work with them.

33

34

35                   And -- and oh, yes, also the kids. That's  
36 one of the elements in the plan or one of the big issues  
37 is involving youth in both the management and with  
38 subsistence of the herd. And so as part of a  
39 longstanding program that Fish and Game has been doing on  
40 Onion Portage with the caribou collaring, a lot of the  
41 students that are supported to go on that come back and  
42 report to the group at the meeting in December.

43

44                   So it's just a way of looking for  
45 opportunities to involve youth in caribou and in  
46 management of the herd. So it's a wonderful meeting I  
47 think and I think one of the big action things this year  
48 is to be looking over that management plan and offering  
49 revisions to it. So that'll be up before the  
50 stakeholders.

1                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess bottom line to  
2 all this is, is this -- if we can get a motion to approve  
3 just to attend the meeting to listen in to what's  
4 happening. Then from there, we can provide information  
5 to this very body. It's critical in that way. That way  
6 somebody from this body can report to the rest of us.

7  
8                   MR. GOODWIN: Chairman. This is Willie.  
9 One other thing that they talked about was the different  
10 alternatives that different herds have used to manage  
11 their herds as far as population management. The group  
12 didn't take any action on them. They were just presented  
13 to us and another one was presented after we met, so we  
14 had -- there's two proposals or two management I guess --  
15 not proposals, but alternatives that can be taken.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What I can see down  
18 the road or in the future is that over time I think as  
19 far as management within Federal lands hopefully will  
20 change to better to where the Federal agency will legally  
21 manage these things. Right now, it's really troublesome  
22 to see how the system is set up. The State of Alaska,  
23 even though it does not -- is not consistent with the  
24 Federal law -- I'm referring to ANILCA. ANILCA has that  
25 preference for rural community, but the State of Alaska  
26 doesn't. But yet the State of Alaska is given that  
27 management authority of these resources even within  
28 Federal lands.

29  
30                   I think over time that will change. I  
31 think that will change down the road. As we see what's  
32 happening within the Federal Board, then over time that  
33 will also change in regards to the reflection of our  
34 representation to that very body. And yes, we're going  
35 to be hitting blocks here and there, but we have to be  
36 persistent on how we deal with these very issues because  
37 the bottom line to all this is two things. One is to  
38 make sure that the health of this herd continues to stay  
39 at a high number and two, the user groups also has to be  
40 looked at and how they're looked at be dealt with in that  
41 manner. So it's critically important that this occurs.  
42 That's why I say I think over time that the Federal  
43 agency is certainly going to be legally taking over the  
44 management of these resources.

45  
46                   Sure, there's not going to be some  
47 agreement to that statement, but I think over time, it  
48 will occur. So any other discussions on the working  
49 group. Go ahead, Jon.

50

1 MR. GREGG: LeeAnne, how do we get our  
2 hands on a copy of the draft of the management plan that  
3 exists right now?  
4  
5 MR. GOODWIN: Fish and Game has no more  
6 printed copies, but they can copy copies of it, yeah.  
7  
8 MR. GREGG: Is it available on the Web?  
9  
10 MS. AYRES: Yeah. We have an email.....  
11  
12 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah. Charlotte, it's  
13 available on the Web, huh?  
14  
15 MS. WESTING: I'm pretty sure it is and  
16 we've got more copies at Fish and Game now, so.....  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You thought they were  
19 going.....  
20  
21 MR. GOODWIN: No. They ran out.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Oh, they ran out.  
24 Okay.  
25  
26 (Laughter)  
27  
28 MR. GOODWIN: It's a very popular  
29 document.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's justifiable I  
32 guess.  
33  
34 MS. AYRES: And I guess just one  
35 point.....  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.  
38  
39 MS. AYRES: .....on a clarification of  
40 it. This group is really its own entity. It's -- the  
41 agencies all work together to support it and right now  
42 we're all pooling funding to kind of keep going and  
43 making sure the group meets. But that's been a  
44 longstanding topic is trying to get long-term funding for  
45 the group. And Fish and Game has been the original  
46 sponsoring agency of it and Peter Bente and Fish and Game  
47 Staff do quite a bit of just kind of the leg work and  
48 support for it. So.....  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Pierre.

1 MR. LONEWOLF: Out of curiosity, do you  
2 get any support from the commercial users?  
3  
4 MR. GOODWIN: No, but they attend and  
5 make their points, yeah.  
6  
7 MS. AYRES: Yeah. Phil Driver has been  
8 the sitting Chair for the guiding side of the business  
9 and he's been really, you know, I think pretty involved  
10 with the group from the beginning and supportive of it.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think from the  
13 standpoint of guides we'll have no choice but to  
14 participate because they're State regulated anyway. It's  
15 the transporter group that has an issue with what's  
16 happening I guess.  
17  
18 And further discussion on the Western  
19 Arctic.  
20  
21 (No comments)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do you have anything  
24 else, Willie?  
25  
26 MR. GOODWIN: No. Thank you.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So what's the wish of  
29 this body, if you wish to make a formal motion that we  
30 participate at least to listen into some of the  
31 discussions and that representative will report back to  
32 this body when it meets. Pierre.  
33  
34 MR. LONEWOLF: Yeah, Walter. I move that  
35 we send a representative to the caribou working group and  
36 have him/her provide information from that meeting to us.  
37 Also I would like them to be able to provide information  
38 on the status of other caribou herds in the State so we  
39 can kind of make a comparison.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: To include Santa's  
42 reindeer?  
43  
44 MR. LONEWOLF: No, those are not  
45 participants.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Okay. There's  
48 a motion on the floor. Is there a second.  
49  
50 ATTAMUK: I'll second it.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a second.  
2 Discussion the motion.  
3  
4 MR. SWAN: Question.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question has been  
7 called for. All those in favor of the motion signify by  
8 saying aye.  
9  
10 IN UNISON: Aye.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed same sign.  
13  
14 (No opposing votes)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries. So I  
17 certainly will take this issue and work with Barb and the  
18 agency on this. Next on the agenda we have our next  
19 meeting.  
20  
21 There's a recommendation for 2011 winter  
22 and fall 2011. The winter is February 18th and the fall,  
23 we do not have that fall. Barb.  
24  
25 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Your winter meeting  
26 would be on February 18, 2011. And then for the fall of  
27 2011, there's been a request by your neighbors up north  
28 on the North Slope to have a tri-council meeting of all  
29 three Arctic Region Councils to discuss the global  
30 warming and how it's affecting your life with your fish  
31 and wildlife resources, how you guys are managing, what  
32 differences you guys are seeing. And then they've asked  
33 for like August 23 and 24.  
34  
35 At first they suggested at Barrow and  
36 then when I got back to Anchorage, the Anchorage people  
37 said why don't you ask them to see if they can have it  
38 here in Anchorage. Cost-wise and then all our Staff  
39 would be there for the three different Councils. If they  
40 would -- if you would choose so to go there to Anchorage  
41 to meet and then you would meet all together in one day  
42 on the 23rd and then break out to three different groups  
43 on the 24th to work on your own personal issues from each  
44 region.  
45  
46 And the Federal Subsistence Board  
47 supported this and the reason why it's coming you to you  
48 in person to ask you this is because OSM supported it  
49 too, but they wanted to hear what Seward Peninsula and  
50 Northwest Arctic would say to this to see if they are in

1 compliance or would want to meet with -- to have a  
2 tri-council meeting and that's why we have tentatively if  
3 you have another day besides August 23 and 24, North  
4 Slope always tend to have their meetings earlier on  
5 before the whaling season because their whaling season  
6 starts like in -- well, this time it's really late.  
7 They're whaling right now for a quota of 12 in Barrow and  
8 they've got 3 so far, and the weather held them back.

9  
10                   And then so right now they're whaling and  
11 then they've gone through the whole month of September,  
12 so this is at your call. And I have personally presented  
13 it to you to see what you would think about this.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What's the -- any comments  
16 from any of the Council members in regards to the meeting  
17 dates as well as the joint meeting in the fall of 2011 in  
18 Anchorage. What's the thoughts? Pierre.

19  
20                   MR. LONEWOLF: The date looks good for me  
21 and I think it would probably be a valuable experience to  
22 get everybody together since we're kind of a big swath of  
23 the State here on the Western and Northwestern side to  
24 see what the climate changes have -- people have noticed.  
25 I've noticed that when I go down on the Peninsula here,  
26 you can see the more melting and the sink holes and  
27 grasses where, you know, water used to be and stuff like  
28 that. So I'd be interested in it and I think it's a good  
29 idea.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other thoughts.

32  
33                   (No comments)

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think it's -- as far  
36 as the meeting dates are concerned, February 18th is.....

37  
38                   MS. ATORUK: August

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No. I mean winter.

41  
42                   MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay. Okay.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The winter meeting of  
45 February 18th would be good in Kotzebue. Then from that,  
46 we can put together our issues or items for a joint  
47 meeting that would occur in August of 2011. I think a  
48 joint meeting would be an ideal thing because of the very  
49 fact that we have similar issues with -- just like they  
50 have in the North Slope folks, and I think it's -- be an

1 ideal thing just to have an exchange of ideas, what the  
2 thoughts might be in regards to how we're addressing  
3 these things and I certainly would like to know how  
4 they're also addressing those things.

5  
6 And secondly, I want to know more of  
7 their relationship with the regional office and how they  
8 work with the regional offices. So that would be an idea  
9 thing to have a joint session in August.

10  
11 Any other thoughts. What's the wish of  
12 this body. Yeah, go ahead, Percy.

13  
14 MR. BALLOT: I'm ready already.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead. Put this in  
17 a motion form.

18  
19 MR. BALLOT: Okay. I move that the date  
20 for the meeting with all three advisory councils.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And also have a  
23 meeting on February 18th?

24  
25 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Percy Ballot  
28 makes the motion to have a joint meeting with the other  
29 Councils on August 23, 24 in Anchorage I assume and  
30 meeting date February 18th for winter. Is there a  
31 second?

32  
33 MR. LONEWOLF: Second.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Seconded by Pierre.  
36 Discussion on the motion.

37  
38 ATTAMUK: Question.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question has been  
41 called for. All those in favor of the motion signify by  
42 saying aye.

43  
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed same sign.

47  
48 (No opposing votes)

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries. Thank

1 you very much. Draft 2010 annual report, Barb.

2

3 MS. ATORUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I --  
4 so far I've gathered by listening to you here at this  
5 meeting is your concerns for your annual report would be  
6 for caribou, moose, muskox, bear, wolves, and some wanton  
7 waste. If there's any more concerns, you have my email  
8 address to.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: One -- I think one of  
11 the critical ones that we've always overlooked and which  
12 we need to address, it affects two things. One, it  
13 affects the water and affects fisheries and there is the  
14 abundance of beaver that are moving throughout the State.  
15 They are now up in the Wulik area. They're up on  
16 Kivalina.

17

18 MR. SWAN: Yeah, Kivalina River

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. So they're all  
21 over now. In fact when you fly, I'm sure the biologists  
22 and Dan has seen a lot of these beaver dams in some of  
23 these lakes, in some of these creeks that are being --  
24 darn good engineers I tell you. Talk about good working  
25 engineers. I -- just this past spring, I was up at  
26 Bornite with Charlie and couple other Staff folks. We  
27 had to break a dam that was built and flooded the whole  
28 Bornite lowlands there. And it took us a good half a day  
29 to do that. And those critters are -- I don't know how  
30 they get these huge rocks up on the top of dams. It's  
31 amazing what they can do to big rocks, how they take them  
32 up. They have to be good hard packers. That's why I  
33 said they're good engineers. I think they're the best  
34 engineers in the State of Alaska.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If you really look at  
39 it from the standpoint of work.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: But one thing I  
44 learned is that if you put a bunch of seal oil in --  
45 within the area, they'll move on.

46

47 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. (In Inupiat)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. They move on.  
50 We had one house that was built right at -- next to the

1 airport. I bought up an old skin, oogruk skin, that was  
2 pretty well peeling off even and I stuck part of it right  
3 by the dam, by the house there and one right into the  
4 lake. Never see them again.

5  
6 (Laughter)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So it'll have an  
9 impact on fisheries. It will have an impact on water.  
10 In fact I heard somebody just this fall had -- what'd  
11 they call it.....

12  
13 MR. KARMUN: Giardia.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Whatever that  
16 is. But somebody got sick from it just this past fall.  
17 So it will have a big impact on. I'm sure it will  
18 probably impact Maniilaq too. Jimmy, you better watch  
19 that.

20  
21 (Laughter)

22  
23 MS. ATORUK: Okay, thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. We'll move on  
26 to the agency reports. Office of Subsistence Management,  
27 Bear Claws Handicraft Working Group update. Go ahead.

28  
29 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
30 Council. My name again is Tom Kron with the Office of  
31 Subsistence Management and I'll be presenting the Brown  
32 Bear Claw Handicraft Working Group briefing.

33  
34 The briefing can be found on Page 20 in  
35 your Council books. This is not an action item for the  
36 Councils but rather a status report on the brown bear  
37 working group. The Brown Bear Claws Handicraft Working  
38 Group met for the third time this past July, a couple  
39 months ago, in Anchorage. Nine of the ten Councils were  
40 able to have representatives at that meeting. Council  
41 Member Lonewolf represented your Council. I'll do a  
42 brief summary here, but MR. Lonewolf may have additional  
43 comments when I've concluded.

44  
45 At this meeting and prior meetings to  
46 prepare for it, discussion focused on one question. The  
47 question is, is there a need to change regulations to  
48 sell handicraft made from brown bear claws and if so, can  
49 regulations be developed that are not going to be a  
50 burden for subsistence users.

1                   After much discussion in the July  
2 meeting, the details of which are included in the  
3 briefing document in your books, the working group came  
4 to a consensus in principle, that there could be  
5 regulations developed that would protect subsistence  
6 users and satisfy existing regulatory frame work. The  
7 working group also agreed that the original proposal that  
8 was submitted by the State of Alaska should be rejected  
9 and that a new proposal be developed.

10

11                   This proposal will be developed by agency  
12 Staff and the proposal and a Staff analysis will be  
13 presented to all ten Councils at a later date. Once the  
14 Councils have provided their input, it would be  
15 considered by the Federal Subsistence Board.

16

17                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What is the State of  
20 Alaska proposal?

21

22                   MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. The State of  
23 Alaska proposal was submitted several years ago to the  
24 Federal Subsistence Board. They were concerned about  
25 Federal subsistence users' sale of handicrafts with bear  
26 claws and they were asking that a tracking system be  
27 developed. The Federal Board and a number of the  
28 Councils expressed concern about how to do a tracking  
29 system and not have it be so burdensome. And again the  
30 purpose of this meeting a couple months ago was to talk  
31 about it, to understand the issue, and to ask the  
32 Councils' representatives for their perspective, how this  
33 could be done to -- in a way that wouldn't be a burden to  
34 subsistence users that wish to participate.

35

36                   And again it might be good if Mr.  
37 Lonewolf could provide his perspectives on this as well  
38 since he attended that meeting.

39

40                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I see he stuck his  
43 claw in his pocket.

44

45                   (Laughter)

46

47                   MR. LONEWOLF: Okay. At the meeting, the  
48 -- one of the main concerns was that -- at least with the  
49 group that we were talking with was that there's a valid  
50 use for bear claw and bear parts in traditional Native

1 clothing and jewelry and all that stuff. Nobody had any  
2 problem with that. They -- one of the main things is  
3 that we didn't want the system to be abused by peripheral  
4 artists or whatever you want to call it and that we  
5 needed a positive way where it was easy for the valid  
6 user to do this, but it wasn't so easy that people who  
7 weren't part of the subsistence group could start selling  
8 knock-offs or, you know, start shooting bears just for  
9 paws and claws and stuff like that.

10

11 So everybody had no problem with the  
12 concept of it. It's just when we rejected the State  
13 thing, we wanted to have it adjusted so it's be more user  
14 friendly and help the -- enforce some of these people on  
15 their end to make sure that the system was valid and  
16 wouldn't endanger bear populations around the State  
17 because there is basically head hunting going to these  
18 animals in certain times of the year and stuff.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Just for  
23 clarification and I know we have ADF&G representatives  
24 here as well and they may want to provide additional  
25 input, but my understanding from the meeting in July was  
26 that the thinking was one way to address this would be  
27 through the sealing process. In many parts of the State,  
28 brown bear have been -- have a sealing requirement. You  
29 have to take them to fish and game and get them sealed if  
30 they're going to leave region. The thought was that the  
31 sealing process could be used across the State. If  
32 subsistence users were to want to make a handicraft and  
33 to be able to sell it, they could get the hide sealed.

34

35 Fish and Game offered to travel, you  
36 know, to wherever people needed -- whichever village  
37 people needed to have it sealed and then that that  
38 sealing number could be used with the sale of the various  
39 art that was produced with claws, for example, and it was  
40 thought that that would be a simple way to go that  
41 wouldn't be expensive, wouldn't be a burden to the  
42 subsistence users. You know, basically they would just  
43 need to identify when they wish to use a brown bear claw,  
44 for example, for handicraft to sell and then basically  
45 get that brown bear sealed and then basically keep that  
46 number with the art.

47

48 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other comments.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Questions for the  
4 presenter.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think one of the  
9 critical issues that's before all of us here is the  
10 concept of what's being discussed at the agency level, at  
11 a group level like this. That is not getting out to the  
12 villages. The villages need to understand what that --  
13 those proposals are or what the issues are. If people  
14 can know what's happening, they will either support it or  
15 they will say no, we don't want that.

16

17 See, that's been a problem for a long  
18 time. You and I can have a discussion at this very level  
19 at this meeting about these issues, but if I go to Kobuk  
20 and I talk to an old lady up there who sews, she wouldn't  
21 have the slightest idea. That information is not getting  
22 to the village. It has to. If we're going to be serious  
23 about changes, then we need to make sure that the  
24 discussions are being taken to the villages, be made  
25 clear, presented to them that this is an issue. What's  
26 your thoughts. What your feeling. That's what we need  
27 to provide.

28

29 MR. KRON: My feeling is that is exactly  
30 what we need to provide. Currently in Unit 23, this  
31 unit, sale of brown bear handicrafts is legal and again  
32 there's been concern about having a system in place to be  
33 able to track. In other parts of the country and the  
34 world, you know, brown bear populations are in trouble.  
35 So there's a -- what's called a CITES permit. It's  
36 basically the sealing permit that you would get if you'd  
37 had a brown bear hide sealed. And the recommendation of  
38 the working group that Mr. Lonewolf attended in July was  
39 that potentially we could use that sealing process to  
40 provide a number that could go with any of these things.

41

42 But, you know, as you said, an elder in  
43 Noatak, you know, may not even know that it's legal to do  
44 this. And, you know, I think it's the responsibility,  
45 you know, of the program, all of us to try to get the  
46 word out to let them know and, you know, I will carry  
47 that forward as a recommendation that we do a broader  
48 outreach to this region, but also to the State as a whole  
49 to all the rural subsistence users.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think maybe one --  
4 I'd go one step further and make a suggestion, both the  
5 State and the Federal system whether it's Park Service,  
6 whether it's Fish and Wildlife, whether it's BLM, or any  
7 other agency section in the State of Alaska come together  
8 and hold some village meetings in regards to issues that  
9 have an impact on a way of life of people at the rural  
10 level so they can understand and firsthand hear from the  
11 mouths of those that manage these resources. So I would  
12 suggest that this body make a recommendation to do that  
13 so the agencies can go to the villages, give a good  
14 report -- highlighted version reports on these things,  
15 about the fish studies, about the bear claws, about  
16 caribou herds, how these are being looked at or how  
17 they're being dealt with at the agency level.

18

19 So I think that'd be an ideal thing to do  
20 at some point down the road just to provide information  
21 so people can understand. The next Fish and Wildlife  
22 goes to Selawik and they can say yep, we heard that, and  
23 we support trapping more beavers or whatever it may be.  
24 So I think it's critically important that we start going  
25 through that process providing information.

26

27 For too long, we've been working at the  
28 office level doing these things. The Office of  
29 Subsistence at the State level can submit a proposal to  
30 the State of Alaska through advisory council. At the  
31 Board level, that very proposal can be changed and  
32 sometimes with no consultation of that organization that  
33 submits a proposal. The intent of it might change and  
34 the original proposal would say, hey, I propose it the  
35 other way, but it changed. And the State of Alaska will  
36 say nope, that's what the intent of the proposal was when  
37 it's not and things change. I think people need to  
38 understand the processes of how the systems work so they  
39 can get a better feel of how it's set up.

40

41 So I encourage the agencies to do that.  
42 In fact I think we ought to make a motion to that effect  
43 after we get some reports from the agencies. Do you have  
44 anything else?

45

46 MR. KRON: I have nothing further on this  
47 topic.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor.

50

1 MR. KARMUN: Yeah. In Alaska, we have  
2 three different species bear. Does this also include  
3 black bear and polar bear?

4  
5 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. You know, this  
6 program -- the Federal Subsistence Board, the Regional  
7 Councils do not have jurisdiction over polar bear.  
8 That's handled through a separate program. We do,  
9 however -- this program does have responsibility for  
10 black bear across the State on Federal lands. This  
11 particular proposal was focused at brown bear. There are  
12 already some regulations in place that are more liberal  
13 concerning black bear.

14  
15 But again there's been concern about, you  
16 know, the sale of brown bear handicrafts and that's what  
17 generated this issue here.

18  
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor.

22  
23 MR. KARMUN: Yeah. Can a pelt be  
24 transferred from say like a person that took it to  
25 another Native that makes crafts from this?

26  
27 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chair.

28  
29 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others. Is that  
32 a final report. So that hits one and two from the Office  
33 of Subsistence Management. Yes.

34  
35 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. The other briefing  
36 that I'll be presenting is the briefing on the permit  
37 system which is found on Page 24 in your books. We just  
38 wanted to give you an update. There are a number of  
39 Federal permits in this region and the OSM, Office of  
40 Subsistence Management, has been working to make  
41 improvements to the Federal permit system to provide  
42 additional security for the information that comes in  
43 from subsistence users, their personal information.

44  
45 We put in the latest security measures in  
46 order to protect that personal information, their name,  
47 their address, that kind of information. And it also  
48 allows continued in-season tracking of harvests for the  
49 managers to use. Since April, Staff at OSM have gone  
50 around the State to a number of communities to help to

1 train Refuge and Park Service and BLM and Forest Service  
2 Staff in the implementation of that.

3

4                   And the feedback our office has been  
5 getting so far has been very positive from the Staff.  
6 You know, again the intent is that the users -- this  
7 isn't going to be a burden for them at all. No change  
8 from the past program in terms of support, but again  
9 we're trying to protect everybody's, you know, private  
10 information and at the same time provide support on  
11 management side for the Federal managers to be able to  
12 track the harvest and to be able to provide that  
13 information and work with the State managers as well.

14

15                   So again this is not an action item, but  
16 we just wanted to give you an update on it.

17

18                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions.

21

22                   (No comments)

23

24                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Comments.

25

26                   (No comments)

27

28                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hearing and seeing  
29 none, thank you for your report.

30

31                   MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We'll move on to the  
34 National Park Service. Mary McBurney.

35

36                   MS. McBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
37 those of you I haven't met yet, my name is Mary McBurney  
38 and I'm the Acting Superintendent for the Western Arctic  
39 National Park Lands at least for the next four months.  
40 So you -- I'm on loan to you for 120 days which means  
41 that I'll be here until about the end of January.

42

43                   This is my first week on the job and I am  
44 quickly trying to bring myself up to speed on all of the  
45 issues of which I can see that there are numerous issues  
46 that you deal with and work with the National Park  
47 Service.

48

49                   My background is, for the past 10 years,  
50 I have worked for Lake Clark National Park, Aniakchak

1 National Park and Preserve, and the Katmai National  
2 Preserve as their Subsistence Program Manager. So  
3 normally I would be sitting at the Bristol Bay RAC  
4 meeting and it's really rather interesting and refreshing  
5 to sit at a different RAC meeting and listen to the sorts  
6 of things that are of concern to you.

7  
8 My very first day on the job, I had the  
9 opportunity to sit down with the Chair, Mr. Sampson, and  
10 had a really good, frank discussion about where the  
11 National Park Service in this region is with respect to  
12 the subsistence users in this region and given the fact  
13 that I'm only here for four months, we talked about maybe  
14 a couple of things that we might be able to accomplish in  
15 that time that could make a difference. And they may be  
16 just small things, but Walter and I've decided that one  
17 thing that would really help would be to reconnect the  
18 National Park Service with the communities in the NANA  
19 region.

20  
21 And so we're looking at making visits  
22 together to some of those communities, trying to reach as  
23 many of them as we can in the time that we have so that  
24 we can make those connections again so that we can open  
25 some dialogues.

26  
27 And then secondly, making it a priority  
28 to revitalize our SRCs for Kobuk Valley and Cape  
29 Krusenstern. Those in my experience from working at Lake  
30 Clark and with Aniakchak SRCs, I rely on those bodies  
31 very much and in many respects will not make a decision  
32 without contacting them if it's going to be something  
33 that is very important, critical, potentially  
34 controversial, or that it's going to be a big change from  
35 maybe the way things have been.

36  
37 So having SRCs that can serve in that  
38 advisory role to the Superintendent I think is very  
39 important and we really should make that a priority and  
40 I would like to do that so that when the new  
41 Superintendent steps into that office that they will have  
42 that already on track and they can keep the momentum  
43 going.

44  
45 I don't really have a formal report for  
46 you today, but I did talk with my Staff and I understand  
47 that Marci Johnson had a project which followed up on a  
48 request from the RAC from a previous meeting which was  
49 about electric fencing for bears. And I'm looking at  
50 eyebrows going up. Is that not the case?

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Electric fencing?

4

5 MS. McBURNEY: Okay. Perhaps I didn't  
6 quite hear that right. But she does have a report on  
7 electric fencing if you would like to hear that and I'd  
8 like to invite Marci up. Marci Johnson.

9

10 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair and Board  
11 members. This is something that came out of two RAC  
12 meetings ago I believe. The representative from -- the  
13 previous representative from Noatak and then you at the  
14 last meeting mentioned some issues with brown bears  
15 coming into the Village of Noatak. There are several  
16 biologists that talk about an interest in putting out --  
17 trying some electric fencing around some fish drying  
18 racks to see how well that works in different areas.

19

20 I got some funding and I wanted to try it  
21 in the Village of Noatak first and the plan was to get it  
22 on the ground this last year. However, I was a little --  
23 in April I took two days and went to the village and I  
24 got to speak with most of the kids at the school about  
25 grades 3 through 12 and then I had a public meeting and  
26 spoke to people on the street and everybody I could find  
27 to discuss the project.

28

29 When I left, I had great support from  
30 everybody I talked to. Everybody was in favor of trying  
31 it. People who have the fish drying racks were excited  
32 about giving it a try at least. But when I left, I  
33 didn't feel like I really had the whole community aware  
34 of the project and I'm concerned with people with little  
35 children and stuff, I wanted to make sure everybody had  
36 a good idea of what was going to go in place. I know  
37 there's not a lot of fencing in the Village of Noatak  
38 right now, so it was going to be a big impact to come in  
39 and put electric fences around 22 different fish drying  
40 racks.

41

42 The other part is coming up with the  
43 right equipment and so I was planning on a premade unit  
44 that can be taken down. You can put it up for a couple  
45 weeks, take it down, bring it to your camp upriver, use  
46 it in other places, and then I got a chance to test it  
47 this summer on the gravel bars and it didn't work as well  
48 as I had hoped. So I was just talking with some people  
49 about maybe developing a new unit that would be portable,  
50 work a little bit better for our environment here,

1 different power sources and things and then I'm also  
2 going to need some feedback from folks, will they need a  
3 gate, elders accessing the site. Will they need  
4 different, you know, power sources or things like that.

5  
6 So I want to custom build these to work  
7 for everybody so it works best for them. So I'm  
8 committed to project. King of been a long term. I'm  
9 trying to get some funding to establish something for the  
10 long term. And so I'd like to get that going next  
11 summer. And so I'll be contacting the folks in the  
12 village again over the winter looking for feedback and  
13 some help along the way.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions for --  
16 go ahead, Pierre.

17  
18 MR. LONEWOLF: Yeah. This is Pierre.  
19 Now I remember.

20  
21 (Laughter)

22  
23 MR. LONEWOLF: What of the questions were  
24 -- was I was going to say like I work -- I worked as an  
25 electrician, a lineman, and I'm the engineer for the  
26 radio station now and I know that at one milliamp you can  
27 give a human a heart attack -- current. Now I'm thinking  
28 for an electric fence, say you got a bear that masses 500  
29 pounds and he's got fur, so he's probably got some  
30 insulation and stuff. The only way I could think if is  
31 he puts his tongue on it and he's standing there. But  
32 have you thought about the consequences for kids when  
33 they get.....

34  
35 MS. JOHNSON: Certainly.

36  
37 MR. LONEWOLF: .....knocked by it because  
38 I grew up in North Dakota with all kinds of fences and  
39 when you're boys you play around with stuff and believe  
40 me, it's not fun. So I was just concerned about more of  
41 the kids, you know, and I'd be interested if there's any  
42 data and look what it takes to shock a bear.

43  
44 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. It's certainly been  
45 a big component of it and that's why I spoke with the  
46 school kids, you know, how to -- not to mess with it, but  
47 also the importance of the equipment to keep it running  
48 so they won't take the batteries out or take the  
49 equipment apart. But it's not meant to -- it won't give  
50 a jolt, you know, to electrocute a bear or anything.

1 It's enough that their noses are so sensitive that  
2 they've proven it over and over that just being shocked  
3 on the nose is enough to train a lot of bears to stay out  
4 of an area. So it's not enough to hurt anybody. The  
5 representatives I've working with who sell the equipment  
6 say, you know, if a two-year-old, you know, touches it,  
7 you know, it will cry. It's not going to injure any  
8 children. But that's part of the signage. That's part  
9 of the education, teaching the kids how to use this and  
10 then also just the point of making a portable unit where  
11 if it's close to a home or where kids are playing,  
12 hopefully it will just be in use for a few weeks while  
13 they're drying some fish and then it can be taken down  
14 and turned off, things like that.

15

16 So we are considering that and trying to  
17 work with that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others. Go ahead.

20

21 MR. GREGG: Marci, I know there's a  
22 program down on the Kenai Peninsula that I think it's run  
23 through the borough. They have equipment for loan and I  
24 think it's mostly for like livestock containment for  
25 protection. Have you talked to those people about how  
26 their program is working?

27

28 MS. JOHNSON: I'd like to learn more  
29 about that. George brought it up at the original RAC  
30 meeting that we were discussing it and he mentioned the  
31 Fish and Game biologist down in Dillingham. And so I've  
32 spoken with them about their equipment and what they're  
33 using and.....

34

35 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. The  
36 Safari Club International provided some funding for some  
37 electric fences for some situations where there were  
38 negative bear-human interactions. Also I believe the  
39 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with some of the Refuge  
40 remote sites require different solar charged units, what  
41 have you. And the study of interactions of electricity  
42 and bear has been taken place on the Kenai by Fish and  
43 Game with some Taser work with bears on the Kenai  
44 Peninsula in recent. I don't think it's been published  
45 yet. But this is nothing new. It's required by some  
46 international research in Russia. The issue is coming up  
47 with a power source and they do have solar units that  
48 work, but you're doing local investigation. It's  
49 excellent and this all came up from your idea, sir, if  
50 you remember correctly.

1                   You told somebody to do something about  
2 it and they're working on it.

3  
4                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Good.

7  
8                   MS. JOHNSON: Yeah, and for the long term  
9 too I might add, working on seeking out some grants and  
10 some partnerships with some companies who build equipment  
11 and for other types of bear incidents, you know, concerns  
12 people have, containing food at their camps and thing  
13 like that, I'm looking into other solutions. So I'm  
14 looking in kind of the long term and a bigger program for  
15 not just the fish drying racks, but other problems you  
16 have, so.....

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, I think what  
19 you're presenting to us is certainly a good concept.  
20 Certainly NANA would be interested in looking at trying  
21 out one of those in one of our NANA camps that bears  
22 continue to -- love to break in to our camp. There's  
23 also a couple other private camps that can also possibly  
24 look at as a pilot project maybe to see if these things  
25 would really work.

26  
27                   So I'd be interested in talking to you  
28 after the meeting.

29  
30                   MS. JOHNSON: Okay. And as I said, I  
31 wanted to start with the Village of Noatak because that's  
32 where the concern came from at this meeting, but the idea  
33 also was to develop it and see how well it works, how  
34 well it's accepted in the area and then expand it to some  
35 bigger areas.

36  
37                   And speaking of the children at the --  
38 school kids at the Noatak School. I do have some remote  
39 cameras I've offered if they want to do a private  
40 project, if they bring one of these fences to their camp,  
41 we can set up a camera and they can take some photos and  
42 video and things like that and see if that works.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You know, I think even  
45 though this is a good concept, when it gets to the point  
46 of use in a village or close to the village, then I would  
47 have some concerns in regards to the liability side of  
48 the picture, especially with young kids being around.  
49 Not only young kids. Some of these bigger -- older kids  
50 become young kids and they love to tear things apart.

1 And those would be the ones that I'd have some concerns  
2 about.

3

4 But I think an ideal thing to do is  
5 maybe take a look at doing a couple pilot projects, see  
6 if that will work for a period of time. And I'd be  
7 interested in talking to you about a couple.

8

9 MS. JOHNSON: Sure.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor.

12

13 MR. KARMUN: I spent a brief time with  
14 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, their bird people, what I'll  
15 call, biologists or whatever, at Cape Thompson. Kept  
16 being bugged by grizzlies and they put up an electric  
17 fence around their camp and it worked great there for the  
18 amount of time they used it. It was maybe no more than  
19 four weeks total time during the summer, but it did work.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other comments or  
24 questions.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, very much.  
29 Be talking to you.

30

31 Mary.

32

33 MS. McBURNEY: Mr. Chair. Brad, would  
34 you like to come up and give a brief sheep report.

35

36 MR. SHULTS: Just real briefly. This is  
37 a copy of the resource brief that's put together by the  
38 monitoring program. Kumi Rattenbury put this together in  
39 Fairbanks.

40

41 My contribution to it, which I wanted to  
42 just update you on, is the graph of the number of the  
43 sheep in the Baird Mountains. Between 1986 and 2009 was  
44 the last data point on there. The bars represent actual  
45 counts of sheep, the gray ones. The black ones are  
46 actual estimates with confidence limits which is a lower  
47 bound and upper bound and our certainty of that estimate.

48

49

50 I think everybody's pretty familiar with

1 the 60 percent decline in sheep numbers in the Western  
2 Brooks Range about 1991. You can see the big dip in the  
3 line. That's the trim line. That's just an average of  
4 every three years.

5  
6 The population after that crash --  
7 remember, I think most of you -- everybody was around.  
8 The season was closed for the harvest of sheep for a  
9 couple of years and then we did a little looking at the  
10 data and we were able to put together a subsistence  
11 harvest season starting about I think it was '95 or so  
12 for a limited harvest, which we still have today.

13  
14 That population's continued to grow since  
15 about 1996. Not fast, but by 2009, you can see, looking  
16 at the estimates, 1074 at the peak about 1987 and then  
17 our 2009 estimate about 936 sheep and this is for the --  
18 you know, just the Baird Mountains area -- Western Baird  
19 Mountains at Upper Aggie, Upper Eli.

20  
21 We're just about recovered from that  
22 crash and I think -- you know, 18 years is a long time,  
23 but it finally got there and it got there even with a  
24 limited subsistence harvest which is a pretty good  
25 success story. So instead of facing an 18-year closure,  
26 you know, we were able to maintain a subsistence harvest  
27 opportunity with a limited harvest and everybody took  
28 part in that and you should pat yourselves on the back.

29  
30 So I just want to call your attention to  
31 that. There's a bunch of issues surrounding that, but I  
32 think it's a good learning lesson. With conservative  
33 harvest and a little patience, you can get back to where  
34 you started. So I just wanted to call that to your  
35 attention.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Attamuk.

38  
39 ATTAMUK: I just got a quick question.  
40 I never harvest them for so long. How do they taste now?

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 MR. SHULTS: You're asking the wrong  
45 person.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 ATTAMUK: It's been so long.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others. I guess  
2 just the comment here regards to sheep. I remember (In  
3 Inupiat), if you remember several years back when the  
4 State of Alaska said no, no sheep hunting. That's when  
5 the Federal system we encouraged to allocate sheep hunt  
6 within certain areas, (In Inupiat) and quickly report as  
7 to how that process worked and how we managed to get  
8 sheep hunting within that area.

9  
10 MR. GOODWIN: Well, what happened as Brad  
11 mentioned, the -- after the hunting was closed, the State  
12 published a drawing permit hunt and then after the fact  
13 in July, they met with us and said that we're going to  
14 allow a limited subsistence hunt but also the drawing  
15 permits had been drawn and everything for a sporthunt.  
16 And it was then that as RAC chair I asked Dave Spirtes to  
17 submit a proposal -- emergency proposal to make it all  
18 subsistence on Federal lands and that's what happened.  
19 And there was no sporthunt except on State lands up near  
20 Kivalina back then, but it was all subsistence after that  
21 until we got some recommendations from our biologists now  
22 to allow a limited sporthunt and that's where we're at  
23 right now.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Comments. Thank you,  
30 Willie. Brad. Mary.

31  
32 MS. McBURNEY: Mr. Chair, I'd like to  
33 invite Ken Adkisson come up and give you an update on  
34 muskox.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's Kenatchee (ph).

37  
38 (Laughter)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Ken.

41  
42 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
43 Members. Ken Adkisson. Rather than give you an update on  
44 muskox -- and I just want to briefly let you know kind of  
45 where we're at in a couple of the Federally-managed hunts  
46 and the reason I'm not trying to avoid muskoxen, but most  
47 of the data that you'll hear today will be coming from  
48 ADF&G who really is the lead agency for most of the  
49 muskox biological work up here and the Park Service is  
50 concentrated mostly on Cape Krusenstern.

1                   In terms of the Federal sheep hunt that  
2 Brad mentioned, currently the hunt opened in August and  
3 as far as the two hunt areas go, we've had nine rams  
4 reported from the Bairds. So we're just about a little  
5 over half of the allowable ram harvest out of that hunt  
6 area and no ewes have been reported harvested. In the  
7 DeLong Mountains, we've had no Federal reported harvest  
8 today, but the allowable harvest in that area is rather  
9 small anyway and the bulk of the harvest has been  
10 allocated to that State hunt in the DeLongs.

11  
12                   The Baird Mountain hunt remains closed to  
13 nonsubsistence use, so the only hunting for sheep that  
14 really occurs in the Baird Mountains hunt area is under  
15 Federal subsistence regulations. So that's kind of the  
16 summary of, you know, the sheep hunt this year. If  
17 anybody has any questions on that specific hunt.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any comments.

20  
21                   (No comments)

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Questions. I raised  
24 the issue early on.....

25  
26                   MR. BALLOT: Hello, Percy here.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

29  
30                   MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear  
31 him say anything on numbers for Buckland and Deering,  
32 success, do you have that, the Federal hunts?

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess it's the  
35 allocation of the hunt on Buckland.

36  
37                   MR. ADKISSON: The muskox?

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

40  
41                   MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. I'm going to deal  
42 -- Percy, I'll -- Mr. Ballot, I'll deal with that now.  
43 Right. What I was going to basically let the Council  
44 know was that we have taken one Federal action to date on  
45 the muskox season for the Unit 23 Southwest  
46 Buckland-Deering area and basically that was a closure of  
47 the Federal hunt.

48  
49                   The hunt opened August 1st and it closed  
50 August 10th. To make the thing short for now is the

1 prior quota had been set at about an allowable harvest  
2 limit of 16 animals. With the shift to Tier I, the bulk  
3 of that harvest was disappearing rather quickly in the  
4 fall and the State took an action to basically split that  
5 harvest up into a fall hunt and a winter hunt. And  
6 you'll remember that we submitted a Federal regulation  
7 that would do the same thing on the Federal side.

8  
9                   The first year that really went into  
10 place was really on a State action and we followed it  
11 Federally by sort of just doing it and it worked in the  
12 sense that the winter hunt seemed to provide a -- you  
13 know, a reasonable opportunity for folks. So going into  
14 the second year of that with a formal Federal regulation  
15 now in place to -- you know, between a fall and a winter  
16 hunt, new biological data from the Unit 23 area both  
17 composition work on the Asian sex structure of the  
18 animals in that unit and -- in that hunt area and the  
19 population estimates and Charlotte can talk more about  
20 this -- basically led to a reduction in the allowable  
21 harvest by 50 percent.

22  
23                   So the allowable harvest basically  
24 between this hunt year and last year went from 16 animals  
25 to 8 and the harvest was still kept proportionally  
26 divided between the fall and winter hunt. So four  
27 animals, the four bulls, went into the fall hunt. The  
28 other four animals, which could be either sex, went into  
29 the winter hunt and like I said, the hunt opened August  
30 1st, and by August 10th, the four animals were gone.

31  
32                   And my understanding of that -- and I  
33 haven't seen the actual data, but Charlotte could perhaps  
34 address that -- was that two of the animals were taken by  
35 Deering residents and two of them by Kotzebue residents.  
36 So I think, you know, it does raise some questions and I  
37 think it's going to be a thing that we're probably going  
38 to be revisiting and I think a ten-day season really, you  
39 know, raises questions of whether that's a Federal  
40 subsistence opportunity, a meaningful opportunity or not  
41 and I'd really like to hear from, you know, Buckland and  
42 Deering residents on their view of the situation and this  
43 may be something that we can get at partially through  
44 another series of meetings in those communities and maybe  
45 if Walter and Mary are going to be going out to those  
46 communities anyway as part of that, that would be a good  
47 time to, you know, deal with that.

48  
49                   Whether we're going to be able to revisit  
50 the quotas in terms of numbers or not, I think it's too

1 early to say. And I really haven't got any options to  
2 lay on the table now, but I really would, you know,  
3 appreciate Buckland and Deering residents expressing  
4 their views of whether that's an opportunity or not and  
5 begin to look at some possible regulatory changes maybe  
6 to improve the situation.

7  
8 Like I said, it's -- you know, we've said  
9 this before and you've heard me say it a number of times  
10 before this group that the Tier I system is a mixed bag.  
11 On the one hand, it makes it much easier for villagers to  
12 get permits. Much, much easier than the Tier I system --  
13 or the Tier II system rather, but the other side of the  
14 coin is currently anyone in the State of Alaska -- that's  
15 a resident of Alaska can qualify for a Tier I muskoxen  
16 permit. So all the people from Palmer and Fairbanks and  
17 Wasilla and all those places can qualify for those  
18 permits and in many of the areas, those permits are  
19 available now online. So it dramatically increases your  
20 potential pool of competitors.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Questions for Ken. I  
23 do have a couple issues if I may.

24  
25 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Percy.

28  
29 MR. BALLOT: Oh, yeah. I hope we do  
30 have this discussion down the line. I know there's  
31 concern from the hunters that why we're not getting more  
32 permits on the Federal side and concern about the -- how  
33 the hunt is turning out to be now after how many years  
34 ago and what the concern was is that we're not really  
35 getting anything and it's just going out somewhere. It  
36 makes it easier, but it opens up the competition.  
37 (Indiscernible-telephone connection) our concerns  
38 (indiscernible-telephone connection). I don't know when  
39 the muskox (indiscernible-telephone connection) are going  
40 to be meeting again. I thought they were going to meet  
41 last year, but we weren't informed in the gathering.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Percy. I  
44 think this is an opportunity for Buckland, an opportunity  
45 for Deering to put together a proposal. You've heard Ken  
46 in regards to possibly changing the take of. So an  
47 opportunity is there for you folks to put together a  
48 proposal for muskox hunt.

49  
50 And on the other issue, that is an issue

1 that I keep putting on the table. You know you have the  
2 State of Alaska. That is not in compliance with ANILCA,  
3 but yet provisions are there from the Federal side to  
4 allow them to put together these things. There's  
5 something wrong with the system. If allowable harvest is  
6 based on who studies it, the State studies or is it the  
7 Federal studies.

8  
9 MR. ADKISSON: Charlotte or Brad can  
10 correct me, but my understanding is that Unit 23 was that  
11 basically most of the comp work if not all of the comp  
12 work and the population estimate for the Buckland-  
13 Deering area was derived from ADF&G, you know, work and  
14 that the Park Service covered Cape Krusenstern and maybe  
15 a little bit to the further north and the rest of the  
16 Cape Thompson population was done by ADF&G.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You also talk about  
19 the Tier I and Tier II issue. Whose definition are those  
20 Tier I and Tier II? Is it the Federal system or is it  
21 the State of Alaska?

22  
23 MR. ADKISSON: No. Tier I and Tier II  
24 are State concepts and, you know, Jim Magdanz has  
25 explained this I think to the group on a number of times,  
26 but it starts with a customary and traditional use  
27 finding -- determination by the Board of Game. It  
28 includes an evaluation of the amount needed for  
29 subsistence and you look at the allowable harvest and if  
30 it's below the amount needed for subsistence, that's  
31 automatically Tier I -- or Tier II rather and if you get  
32 into the -- where the actual harvest is reaching or into  
33 or above the amount needed for subsistence, it gives you  
34 the option of essentially moving to a Tier I hunt which  
35 is where we're at on that.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If you will look at  
38 the State of Alaska and its composition of the Board,  
39 there's no way there's equity in regards to the  
40 representation from rural communities. That's the other  
41 -- the problem that I have with. If it's such that these  
42 things are not working, I think it's time that the  
43 Federal system seriously look at taking over the  
44 management of these resources. I think better yet,  
45 Percy, if we can work as a Council with one of the  
46 biologists at the Federal level to put together a  
47 proposal, we can submit this to the Federal Board and I  
48 think maybe we can try to do that before our winter  
49 meeting if that will work.

50

1 I mean we can continue to report to  
2 people about the -- you know, we say yes, there are some  
3 allocations that were made, but the State of Alaska can  
4 also say, well, no, you will not allocate in that manner.  
5 I got a problem with that. And if ANILCA provides under  
6 Title VIII the very issue in regards to take of resources  
7 and Federal management and the State of Alaska is not in  
8 compliance with ANILCA, then why is it that we're  
9 allowing them to manage these resources of take. I think  
10 it's time we start addressing the very critical issues  
11 that we're hearing from Buckland, for instance.

12  
13 You've indicated allocation of four. Two  
14 were taken out of Deering and two out of Kotzebue. What  
15 happened to Buckland? Then it becomes an issue for  
16 community. Not that I'm saying that it's bad that  
17 Kotzebue take it. It's just that how it was allocated  
18 and I think it's time that we take a look at whether a  
19 proposal that this very body can submit to the Federal  
20 system -- or the Federal Board and I'll be more than  
21 happy to even bring it to the Federal Board and present  
22 it to them.

23  
24 So I think, Percy, if we can work  
25 together on a proposal with one of the biologists from  
26 the Federal system, then we can work together and put  
27 together a good proposal. I know Ken can -- will help in  
28 that light.

29  
30 So with that, Ken, thank you very much.

31  
32 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. If I might  
33 offer just a quick closing comment, unless Percy has  
34 something more to say, and I'd like to make sure he gets  
35 heard if he something. But your Chair, Mr. Sampson, is  
36 pretty familiar with this issue actually went with us to  
37 the villages on the initial round of public meetings when  
38 the first muskoxen hunt opened and is very aware of some  
39 of the State/Federal conflicts and all of the things that  
40 surrounded it.

41  
42 And it's not an easy situation and an all  
43 or nothing or even an and/or or and/and. There are land  
44 status issues There are access issues that complicate  
45 decisions. And I would only point out that the muskoxen  
46 hunt for 23 Southwest is not completely closed. There is  
47 still four animals out there and they can be either sex  
48 animals and that hunt opens January 1st and hopefully  
49 Buckland and Deering residents will have a better crack  
50 at those animals when they can access the entire area by

1 snow machine . So it's not like they're out of the  
2 picture and I think the condition is serious enough that  
3 it raises questions that we have to look at it and those  
4 of you who have been in here for the long haul, remember  
5 the pain and everything that we went through when the  
6 Board of Game, you know, first made a not determination  
7 subsistence finding back in 1995 and the Federal Board,  
8 just like Willie mentioned with the sheep, the Federal  
9 Board sucked up the entire allowable harvest and for  
10 several years, we were at loggerheads, you know, with the  
11 State and since then, we've worked out a cooperative  
12 management system that has worked very well for a number  
13 of years where we share harvest quotas and things.

14  
15                   But, you know, I think as good as that  
16 has worked and as well as it has worked I think for the  
17 last say better than more than a decade, I think the  
18 rules of the game are changing and it's more complicated  
19 and its time that, you know, we maybe need to sit down  
20 and revisit how it is working and where we could make  
21 improvements.

22  
23                   And there are some things I can think  
24 about now such as community harvest limits, but even  
25 these are not very simple things. I've explored that  
26 with the Federal program and got nowhere. In the past  
27 the state tried efforts. You don't find very many of  
28 them on the regulation book and some of their more recent  
29 experimentive efforts have run afoul of the court system  
30 with caribou in parts of the State.

31  
32                   And so, you know, we face -- we really  
33 face a number of challenges, but I think it really is  
34 going to hinge on trying to better define what's an  
35 opportunity for communities for Buckland land Deering, a  
36 reasonable opportunity because in my experience when  
37 we've started these negotiations and things, we don't  
38 have a lot of history on muskox, and so it's not like  
39 you've got 20 years of moose harvest records or something  
40 to come up with an ANS. So, you know, some of the  
41 subsistence hunters perhaps estimated their need to --  
42 what they thought was their need too high. The  
43 sportshunters and others of course want a very low, you  
44 know, subsistence need determination and you struggle to  
45 find that middle ground.

46  
47                   And believe me, that's not easy from  
48 people who have been through muskox and cooperators the  
49 last few years where we really had to sit down and sort  
50 of come to Jesus with ANS, the amount needed for

1 subsistence. But, you know, I think we have to start  
2 that again and the place to probably start it with is  
3 right back in the communities of Buckland and Deering.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess the only thing  
6 that sort of you need to change the wording is the way  
7 you said it and I think that's sort of offending to hear  
8 it in that way. So.....

9  
10 MR. ADKISSON: I apologize then.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. I understand  
13 that. Please. The discussion in regards to muskox, we  
14 can continue after lunch maybe. It's 12:00 o'clock.  
15 Your reports, your Staff can continue that. Maybe we can  
16 continue to the discussion on.....

17  
18 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I got one.  
19 I have another one.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: .....the muskox issue  
22 and then when we come back at 1:00 o'clock, we'll hear  
23 from Percy and go from there.

24  
25 Percy.

26  
27 MR. BALLOT: Okay. I could wait, yeah,  
28 I was just going to make a short comment that Buckland  
29 and Deering, it's goal to have to the herd increase, our  
30 goal was to have it increase and so we were -- have gone  
31 our way to try to manage this heard or (indiscernible-  
32 telephone connection) the way it is now. But now hearing  
33 that we had 16 animals all the way down to half without  
34 sharing that information with our village. I don't know  
35 if Deering knows about that, but it's kind of concerning  
36 that we need to have more discussions on what we're going  
37 to do in the future.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy, that will be  
40 part of the discussion during our visit and we'll make  
41 sure that we get Ken to travel with us to Buckland-  
42 Deering to have a discussion on the muskox issue.

43  
44 MR. BALLOT: That sounds great.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So let's take  
47 a lunch. Mary, if you don't mind we can get the rest of  
48 your Staff.....

49  
50 MS. McBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Let's take one hour  
2 lunch.

3  
4 (Off record)

5  
6 (On record)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We will now reconvene  
9 our Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory  
10 meeting. It is now 1:10 and we'll continue the  
11 presentation from the National Park Service. Mary  
12 McBurney.

13  
14 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
15 Ken, did you have a bit more or.....

16  
17 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
18 members. If we're ready to move onto something other  
19 than muskox and -- or at least Unit 23 thing, I just --  
20 Mr. Ballot asked a question about the cooperator's  
21 meeting and I would only add that currently we're  
22 forecasting one of those for probably sometime in January  
23 would be the next coop meeting.

24  
25 One of the big topics will probably be a  
26 revision to the overall management plan. And just so  
27 people are sort of aware of it, the current plan calls  
28 for continued expansion and range and number of  
29 muskoxen. Unit 23 southwest to Buckland and Deering area  
30 has consistently supported that. Not all of the hunt  
31 areas do. Currently there are strong feelings among some  
32 folks that the population ought to be capped or  
33 decreased.

34  
35 I won't go into the complexities of that,  
36 but that just shows you some of the issues that, you  
37 know, need to be ironed out kind of in the plan and, you  
38 know, hopefully, you know, we'll begin to lay the ground  
39 -- some of the kind of things that Mr. Sampson, your  
40 Chair, was speaking about in terms of regulatory  
41 proposals and so forth. But, you know, it's complex and  
42 it will probably take some time.

43  
44 I'd only point out the last kind of  
45 really weird issue like this we got was several years ago  
46 with moose in that general area and up towards Kotzebue  
47 and that took the RAC and the agencies about a year and  
48 a half to work through on whether or not we should change  
49 Federal regs, so -- and this I think is even more complex  
50 than that. But, you know, I think we owe it to the

1 communities.

2

3                   That's all I've got on -- you know, that  
4 I had and Mary's got a number of other things and we also  
5 have a report on the muskoxen research project which she  
6 can.....

7

8                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
9 Ken, for your report, and certainly it's something that  
10 I will address towards the end of the session in regards  
11 to a plan maybe down the road on how we can address some  
12 of these things.

13

14                   Thank you.

15

16                   MR. ADKISSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Mary.

19

20                   MS. MCBURNEY: Mr. Chair. In the  
21 interest of time, I would just like to ask if there's  
22 interest in having a quick report on muskox project.  
23 Marci Johnson is prepared to provide one if there is  
24 time.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: As far as agenda is  
27 concerned, it's not very -- I mean we don't have a lot as  
28 far as time is concerned, but we'll make time.

29

30                   MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32                   MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Board members.  
33 Thank you. I'll just be very brief on an update. I've  
34 come to you before to speak about the muskox research  
35 project. Just have -- a copy of our project, the people  
36 in charge, I have just I think two important here, just  
37 one showing a map that you might want to see in a minute  
38 here.

39

40                   Layne Adams from the USGS and Joel Berger  
41 from Wildlife Conservation Society and the University of  
42 Montana are the two people -- the principal investigators  
43 in charge of the project. Because I'm local, I'm the one  
44 radio tracking all the time and keeping track of the  
45 telemetry data and would be happy to update you whenever  
46 you need more details at a later date.

47

48                   As you know, starting in 2009, we  
49 launched a -- there was a small pilot project, but in  
50 2009, we started collaring a lot of animals in the

1 region. The Cape Thompson population and then some down  
2 on the Seward Peninsula population. They have these  
3 radio collars with flags on them and the purpose of doing  
4 that was to avoid using ear tags that are a permanent  
5 fixture.

6  
7                   These collars will all fall off in 2013  
8 or sooner. They have a little timing mechanism that will  
9 break off, either that or we will recapture the animals  
10 and remove the collars. So there are only females that  
11 we've collared. Currently, one thing we're noticing kind  
12 of a comparison study between the two populations is  
13 looking at dentition. I'm noticing that the animals on  
14 the Seward Peninsula had pretty good teeth as you can see  
15 here and then the ones up in the Cape Thompson population  
16 were often missing a lot of teeth, broken down, worn  
17 down, not looking very good.

18  
19                   So I also came to maybe the last meeting  
20 mentioned that there was about a 60 to 70 pound  
21 difference in the body mass of these animals that we were  
22 capturing in the first year and it just took a matter of  
23 sample size the second year for those numbers to actually  
24 average out. So we do not have that differentiation --  
25 or the difference in the populations anymore right now.  
26 Did you have a question?

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: In regards to the Cape  
29 Thompson herd, has there been some analysis done on if  
30 there's any contaminants within -- in the bodies of these  
31 critters?

32  
33                   MS. JOHNSON: We have -- I don't know if  
34 we've have anything.....

35  
36                   MR. SHULTS: We have blood samples.  
37 We've got some tissue samples and we've got some fecal  
38 samples and part of it was to look at some contaminants  
39 analysis, mainly to heavy metals aspects of that, but  
40 those analyses have not been done yet.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

43  
44                   MS. JOHNSON: I have not heard myself of  
45 the results of -- the lab results yet, but that is part  
46 of the discussions we have on this project.

47  
48                   We have 51 collars on the air right now.  
49 26 to the north of the Cape Thompson population and 25 on  
50 the Seward Peninsula. You see the red dots are the GPS

1 collars. Those give us locations every four hours. The  
2 blue dots are the ones I need to fly for and find them  
3 that way.

4  
5                   You notice that dot at the far north. I  
6 may have mentioned this one before. This one we collared  
7 down in Iguchuck Hills just across the water here and she  
8 moved 130 miles north as the crow flies last summer and  
9 the last time we went up there, we couldn't find her  
10 again, so she might be in Barrow by now. We're not sure.  
11 So we have a few that we have to find in the next month.  
12 But that's kind of the gist of where our animals are at.  
13 I think that might be it.

14  
15                   The other project -- if there are some  
16 questions about that, I can answer or go onto another  
17 real brief comment of another project.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions for  
20 muskox.

21  
22                   (No comments)

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: go ahead

25  
26                   MS. JOHNSON: Again, you know, in the  
27 interest of time, I'm happy to provide you with more  
28 details or updates as time goes on. If you'd like more  
29 every couple months or so, just send me an email and I'd  
30 be happy to provide that.

31  
32                   When I first came here, I actually  
33 interest at the AC meeting about the black bears in the  
34 Kobuk Valley and Brad Shults has also mentioned an  
35 interest in looking at the bear population around the  
36 Great Kobuk Sand Dunes. I also have an interest maybe  
37 along the Kobuk River too. And so I got some funding for  
38 a small scale and a short-term project just to get a  
39 glimpse at the bear density in that area around the dunes  
40 in a noninvasive way and essentially picking up bear scat  
41 with dogs and these are trained scat detection dogs. I  
42 know a lot of dogs are very good at finding scat, but  
43 these dogs are actually highly trained. They can tell  
44 you the difference between brown and black bear scat.  
45 They can pick out individuals. They can find rare snails  
46 and plants and things like that too. So they're highly  
47 trained.

48  
49                   I'll be collecting black and brown bear  
50 scats in these areas and I've got just a short map. This

1 is not the official protocol here yet or the field  
2 sampling for next summer, but essentially the dogs will  
3 be out. We'll have two teams, including a dog, the dog  
4 handler, and one person that will lead them along the way  
5 and alert the moose as they're traveling through. And it  
6 probably will only take three weeks is what we're  
7 planning right now. The dogs have a lot of time. They  
8 have to take a lot of breaks.

9

10 But essentially doing a grid system  
11 around the dunes collecting scats and then along the  
12 river corridor, avoiding the private allotments along the  
13 way. And.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do you plan to have  
16 the local folks participate on this?

17

18 MS. JOHNSON: I would love to. I will be  
19 hiring two people as our navigators. The handler and the  
20 dog will come on the contract, but we will be hiring two  
21 local people and at the conclusion of the field work,  
22 we've already planned on bringing at least one dog-  
23 handler team to Ambler and at least here in Kotzebue and  
24 hopefully more places to give a demonstration on what  
25 they do and how this works. And essentially with the  
26 scat samples which is just a pea size of the scat, I can  
27 send it to a geneticist and get their DNA -- genotype --  
28 or DNA fingerprint and we can come up with a density of  
29 black and brown bears around this area among other  
30 things: parasites, reproduction, demography, things like  
31 that.

32

33 So this would be taking place this next  
34 summer and again feel free to contact me for updates as  
35 you like.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Maybe if you  
38 can leave a card to the office here or provide us with  
39 some cards, it'll be an ideal thing to -- that way we can  
40 follow through with some of the planning processes that  
41 you folks are doing. Any questions. Go ahead.

42

43 MR. BALLOT: Can you have whoever has  
44 handouts there that I'm not able to have -- have somebody  
45 mail them to me please.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Will do, Percy. They  
48 heard you. Wallets already coming out, so.....

49

50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. If there's no  
2 other comments, questions, or -- thank you very much.  
3 Mary.

4  
5 MS. McBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
6 would like to invite Dan Stevenson to join me to give you  
7 a report on law enforcement with the National Park  
8 Service.

9  
10 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 Committee members. My name's Dan Stevenson. I'm a range  
12 pilot with the National Park Service and I have a brief  
13 report on the law enforcement activities from this fall.  
14 As most of you know, we field inspect roughly 180, 200  
15 hunters each fall during the hunting season. Most of  
16 that's within Noatak Preserve. Probably 90 percent of  
17 our efforts are spent in Noatak Preserve since that's  
18 where we have most of our hunting activities throughout  
19 the year.

20  
21 We also spend time in Kobuk Valley and  
22 Cape Krusenstern as well, checking there for nonlocal  
23 hunters. We estimate we've checked roughly 30 to 40  
24 percent of hunters within the Noatak Preserve. We use  
25 fixed-wing aircraft, jet boat helicopters to check  
26 hunters and contact hunters at field camps. The  
27 helicopter, we've been using that for the last several  
28 years. Very effective tool for us. That's an excellent  
29 platform for a law enforcement check because it allows us  
30 to check float planes supported camps, and wheel plane  
31 supported camps on the same day which before we had to  
32 come back and get a float plane and go back and forth.  
33 The helicopter's been very effective that way. And it  
34 also allows us to get into really tight Super Cub strips  
35 that we normally haven't been able to get into basically  
36 because we don't have the skill with some of our fleet  
37 pilots, or we don't take that chance to get into some of  
38 these real tight strips with our Super Cub. So we -- so  
39 the helicopter's been very effective that way to get into  
40 areas that we haven't been able to access before.

41  
42 And we're really careful how we use the  
43 helicopter. We just into established airstrips to check  
44 hunters and hunter camps. We check our guides,  
45 transporters, local and nonlocal hunters throughout the  
46 Noatak. So we try to cover the whole gamut.

47  
48 LeeAnne and I met with the Purcell  
49 Security folks before the hunting season and had a  
50 really good meeting with trying to coordinate and just

1 assist with their trespass efforts on the Noatak and the  
2 Kobuk Rivers and we've been trying to do that for the  
3 last two or three years now and that's been going really  
4 well, trying to help coordinate our efforts and assist  
5 when we can with flights or even helicopter time.

6  
7 Over the last two, three years, we're  
8 seeing a general improvement in some of the compliance  
9 with our local hunters as far as taking care of meat,  
10 using cloth bags versus plastic bags which has been a big  
11 issue over the years, hanging the meat when possible,  
12 trying to get it up into trees or trying to at least get  
13 it up on top of the willow bushes. If they aren't doing  
14 that, we help them do that or we show them how to do that  
15 and we explain some of the concerns that have been going  
16 on in this region for a long time.

17  
18 We also hand out the State -- I think all  
19 of you are familiar with this, but we hand this out to  
20 every contact that we do. We hand out several of these  
21 to the nonlocal hunters. It's the brochure that the  
22 State Fish and Game put together, the hunting legal,  
23 hunting smart in Unit 23, and very, very effective. I  
24 think a lot of the hunters have commented that they  
25 really enjoy this and they read through it and it talks  
26 about many of the issues that -- you know, that we're  
27 working with.

28  
29 We try to be as proactive as we can. My  
30 philosophy is try to get out there and contact as many of  
31 the hunters before -- often before they've  
32 killed/harvested anything and try to explain these rules,  
33 regulations to -- before they find themselves in trouble  
34 or violating the State and Federal regulations. So we  
35 try to be as proactive as we can with most of our  
36 hunters.

37  
38 One issue that's been brought up by this  
39 Committee before is the issue of camps going in and  
40 staying up throughout the hunting season. We've been  
41 trying to address that the best we can. It's a difficult  
42 issue to enforce. The issue is, as many of you know,  
43 there's been reports and we hear the reports as well of  
44 camps going up at a number of strips. Not a large  
45 percentage of the airstrips, but the ones that are more  
46 heavily used, the camps go in and then they -- and then  
47 the camps stay up and that's not legal. They're supposed  
48 to take down the camps. Then when new hunters come in,  
49 put up a new camp.

50

1                   It's hard to enforce because camps can go  
2 in, stay up eight days. Technically they have to come  
3 down and then -- but the very next day or sometimes even  
4 that same day, later in the afternoon, you could have  
5 another camp -- another crew come in and put up another  
6 camp and it's hard to decipher that unless you're right  
7 there.

8  
9                   So we've been putting out teams on ridge  
10 lines. We put out teams with helicopters to just watch  
11 these areas for ten days at a time and try and see if  
12 they can pick up any activity or see that switch without  
13 the tents coming down. So that's what we have to prove  
14 to make a case. Either that or we have to get a client  
15 that's unhappy and wants to rat on the transporter and we  
16 look for that too and we talk to as many as we can. So  
17 we're looking for those two things to try to make a case  
18 on that.

19  
20                   We also work with our transporters. Each  
21 year we meet with them and explain this issue and explain  
22 that this is not allowed and so we're trying to address  
23 that with those three different areas.

24  
25                   I think that's all I have.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead. Attamuk.

28  
29                   ATTAMUK: Yeah. Did you give out any  
30 citations for locals and nonlocals?

31  
32                   MR. STEVENSON: Yes. We -- each year I  
33 deal with about 12 cases. They vary from warnings to  
34 letters from the Superintendent and citations.

35  
36                   ATTAMUK: So how far up north did you go  
37 up the Noatak to -- you know, to see if there's anything  
38 -- campers or transporters are, you know, being dropped  
39 off hunters way up north.

40  
41                   MR. STEVENSON: We actively patrol up  
42 through the controlled use area. We patrol that quite  
43 often. It's fairly easy to patrol for us with fixed wing  
44 and helicopter and then we patrol all the way up to our  
45 boundary -- Arctic up to past the Cutler River, that far  
46 east, up to Howard Pass and the Nemi area on the Noatak.

47  
48                   ATTAMUK: Okay. One last. Did you see  
49 any activity way up north toward Cutler area in the past?  
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Yes. We've checked camps  
2 up there. We didn't have any cases up there this year,  
3 but we do check camps up there on the Cutler and Feniak  
4 and Desperation and Howard Pass.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Comments.

11  
12 MR. GREGG: Yeah.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Jon.

15  
16 MR. GREGG: Dan, is it your observation  
17 -- or what is your observation of the -- it seems like  
18 there's been a more intensive educational type of  
19 approach in the last three or four years. How do you see  
20 that from your standpoint? Is it working better? Are  
21 people better prepared in the field?

22  
23 MR. STEVENSON: I believe there has been  
24 improvement. Like, you know, I mentioned in the last two  
25 or three years, I've been seeing a general improvement  
26 with folks just taking care -- better care of the meat,  
27 using the cloth bags, trying to keep the meat cool,  
28 trying to get it up when they can. I think it's -- I  
29 think it is working. I'm not sure where the best  
30 information's coming from. I know we're trying to put  
31 out outreach information/material. The State is. But I  
32 think the combination is really -- is beginning to help.  
33 I think we're starting to see some results.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other comments.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Questions.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
44 Dan. You've indicated the issue in regards to watching  
45 camps going up. How do you treat the State side of the  
46 picture where the State of Alaska have issued guiding  
47 areas for these guides and setup and setting their camps  
48 up for their purpose? How do you see that? Do you -- is  
49 there restrictions in the Federal law that would also  
50 prohibit them to ten days or are they different than the

1 transporter camps?

2

3 MR. STEVENSON: The -- on Federal land,  
4 the outfitters and guides still have to follow the  
5 Federal regulations. So they still have to have a  
6 commercial use authorization or a concession permit with  
7 us and if they don't, then they're illegal. It's that  
8 simple. So the State does have people as you know on the  
9 BLM and other areas that we don't administer.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The reason why I ask  
12 that is I note that there is camps that's been set up  
13 with airstrips on -- well, actually most of it I think is  
14 on BLM land and I don't know how much you have up on the  
15 preserve there in regards to the guide themselves. What  
16 -- can you give us sort of a general areas where these  
17 guides might have set up camps like they do on the  
18 Squirrel and on BLM lands.

19

20 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah. You bet, Walter.  
21 You know, with our three outfitters -- we have three  
22 licensed concession outfitters and they work in the --  
23 primarily the Nemi, and then Dave -- Dave on the Nemi and  
24 Phil and Jake and so those three individuals work -- and  
25 we work with those areas and we pretty much know where  
26 the camping is.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. So those are  
29 pretty much north, further up north on -- north of Noatak  
30 site.

31

32 MR. STEVENSON: Yes. Yes. Correct.  
33 Yeah. Jake's up Trail Creek and Phil's on the Wulik and  
34 Upper Kelly and Dave's up on Upper Nemi, so those three  
35 we do check those individuals.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What I saw was  
38 completely different down on the Squirrel River where  
39 some of these guides have camps set up within BLM lands  
40 with racks -- hanging racks and whatnot and that was my  
41 question. But you did clarify that issue.

42

43 Thank you very much.

44

45 Any other questions or comments for Dan.

46

47 ATTAMUK: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Attamuk.

50

1 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Attamuk -- Enoch  
2 Schiedt. Any strips, new strips come up this summer that  
3 you know of that -- by transporters or outfitters that --  
4 because I know in Aggie there was three that was on for  
5 how many years and tell you the truth, this summer I did  
6 not spend time in my camp so I did not see anything new.  
7 Is there anything new out there at the Aggie and up the  
8 Noatak?

9  
10 MR. STEVENSON: You know, each year,  
11 usually we do find two or three new strips. They're  
12 usually on gravel bars. They're usually just strips as  
13 river -- you know, the spring high water flushes out the  
14 Noatak. Each year we have gravel bars form a little  
15 differently as you know, so each year, we do see two or  
16 three new airstrips, mostly along the Noatak and on some  
17 of the side drainages. And we look at those and as long  
18 as individuals aren't cutting down trees greater than  
19 three inches, we have no regulations that prohibit that.  
20 They can, you know, put in a new strip on a gravel bar if  
21 they're pioneering a new area as long as they aren't  
22 cutting vegetation or destroying vegetation.

23  
24 But we do usually see two or three new  
25 ones on some of the drainages.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
32 Dan, for your report.

33  
34 And I also want to thank you on behalf of  
35 NANA for working with Purcell Security. And I note that  
36 the Purcell Security folks were given directive to making  
37 that they coordinate efforts with our Park Service, BLM  
38 and the State of Alaska on trespass issues. So thank you  
39 very much for making that available to the Purcell  
40 Security folks.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Go ahead,  
47 Percy.

48  
49 MR. BALLOT: A real quick question. I  
50 was just wondering when they have these airports on the

1 sand bars and stuff, is their campsite supposed to be  
2 located near that strip there or do the Park Service  
3 check the general area for -- whatever.

4

5 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, Percy. This is  
6 Dan. They can -- you know, when they put in -- when they  
7 pioneer an airstrip, they can camp wherever they wish.  
8 Most times they do camp right near the strip or adjacent  
9 to it as I'm sure you know. And we're -- again primarily  
10 we are interested in those new strips, if there's any  
11 illegal activity associated with the new strip which  
12 sometimes there is which is what we're definitely  
13 interested in those.

14

15 But usually most people camp right near  
16 the strip, if that answers your question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Did he answer your  
19 question?

20

21 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, he did, but do they  
22 have to have -- are they supposed to report where their  
23 camp is at?

24

25 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, Percy. If they are  
26 a transporter camp, they have to report that location  
27 with their hunter use report. But not if they're a  
28 private individual setting up the camp.

29

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy.

32

33 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. That's fine.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. One other thing  
36 I overlooked, I guess, Dan, is what about the use of  
37 four-wheelers within the areas where -- for hunting  
38 purposes?

39

40 MR. STEVENSON: Right now that's  
41 technically legal and so we're trying to get information  
42 out, education to folks, and do as much outreach as we  
43 can that's not allowed on Federal lands.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So when you say  
46 technically legal, then I can go to Kobuk Valley, take my  
47 four-wheeler out, go up the sand dunes, and legally hunt  
48 within Kobuk Valley.

49

50 MR. STEVENSON: No, you couldn't. And we

1 would.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, you said that  
4 technically legal, that's why I asked that question.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. STEVENSON: Yes. I understand.  
9 We're trying to work with people. We're trying to work  
10 with local communities as much as we can on that issue.  
11 And so we would definitely approach the individual, talk  
12 to the individual, explain our rules and regulations, and  
13 see how they respond and then go from there.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. If you're  
16 allowing one set or group to do this and don't allow for  
17 the others -- I'm trying to set a balance here and trying  
18 to question how you would balance that out. That's why  
19 I raised that very question.

20

21 MR. STEVENSON: Yes. Yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
24 Any other questions.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Dan. Mary.

29

30 MS. McBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 That concludes the report that we have from Western  
32 Arctic National Park Lands, but I'd like to turn the  
33 microphone over to Dave Mills if I may from the National  
34 Park Service Regional Office who would like to talk to  
35 you about government-to-government consultation.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do we want to hear  
38 from Dave? I don't know.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No. Go ahead, Dave.  
43 So you will be my legal counsel -- counselor.

44

45 MR. MILLS: Oh, absolutely.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

48

49 MR. MILLS: Anything you desire.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Dave.

2

3 MR. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's  
4 a pleasure to be here. My name is Dave Mills. I work  
5 for the National Park Service in our Anchorage office.  
6 I was going to kind of boast about all the great places  
7 I've been able to work including here and then I realized  
8 that I'm mainly here to listen and I'm going to do that  
9 and in listening, I was watching the bear presentation  
10 and I realized that I had that dog's job when I first  
11 started and now they've replaced my job to go find bear  
12 scat for the research biologists with a dog who does it  
13 much better than I was able to do it, so.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Heck, all you have to  
16 do is just go to training and learning how to sniff.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. MILLS: So that's a summary of my  
21 career. I started collecting scat and it's gone downhill  
22 from there, so -- no. I'm here to listen as I said and  
23 mainly share a few things that's going on nationally and  
24 Walter and others have mentioned a few things that I  
25 would just like to kind of weave into this.

26

27 The National Park Service as you know,  
28 we've always thought, you know, Alaska's different. In  
29 many aspects, it is, but what we're learning nationally  
30 is -- and internationally here now is that some of the  
31 things pioneered here in Alaska primarily ANILCA and  
32 subsistence and having protected areas, whether they're  
33 parks or whatever, that the trend -- and it's a good  
34 trend -- needs to consider those traditional activities  
35 and provide for some allowances for those to continue.

36

37 People have been stewards of the land for  
38 in this case 10,000 years or more and so around the world  
39 and in the United States, people are beginning to  
40 recognize that a little bit more.

41

42 So 30 years after -- Walter mentioned  
43 ANILCA's now 30 years old and there's obviously some  
44 successes and failures with this, but the Lower 48 Parks  
45 and the states I think have learned a little bit from  
46 Alaska. Our current director of the National Park  
47 Service -- national director, John Jarvis, was the  
48 superintendent at Wrangell-St. Elias not all that long  
49 ago -- ten years ago. I worked with him a lot and he's  
50 now the director.

1                   He has an initiative to take a look at --  
2 and this mainly affects Lower 48 Parks -- but to take a  
3 look at some of these Parks that have -- were established  
4 over a hundred years ago, you know, Yellowstone,  
5 Yosemite, places like that, and he's begun or just  
6 beginning a discussion on how to consider and accommodate  
7 cultural traditional practices where we can where those  
8 have taken place even in these older Parks that have an  
9 entirely different history based upon really Title VIII  
10 of ANILCA with the exception that the Park Service right  
11 now is going to in the Lower 48 and these Parks start  
12 with plants and cultural gathering of plants and minerals  
13 and non-fish and wildlife items.

14  
15                   As you know, there's other laws,  
16 especially here in Alaska, that manage wildlife and  
17 fisheries and gathering. So this national process is to  
18 take a look -- we think we have the authority in our  
19 existing regulations to take a look at those Parks unlike  
20 the Parks around here, that have not accommodated in  
21 traditional practices and the read on that nationally has  
22 been if the enabling legislation that created that unit,  
23 if Congress didn't authorize a travel group or someone to  
24 conduct these activities like they did in ANILCA with  
25 subsistence, then it wasn't allowed.

26  
27                   We're looking at to have a discussion  
28 with Federally-recognized tribes and other groups as to  
29 -- that currently do not -- aren't allowed to continue  
30 their traditional activities on these lands, to find a  
31 regulatory change that would begin to allow that,  
32 starting with plants and minerals.

33  
34                   So the process has been to start with --  
35 as you mentioned in your talk -- with local people and  
36 tribes -- tribal leaders and kind of start with the  
37 ground up and say how we would go about -- is this a good  
38 idea, how would we go about doing that and what would it  
39 look like, how would it be managed.

40  
41                   So here in Alaska, this would not have  
42 much change on the ground as you know. The four Parks --  
43 three Parks associated around Kotzebue here all are  
44 covered under ANILCA and have Title VIII. They allow  
45 hunting, fishing, and gathering, so that's -- for Alaska  
46 rural residents. So that's already allowed. There are  
47 six Parks in Alaska that either predated ANILCA or did  
48 not have that authority, mainly in the southern part of  
49 the State and what that would allow in those parks is for  
50 Federally-recognized tribal members to continue their

1 cultural traditions on Park lands for -- working with the  
2 local Park manager, the superintendent, and the Staff for  
3 at least plants and minerals that are important cultural  
4 activities.

5  
6           So this is -- we're just starting this  
7 now. I expect this process to talk at least a year or  
8 two, but starting with using the interest of a new  
9 administration. As you know, government-to-government  
10 tribal consultation's been around since '94 through an  
11 Executive Order. The administration's very interested as  
12 we are to bump that process up a little bit more, so  
13 we'll begin to have those discussions with tribal leaders  
14 about the gathering.

15  
16           As I mentioned, this would have no effect  
17 on hunting and fishing regs. Those are covered already  
18 for folks that Congress allowed. So we think we have the  
19 authority to begin with plants and when I say minerals,  
20 it's, you know, any rocks or items that are important  
21 culturally to however people choose to use them, regalia  
22 or artwork or whatever.

23  
24           So that in a nutshell -- let me see if  
25 I've missed anything here. The process would be to --  
26 and Mary will lead this with her Staff. I'm helping to  
27 coordinate statewide and actually with the national  
28 groups that are doing this, but the process is to have --  
29 to make contact with tribal leaders and groups like this,  
30 but this is -- this would only be between tribes because  
31 there's other authorities through ANILCA that would allow  
32 that. And like I said, I'm talking to you in this area,  
33 but it really affects nothing on the ground that ANILCA  
34 doesn't always -- already provide.

35  
36           But there are Parks in Alaska where this  
37 does affect, but I think it's important for you to know  
38 and Enoch and I talked a little bit about, we still want  
39 to be talking to tribal members and other groups about  
40 this and we may learn some things that we haven't thought  
41 through and how this can be managed. The fact that --  
42 this is a little different for us. The fact that we will  
43 be -- this regulation we would imagine would be with  
44 Federally-recognized tribes and their members is a little  
45 different twist as you know than ANILCA that recognizes  
46 rural -- local rural residents.

47  
48           So this is -- this will be an agreement  
49 depending on how the regulation's written -- and I might  
50 mention no regulation has been written. We're starting

1 first by talking and then a regulation will be written  
2 based upon those discussions. But depending on the  
3 regulation is written, we're anticipating that that will  
4 be in agreement with Federally-recognized tribes.

5  
6 So the eligibility's a little different  
7 than ANILCA. This is a tribal member of a tribe that has  
8 associated with a Park area would be eligible to conduct  
9 these activities. They can already do it in your area.  
10 It's not really going to affect that, but let's take a  
11 place like Glacier Bay, for example. Hoonah and Yakutat  
12 tribes, the Park superintendent would be working with  
13 them to begin accommodating those traditional cultural  
14 practices that would be allowed on this since they're not  
15 covered under ANILCA.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Would you consider a  
18 regional corporation as a tribal recognized tribe?

19  
20 MR. MILLS: Well, you know, that's a good  
21 question in all this and that's where we're going to need  
22 some feedback quite frankly. It's -- right now, there's  
23 a list of Federally-recognized tribes the BIA has and  
24 we've been looking at that, but I know that's a point of  
25 discussion and I don't know the answer to that, so I  
26 think that's going to have to be discussed and answered.  
27 But I know that BIA has a list of these tribes and  
28 they're typically community based or they're small tribal  
29 groups from communities rather than regional.

30  
31 But that's been asked and I've asked that  
32 question. I haven't gotten an answer yet.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, I guess if you  
35 will look at it, certainly something that -- that's been  
36 recognized. It's just that it's been structured in a  
37 whole different way.

38  
39 MR. MILLS: Yeah.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I say that because  
42 when the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was passed,  
43 in order to be within the corporation, BIA had to go  
44 through that very process to making sure that my blood  
45 quantum was such that I belonged to the corporation.

46  
47 MR. MILLS: Uh-huh.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And it's that  
50 structure that Congress has given to the regional

1 corporations to be a business structure and that's what  
2 that is. But it's still recognized as a tribe it has to  
3 be because we had to answer question in regards to how  
4 much blood do you have. You need to have a certain blood  
5 quantum in order to be part of the corporation.

6

7 MR. MILLS: Uh-huh.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So we still -- I  
10 consider myself as a member of the tribe even though I'm  
11 a member of the tribe of Noorvik.

12

13 MR. MILLS: Sure.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: But still the  
16 corporation is -- should be looked at in that way.

17

18 MR. MILLS: Okay. That's some good input  
19 there. And again in your area here because you have  
20 Title VIII subsistence, it's -- you have all the  
21 authority -- or all the opportunity and more than this  
22 process would have since ANILCA allows for hunting,  
23 fishing, and gathering. So this is to kind of take care  
24 of a situation in Yellowstone and Yosemite and those  
25 Parks that predated ANILCA and in the recognition of  
26 traditional and cultural practices and it's an attempt --  
27 a step, you know, along the way of saying, hey, we  
28 realize -- or the country realizes -- our country  
29 realizes that indigenous people have had a long history  
30 in connection to the land and we want them to continue to  
31 do that even if it hasn't been allowed in the past.

32

33 So this is starting with plants. It's a  
34 trend internationally. I don't know of a new protected  
35 area in the world that doesn't do this now in terms of  
36 looking at and accommodating traditional cultural  
37 practices into their -- into that protected area. So  
38 it's all about growing up and maturing and learning from  
39 past mistakes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So the Federal  
42 Government is getting out of infancy.....

43

44 MR. MILLS: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Finally growing up.

47

48 MR. MILLS: I think so.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. MILLS: That's probably a good way to  
2 -- and hopefully we're growing and we've got a lot to  
3 learn here, but I think this is a good effort. We're  
4 going to need your -- it's not just your help. We're --  
5 you know, it's a partnership. We're going to have to do  
6 this together to make it so that it's easy to implement  
7 and manage jointly somehow. So -- and there'll be lots  
8 of time for discussion. This is all being managed by the  
9 local manager. I'm just helping here. So Mary and her  
10 successor and Staff will be having this discussion with  
11 the appropriate contacts with tribes and certainly  
12 working with all other organizations we would typically  
13 work with.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Any questions  
16 for Dave. Attamuk.

17  
18 ATTAMUK: Yeah, Enoch here. On the  
19 plants that you get information on would be a word of  
20 caution because if you start asking what are the plants  
21 are used for besides our eating, somebody might answer  
22 that they use it for some kind of medication. I'm scared  
23 the pharmaceuticals are going to come over and just wipe  
24 out whatever grows in a certain area.

25  
26 MR. MILLS: Right.

27  
28 ATTAMUK: See. And I hate to see it that  
29 they start competing with my people just to pick (In  
30 Inupiat) you know, sourdock and stuff like that for  
31 different medication. They would wipe us out in a hurry.

32  
33  
34 MR. MILLS: Well, that's a good point and  
35 I've heard that from some other discussions. That's why,  
36 you know, a good comment and hopefully the regulation  
37 will be very general and recognize traditional cultural  
38 practices having to do with plants and minerals. I think  
39 that's where we're heading right now with some guidance.  
40 What tribal members or anyone else that can do that  
41 decides to do with these materials is their business and  
42 I know there's -- you know, there's certainly a lot of  
43 ceremonial and private things that only certain leaders  
44 and people from tribes would share anyway.

45  
46 So we want to respect those cultural  
47 traditions without getting into the details and let the  
48 tribes -- that's their business. So I think if the  
49 regulation is written general enough, the government  
50 doesn't have to be in that business. That's my read on

1 it right now. That's a good point though.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other comments.  
4  
5 (No comments)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Questions. Victor.  
8  
9 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Just a second.  
12 Victor's.....  
13  
14 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman,  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Just a second, Percy.  
17 Go ahead, Victor.  
18  
19 MR. KARMUN: OSM right, Dave?  
20  
21 MR. MILLS: Hmm?  
22  
23 MR. KARMUN: You're in OSM -- from OSM?  
24  
25 MR. MILLS: No. I'm with the National  
26 Park Service.  
27  
28 MR, KARMUN: But you work out of OSM,  
29 right?  
30  
31 MR. MILLS: No.  
32  
33 MR. KARMUN: No?  
34  
35 MR. MILLS: No. I work out of our  
36 regional office. We work a lot together with OSM, but  
37 this is really separate from the Federal Subsistence  
38 Program, I should point this out because it doesn't  
39 involve wildlife or fisheries. It's just plants. And  
40 the agency -- in this case, the National Park Service.  
41 The agency that manages the -- has the authority over the  
42 plants happens to be the Park Service here.  
43  
44 In -- I can't speak for the other Federal  
45 agencies or State agencies, but in many parts of the  
46 State, I do know, or across the country, this isn't an  
47 issue for other agencies. It's already allowed. We just  
48 have, you know, as Parks typically are, especially in the  
49 Lower 48, some regulations that have been on the books  
50 for a long time that don't -- you know, that were geared

1 towards visitors. And so you go to Yellowstone National  
2 Park, you can't -- you're not supposed to pick up rocks.  
3 You're not supposed to pick flowers, pick plants or  
4 whatever. This is treating tribal groups differently  
5 than a visitor.

6

7 MR. KARMUN: Well, my -- there's been a  
8 lot of talk on the Federal Subsistence Board to rural  
9 individuals to sit in on the Federal Subsistence Board.  
10 Who would handle that; do you know?

11

12 MR. MILLS: Who's going to actually  
13 appoint that?

14

15 MR. KARMUN: And what is the protocol for  
16 that?

17

18 MR. MILLS: Yeah. Well, I'm probably not  
19 the right person to answer that. I'm not sure that's  
20 been decided. I just -- go ahead.

21

22 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Victor. Again  
23 we're -- this process is being directed by the Department  
24 of Interior. OSM is reading the material just as you  
25 are. It's my understanding that they're going through  
26 the Federal record right now with a proposal for two  
27 additional members and I would imagine that following the  
28 review of that and gathering comments, you know, if a  
29 decision is made to proceed, which, you know, I'm  
30 understanding that that's the direction that the  
31 Secretary would like to go, that basically there would  
32 then be an announcement for opportunities and gathering  
33 applications.

34

35 The current Chair of the Board is  
36 appointed by the Secretary, but again we don't know  
37 exactly what the process is going to be there, but I  
38 think we'll all be seeing more about that. But it's the  
39 Department of Interior that's leading that process.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Comments. The only  
50 thing I can say at this point in time, Dave, is keep the

1 dang lawyers out. Don't consult with them. Put together  
2 something that you can work with. The minute you get the  
3 lawyers into this role, then it's downhill.

4

5 MR. MILLS: Well, I think the good news  
6 on this specific issue is apparently the lawyers --  
7 current lawyers agree that this is an okay thing to do  
8 which wasn't always the case. So legally I've been told  
9 by our Director that they have legal approval to proceed  
10 with this and it certainly fits in with what the  
11 administration's interested in doing right now. It's a  
12 good thing.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy, go ahead.

15

16 MR. BALLOT: Well, yes. Where was I now.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Oh. This question that I  
21 heard about earlier regarding corporation recognized as  
22 tribe. I wasn't too sure if he answered the question,  
23 but I think for Buckland, we have a concern about that  
24 having corporations on behalf of our tribe for this  
25 consultation. What's the process going to be, where are  
26 they going to meet and stuff like that. Will we have  
27 time to be able to get some folks there?

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess the question  
30 that he's got is the issues regards to consultation with  
31 the tribe and who is the tribe that they're -- is it  
32 you're referencing.

33

34 MR. MILLS: Okay. That's where we're  
35 going to need your help because we'll want to meet with  
36 the leaders, at least talk to them, and we'll certainly  
37 work with Enoch. We have a list of -- BIA has a list of  
38 tribal leaders in a directory there. That's a good place  
39 to start, but we want to also be talking with whomever  
40 you think needs -- at least the leaders to begin with.  
41 We'll let the leaders help guide us on that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. If there's no  
44 other questions, thank you very much, Dave, for a  
45 presentation.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. MILLS: I'll just leave you a couple  
50 handouts here with questions.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Moving on,  
2 we'll go to BLM. We have John Erlich. Shelly Jacobson,  
3 are you on the telephone?

4  
5 MS. JACOBSON: Yes, uh-huh. I am.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Shelly Jacobson  
8 from the Fairbanks office is also on the telephone and,  
9 John, you got the mic.

10  
11 MR. ERLICH: Mr. Chairman. Council.  
12 Good afternoon. I'll be reading a report that was  
13 prepared for me by one of my supervisors out of the  
14 Central Yukon Field Office. Mr. Chairman, Council  
15 members, my name is John Erlich. I'm a Natural Resources  
16 Program Coordinator with BLM Central Yukon Field Office.

17  
18 The BLM administrative units that overlap  
19 the Northwest Arctic Region are primarily in the Central  
20 Yukon Field Office in the small area of the Anchorage  
21 Field Office on the Seward Peninsula. Today I represent  
22 the Central Yukon Field Office.

23  
24 With respect to outreach, the BLM used  
25 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to support  
26 cooperative agreements with the Northwest Arctic Borough  
27 and the Native Village of Koyuk for intervillage trail  
28 marking and mapping. Work funded through these  
29 agreements will continue through this winter.

30  
31 The Central Yukon Field Office will also  
32 begin scoping meetings for the Kobuk Seward Plan  
33 Recreation Management Plan Amendment which specifically  
34 addresses the Squirrel River Special Recreation  
35 Management Area. The principal issues of this plan are  
36 to address recreation and travel management components  
37 that were not fully addressed in the Kobuk Seward Plan  
38 Recreation Management Plan for the Squirrel River Special  
39 Recreation -- SMRA, I'm not really sure what that folds  
40 out to.

41  
42 Meetings in Kiana, Noorvik, and Kotzebue  
43 are planned for November 8 through 10. Meetings in  
44 Fairbanks and Anchorage will be November 15 and 19. We  
45 have an updated MOU ready for the Mayor's signature  
46 confirming the Northwest Arctic Borough's desire to work  
47 cooperatively on the plan.

48  
49 In the spring of 2010, BLM entered into  
50 an agreement with the Native Village of Kotzebue in

1 support of Sisolik Cultural Camp for local youth. The  
2 camp was held from July 19th of 2005 with a total of 23  
3 students participating. The BLM funding of \$5,000  
4 supported the hiring the camp coordinator and three came  
5 counselors.  
6

7                   With respect to fisheries, from September  
8 2nd to September 8, BLM fish biologists continued work  
9 Dolly Varden Spawning Habitat in the Upper Kivalina River  
10 for the fourth consecutive year, estimating the number of  
11 spawners present, mapping, spawning extent, conducting  
12 baseline habitat surveys, collecting fin clips to  
13 genetically compare the spawning runs and sampling the  
14 headwaters of the Middle Fork or Grayling Creek in an  
15 attempt to extend the State of Alaska's anadromous stream  
16 catalog.  
17

18                   The water level was high enough for the  
19 fish to distribute freely throughout the drainage and  
20 reach their preferred spawning habitat which we  
21 documented with global positioning system. Aerial  
22 escapement numbers were low. Only 17 fish were counted  
23 in the Middle Fork, with another 25 fish counted in the  
24 principal spawning tributary. In addition, ten fish were  
25 counted in each of the two upper tributaries. The high  
26 water affected visibility and we believe we counted  
27 approximately half the fish that were present. Fin clips  
28 were collected from 53 adult Dolly Varden and Penney  
29 Crane with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will  
30 genetically analyze these samples to compare them with  
31 previous years' collections.  
32

33                   We performed a rogzon stream channel  
34 classification survey on the primary spring-fed tributary  
35 of the Middle Fork that is utilized by the later spawning  
36 run. Other habitat data collected included water  
37 chemistry parameters, substrait characterizations, and  
38 riparian analysis. We again found spawning Dolly Varden  
39 in tributaries above the Alaska Department of Fish and  
40 Game's anadromous documentation. We plan to return in  
41 August 2011 to complete our habitat, genetic, and fish  
42 distribution mapping work. The primary focus of that  
43 work will be the Lower or the Eastern Fork of the  
44 Kivalina River.  
45

46                   If anyone has questions while I'm going  
47 through these topics, please feel free to stop me.  
48

49                   With respect to mining, there was no new  
50 mining activity on BLM managed lands in the region this

1 year. Zazu Metals plans to continue doing exploration  
2 drilling at the Lik project in 2011 on State and Federal  
3 mining claims, including some on BLM managed lands. The  
4 Lik property is a zinc, lead, and silver property located  
5 about 12 miles northwest of Red Dog Mine.

6  
7 With respect to realty transactions, the  
8 BLM received a request for a right-of-way from United  
9 Utilities, a subsidiary of GCI Incorporated to conduct  
10 groundwork and tests prior to the installation of a  
11 terrestrial hybrid fiber optic microwave broadband  
12 network to serve communities along the Norton Sound,  
13 Kotzebue Sound, the southern slope of the Brooks Range.  
14 The project is being called Terra Northwest and is the  
15 next phase of a similar project called Terra Southwest  
16 which is underway in Southwestern Alaska. If completed,  
17 the project would provide infrastructure and towers  
18 needed for broadband communications in the area  
19 previously described. No fiber optic lines in the ground  
20 were planned for this project. Preliminary project work  
21 would include bore hole drilling and testing for clean  
22 lines of sight for the relay communication towers.

23  
24 With respect to other regional issues  
25 that BLM was concerned with in the Northwest Arctic,  
26 preliminary mapping shows 49 fires this year with a total  
27 of 183,000 acres burned in the Northwest Arctic Council  
28 Region. And BLM is involved in an eco-regional  
29 assessment for geographic region roughly described as the  
30 Nulato Hills, Seward Peninsula, and Kotzebue Lowlands.  
31 BLM has selected a contractor to begin helping us assess  
32 our existing data and data needs, but I don't have the  
33 information on that contractor right now. Shelly might  
34 be able to fill that in after the presentation.

35  
36 We're also partnering with the U.S. Fish  
37 and Wildlife Service on the Western Alaska Landscape  
38 Conservative Cooperative which encompasses the area of  
39 our eco-region as well as the rest of Southwest Coastal  
40 Alaska. We are planning to coordinate public meetings  
41 throughout the region, including Kotzebue on November 9  
42 and Nome on November 10. The state of the science  
43 workshop is being planned by the Fish and Wildlife  
44 Service in conjunction with the Western Alaska LCC for  
45 later this winter. The details and dates aren't finalized  
46 yet.

47  
48 With respect to recreation, all of our  
49 guides and transporters, the permits that they operate  
50 under, we -- the type of permit we issue them is called

1 a recreation permit and so that's the type of stuff I'll  
2 be talking about here under the topic of recreation.

3  
4 BLM currently has a total of 10 hunting  
5 guides permitted in Game Unit 23. Four of the guides  
6 hunt areas around the Tok, Tag, Kivalina, and Pick  
7 Rivers. One of the guides did not hunt in 2009 and there  
8 were a total of six clients reported from the other  
9 three. The remaining six guides are authorized to guide  
10 clients in Squirrel River SMRA. Only three reported any  
11 use in 2009 for a total of 18 clients reported.

12  
13 The BLM has no request for new permits  
14 for guides within the Northwest Arctic Region. However,  
15 there has been two guide use areas added to two of the  
16 guides using lands in the Squirrel River in Game Unit  
17 Area 2306. This now expands their use to include Game  
18 Unit Area 2301 for 2010. All of the guides in the  
19 Squirrel River area will need to renew their BLM permits  
20 in 2011. So all ten of the guides that I mentioned  
21 earlier, their permits are expiring this year and we'll  
22 be renewing those permits. So we'll probably come up  
23 with a way to stagger some of these permits to initially  
24 start off with two years or three years and some for up  
25 to five years, but we'll be taking care of all the  
26 permits in one year this winter.

27  
28 New as of 2009, all transporters and air  
29 taxi operators taking clients to BLM managed lands in the  
30 Squirrel River SMRA were required to have a BLM permit.  
31 We issued five permits to transporters in 2009. Two  
32 permittees reported no use during the fall hunting season  
33 and the other three permittees reported a combined total  
34 of 38 clients transported to BLM lands in the Squirrel  
35 River. All transporters to the Squirrel River will also  
36 have to renew their permits in 2011.

37  
38 With respect to wildlife, BLM personnel  
39 were unable to participate in the 2010 ongoing  
40 InterAgency project at Onion Portage. However, BLM  
41 provided funding for refurbishing one of the GPS caribou  
42 collars that was deployed this field season. And the BLM  
43 continues to be active in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
44 Working Group and will provide funding, coordination, and  
45 logistical support for the December 2010 meetings.

46  
47 The BLM Central Yukon Field Office  
48 provided input to the update of the current Cooperative  
49 Management Plan for the Western Arctic Herd. The update  
50 for the plan is currently being reviewed.

1 BLM also participated in the Game  
2 Management Unit 23 user conflict group meeting this  
3 spring and will incorporate many of the ideas from this  
4 group into our evaluation of the SRMA plan for the  
5 Squirrel River. BLM assisted with the spring geo-spatial  
6 population estimation count for moose in the Upper Noatak  
7 distance sampling surveys for muskoxen in the area of the  
8 Seward Peninsula and surveys for muskoxen in the Upper  
9 Tagagawik River. Muskox surveys showed approximately 100  
10 animals ranging on BLM managed lands in the Nulato Hills.  
11 They're a long way from any villages and we don't know if  
12 there's any interest in establishing a hunt.

13  
14 With respect to law enforcement, there  
15 were two game violations on BLM managed lands in the  
16 Northwest Region this year that we are aware of. We are  
17 also following up on a trespass situation that was  
18 identified. We had a detail ranger this year spend one  
19 week doing field flights and working out of the Kotzebue  
20 field station. We expect to have our regular law  
21 enforcement position filled this winter. We hope to  
22 introduce our new law enforcement ranger to the RAC  
23 members at the spring meeting.

24  
25 And we also had some archeological work  
26 in the area this summer. 2010 marked the fourth year of  
27 the Northwest Drainage's archeological survey helicopter  
28 supported recognizance. Took place once again from a  
29 camp on the Kivalina River. This year FDR archaeologists  
30 were joined by researchers from several universities,  
31 including the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Museum of  
32 the North for Test Excavations at the Raven's Bluff site  
33 of Kivalina River Drainage.

34  
35 Among other participants in the two-week  
36 field projects were a teacher volunteer that posted  
37 education blog site and two student volunteers from the  
38 Village of Kivalina. The researchers were also treated  
39 to a visit by Stanley Holly of Kivalina who brought  
40 several traditional foods to share.

41  
42 Thank you to Dolly Foster, NANA Resources  
43 Tech in Kivalina, who helped make those connections and  
44 coordinate the travel logistics for their participation.  
45 Researchers focused largely on test units that were  
46 opened the previous season. This work resulted in the  
47 discovery of yet another fluted point in a datable  
48 context bringing the total to two fluted points at this  
49 site. Radio carbon samples of caribou bone will again be  
50 submitted. To date both the new point and the soil

1 levels that were described this year at the site.  
2 Further work in 2011 depends upon funding.

3  
4 Mr. Chairman, that concludes my  
5 presentation. Thank you for your time. I will now try  
6 to answer any questions you may have.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, John. Any  
9 questions for John.

10  
11 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah, go ahead, Percy.

14  
15 MR. BALLOT: I heard him mention some of  
16 the stuff about the BLM lands. I never heard anything  
17 about who's guiding or transporting up on Buckland side  
18 of the BLM administered lands.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: He's talking about the  
21 land south of Buckland. You could see on that map over  
22 there the yellow southeast of Buckland there. Right.  
23 Those are BLM lands. I guess that's what he's referring  
24 to.

25  
26 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

27  
28 MR. ERLICH: Percy, I've got Shelly  
29 Jacobson from the Fairbanks office on the phone as well  
30 too, but as far as I'm aware, the nearest guide that I  
31 would be concerned with is more over towards Selawik near  
32 the Refuge. I'm not aware of any permitted guides south  
33 Bucklands, but I'll look into that if I find out  
34 anything, I'll give you a call.

35  
36 MR. BALLOT: Okay. Sounds great.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Shelly, do you have  
39 any information in regards to any permits to guides or  
40 transporters on BLM lands southeast of Buckland? BLM  
41 lands southeast of Buckland

42  
43 MS. JACOBSON: Is that the 2305 area, do  
44 you know?

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I'm hearing yes.

47  
48 MS. JACOBSON: Okay. We have three guides  
49 permitted in the 2305. That's Mike Vanning, Joe Schuster,  
50 John Walker. And I think -- well -- yeah. I think those

1 are the three in 2305. Then 2307, I'm not sure where  
2 that is, but then I guess that's not the area you're  
3 talking about.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy, is that clear?  
6 I guess Percy was asking if -- somebody was shaking their  
7 head. What is the 23.....

8  
9 MS. AYRES: I thought Percy -- you're  
10 talking about like the Upper Tag and the (indiscernible-  
11 away from microphone). That's that 2305.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy, were you  
14 talking about lands around the Tag River or are you  
15 talking about the lands on the Buckland River, the west  
16 -- north fork and that area?

17  
18 MR. BALLOT: All of them because that's  
19 on BLM lands. We want to know what's going on by tag and  
20 we want to know what's going on by -- up our river. I  
21 don't know what the process is for issuing permits, but  
22 this guy, Mike Vanning, has been -- (indiscernible-  
23 telephone connection) for a long time. What's the  
24 process for them to approve permits because we wrote a  
25 concern letter regarding this gentleman some time ago  
26 through our tribe and there was a permit. So who has the  
27 final say or how does that go on -- how do permits go  
28 out?

29  
30 MS. JACOBSON: Okay. John, I can try to  
31 answer that. That are, we did receive some comments and  
32 Mike wasn't operating in there for a couple of years, but  
33 he had a five-year permit with us which would have been  
34 I think expiring at the end of this season anyway. So he  
35 was out there. We did deny other applications from Mr.  
36 Winger (ph) and then there was another applicant who  
37 wanted to guide in that area as well and (indiscernible-  
38 telephone connection) and we denied those on the basis  
39 that based on the number of clients that Mr. Vanning was  
40 proposing that there was -- which was eight clients, that  
41 we felt that that was enough in terms of pressure on the  
42 BLM lands, in terms of crowding and other factors,  
43 campsites and what not. And if Mr. Vanning gets -- you  
44 know, has a guide license and renews his request for that  
45 area, we'll have to consider it, but before we approve  
46 anything for Mr. Vanning or for anyone else, we will be  
47 do scoping with the community and provide opportunity for  
48 comment on any applications.

49  
50 MR,. BALLOT: This guy, if I may, did he

1 have a permit last year by the (indiscernible-telephone  
2 connection) Mountain area?

3  
4 MS. JACOBSON: I believe not. I believe  
5 I believe that permit was denied. That's out of our  
6 Anchorage Field Office and I think that was -- he was not  
7 supposed to be in that area.

8  
9 MR. BALLOT: Okay. Then if there was  
10 concern like we've had with Koyuk and Buckland people  
11 regarding activity up there, who do we talk to or express  
12 our concerns about what happens?

13  
14 MS. JACOBSON: Yeah. Well, depending on  
15 the nature of the concerns, of course you could always  
16 call me or John for concerns, but if it's particularly a  
17 game violation, not that you can't also call us, but  
18 probably your best bet would just be to call -- contact  
19 the Troopers directly and then usually what happens then  
20 is they also contact us if it's involving BLM lands. But  
21 we'll follow up if there's any violations with revoking  
22 the permit usually, especially if it's a severe violation  
23 where they get their guide license pulled in the process  
24 of that.

25  
26 MR. BALLOT: Well, yeah, there's nothing  
27 that could be proved here -- really pursued, but I know  
28 there's been enough concern that happens, the activities  
29 of this person and I know (indiscernible-telephone  
30 connection) are they -- they get to hear the concerns  
31 regarding like are they invited to our Federal  
32 Subsistence Board meetings by the way, Mr. Chairman?

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: As far as guides and  
35 transporters are concerned, public is invited to these  
36 meetings, and if they wish to attend, that's their  
37 prerogative. If they wish not to attend, that's their  
38 prerogative as well.

39  
40 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I mean like the  
41 Troopers, Fish and Game or whatever -- whoever are  
42 guarding this -- are they notified of our meetings, are  
43 able to attend some of our -- like our Federal  
44 Subsistence Board meeting like now?

45  
46 MR. ERLICH: Excuse me, Percy.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess his question  
49 was who sends out notices and do we send any notices to  
50 law enforcement folks both State and Federal or other law

1 enforcement that there's certain meetings that are  
2 currently we invite you to these. One is this specific  
3 meeting that we're having.

4

5 MR. ERLICH: Okay. Percy, this is John.  
6 With respect to the permits that we'll be working on this  
7 winter, the permits are going to -- when we get  
8 applications for a permit before we approve permits,  
9 we're going to be getting ahold of, for example, the IRA  
10 Council in Buckland, notifying them that they've  
11 expressed an interest in being notified when permits are  
12 going to be issued in the area and we're going to do that  
13 with all the affected communities and we'll do that with  
14 both the transporter permits and the guide permits this  
15 time around.

16

17 And if you have any questions about  
18 what's going on in BLM lands in the Buckland area, you  
19 should feel free to call me up here in Kotzebue. If we  
20 need to draw pictures to each other and stuff like that,  
21 I've got a fax machine and we've got computers and stuff  
22 like that. We can get on the same paper and figure out  
23 what's going on if you guys have an issue out there.  
24 Okay, Percy?

25

26 MR. BALLOT: Sure.

27

28 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Percy. This is  
29 Tom Kron with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
30 Basically our office sends out information announcing the  
31 meetings. There's a public notice requirement. So we  
32 send out the public notices concerning the Regional  
33 Council meetings as well as the Board meeting. They're  
34 printed in papers across the State. You know, anybody  
35 who's interested can come to the meetings. Again, you  
36 know, if they choose to come, it's their choice. If they  
37 choose not to come, it's their choice as well, but  
38 basically the information out there.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Comments.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now, as far as law

1 enforcement is concerned, what is the process and what do  
2 you have out in the field where if there's issues and  
3 problems on -- within the areas of camps that these folks  
4 are permitted? What is the time frame for having a camp  
5 in one area? Shelly.

6

7 MS. JACOBSON: Oh, okay. Well, we have  
8 -- usually on the commercial camps, it's stipulated in  
9 their permit and generally, you know, just pretty much  
10 whatever they apply for, we approve because it's usually  
11 just, you know, during the month or whatever of their  
12 base camp. Spike camps, they aren't usually able to give  
13 us the exact location of those. They're usually shorter  
14 term duration.

15

16 If they want over-winter storage for some  
17 reason or some unusual people that want actual winter  
18 camps for different reasons, we can approve that, but  
19 it's on a case-by-case basis. The general public, unless  
20 we public special rules as I found out, we really don't  
21 have a camping limit. Anything less than a year is  
22 acceptable unless they're creating unnecessary problems.  
23 But they aren't considered in trespass unless they've  
24 occupied a spot for longer than a year.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Now, as far as  
27 the camp itself is concerned, what is allowed to be left  
28 within the camp?

29

30 MS. JACOBSON: They usually -- the guides  
31 that I'm aware of, you know, they -- a lot of times,  
32 they'll have sort of a tent platform with a -- it's not  
33 a cabin, but some of them have like pole type walls on  
34 the lower part that their tents go over and if they can't  
35 take all the pieces off the walls, sometimes they'll stay  
36 up. If not, they go underneath the tent platform.  
37 Sometimes they've got drums where they'll store gear of  
38 certain types in. I'm not aware of any over-winter  
39 storage of fuel in this area, but we do have that in some  
40 areas where we have long-term camps that have winter  
41 storage. So nothing is necessarily off limits to be  
42 proposed, but if it seems risky, we can either disallow  
43 it or create -- there's bonding requirements sometimes  
44 especially for large volumes of fuel where we don't want  
45 to risk some kind of cleanup expense.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What about the issue  
48 in regards to I -- I recognize the recreation campsite  
49 that you're allowing to be put up by applicants. As a  
50 subsistence user, can I also apply for a subsistence

1 campsite with a duration of maybe a month or two within  
2 a section of BLM land?

3

4 MS. JACOBSON: Yes. Any temporary camp  
5 is a pretty easy thing to I think approve under our  
6 regulations. It's a little less clear if something is  
7 more permanent nature of a camp than we -- I'm not sure  
8 how we would process that, but for temporary, less than  
9 a year camps, that's very possible.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, good. That  
12 clarifies a question in my mind that I can go up on BLM  
13 on the Squirrel and set up a temporary subsistence  
14 campsite with tent or tent frame for a month or two and  
15 wouldn't have any problems with hopefully with no guides  
16 within that area.

17

18 MS. JACOBSON: Right. I don't know --  
19 you know, I can't speak for the guides, but it wouldn't  
20 be a problem from BLM's standpoint.

21

22 MR. ERLICH: Shelly, this is John. I  
23 guess what he's hinting at the last question is exclusive  
24 use of an area under a permit and I just wanted to point  
25 out that like, for example, the guide use permits that we  
26 have out in the Squirrel right now, just because they  
27 have a permit to have their base camp on BLM land in an  
28 area doesn't mean that they have any exclusive right to  
29 that area.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Yeah. Okay.  
32 That's good. Maybe don't be surprised this coming fall.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

37

38 MR. ERLICH: I'm going to step back a  
39 little bit from my role as an employee of the BLM since  
40 I happen to be here in person too and you mentioned at  
41 the beginning of the meeting that while we're here as  
42 agency people, you wanted to say a little something about  
43 what we can do to make things better. And this isn't  
44 really well thought out, but in the time that I spent  
45 thinking about this stuff, what I've come up with so far  
46 that would be really challenge is to coming with a better  
47 subsistence regimen up here is one example would be that  
48 when folks go to college to do what they want to do when  
49 they grow up, like manage a forest or manage resources,  
50 they can take up natural resources management. They can

1 take up forestry. They can take up fisheries management  
2 and then when they get out of school and go through an  
3 apprenticeship, they get jobs. They work in those  
4 fields. They can manage Parks down in the Lower 48 and  
5 all that sort of stuff, but basically they get fitted out  
6 with an education and then with work experience that  
7 suits them for the work that they end up doing later on  
8 their careers, but with Alaska, Alaska's the only state  
9 in the union that all these Federal agencies have assets  
10 all across the nation and so down in the Lower 48, these  
11 young people are aspiring to get into resource  
12 management.

13

14                   And they already have an idea of what  
15 they think they might be doing as resource managers and  
16 they get educated. They get hired by agencies. They do  
17 the kind of work probably that they expected they'd be  
18 doing as a career, but at some point in their career,  
19 maybe late in their career, they get shipped up to Alaska  
20 and by that time, they're -- they've climbed up the  
21 hierarchy and they're managers. And suddenly they're in  
22 charge of managing -- it's been put by somebody else.  
23 They become in effect cultural managers and then they  
24 have nothing in their college experience, nothing in  
25 their aspirations in their career. They didn't aspire to  
26 manage subsistence.

27

28                   And it's really good that we have like  
29 the Office of Special Management and we have dedicated  
30 personnel and with the Federal agencies to pay attention  
31 to subsistence, but a real good example that it's still  
32 not working is right here in this room. To a person --  
33 to a person, it's either Council members or agency  
34 people. That's all that's in here. That's all. And  
35 that's how these meetings usually end up. If they don't  
36 start that way, they end up that way. And I think to  
37 calm -- it's really nice to have a calm meeting without  
38 people getting all excited and stuff, but we know here  
39 that there's a lot of tension out there that doesn't get  
40 voiced here for various reasons in settings like this.

41

42                   And I think there are some things that we  
43 could perhaps do to try to overcome that so we can have  
44 more subsistence user involvement with a Council like  
45 this and with setting regulations. And so if there's a  
46 way we can make the agency people aware that they're  
47 operating in the blind when it comes to managing  
48 subsistence. They haven't been trained to manage  
49 subsistence. They didn't get a degree in subsistence  
50 management. That they have to be really aware that they

1 are almost on a different planet when they are trying to  
2 hear us convey -- to communicate with them, that it's  
3 really hard to do.

4  
5           It's hard enough for us to do in a  
6 setting like this, the kind of people we are in a setting  
7 like this. It's even harder for the people out in the  
8 villages and stuff like that.

9  
10           The second thing that I noticed is the  
11 selection process for RAC members. What I know of the  
12 selection process for RAC members, it's a little too easy  
13 in my opinion for agencies to selected mid-level or even  
14 low-level bureaucrats to decide who sits on these  
15 Resource [sic] Advisory Commissions. And the bureaucrats  
16 aren't accountable to resident -- necessarily accountable  
17 to resident users. Certainly nobody votes for these  
18 bureaucrats, but these bureaucrats play a real key role  
19 in deciding who gets to sit on these Councils and shape  
20 to the extent you guys shape subsistence policy and I  
21 think that's a real weakness.

22  
23           And I've only been in the system for a  
24 year and I don't know what -- how I'll feel if I'm ever  
25 assigned to evaluate hunters. You know, hunters that are  
26 probably more accomplished than I am and I'm supposed to  
27 decide among a group of them to decide which one is the  
28 best one to represent us at a forum like this, and I just  
29 -- as well intended as the bureaucrats are, as  
30 knowledgeable as they are, I just would like to see a  
31 system where there's more local accountability to  
32 resident users. Whether it's dedicating a certain number  
33 of seats or coming up with some type of selection process  
34 that ensures that we get more participation at the local  
35 level.

36  
37           Thank you.

38  
39           CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What is the process  
40 that's used for individuals that have an interest from  
41 the public to become a Regional Advisory Council?

42  
43           MS. ATORUK: Well, we start again this  
44 fall by sending out umpteen tons of applications out to  
45 practically everybody that we have on the list in the  
46 villages, the IRA Councils, the corporations, and asking  
47 them if anyone is interested or if anyone wants to  
48 nominate someone, they have that option to and anyone can  
49 apply for these regions, just as long as they have to be  
50 a resident of the region is the one that they really use

1 and stuff and then they collect all the applications for  
2 each region. There's ten regions in the State and then  
3 from there, they go out.

4  
5           The agencies put a name in to see who  
6 they want on a panel and in the panel, there's a panel  
7 group -- there's a panel in each region. For Northwest,  
8 there's two. For North Slope, there's two. Seward Penn  
9 has either two or three and those are the only ones that  
10 I know because I've worked directly with them.

11  
12           And the coordinator is the facilitator of  
13 the panel members and when the names are given to us,  
14 what I usually do is that I just give them all to the  
15 panel members and say you divvy these up between yourself  
16 to see who you want to interview and write a short report  
17 on the person that you are interviewing and stuff. And  
18 then from then on, then we have a panel meeting. I've  
19 only got involved once in the lifetime that I've worked  
20 for 19 years for this government is this year because  
21 there are about six applicants for Northwest and so I got  
22 involved in interviewing a couple applicants.

23  
24           And then when that is done, a report is  
25 written. There's a template for us to turn in a report  
26 and there's a short -- maybe a paragraph or so written on  
27 each person that has applied. And the panel members rank  
28 the applicants and then they -- when they rank those  
29 applicants, they have to write no or have learned from  
30 their interview if the person is a resident of the  
31 region, a hunter -- subsistence hunter and knows the  
32 State and Fed regulations and all and how his  
33 communication is, the leadership. There's five of them  
34 anyway.

35  
36           And then they rank them -- they rank that  
37 person from that -- from those five things that they have  
38 learned about the person. And we just did a turnover in  
39 the Northwest area where there's one BLM and one Park  
40 Service. We don't have anyone from the Fish and Wildlife  
41 Service. And there used to be and then there hasn't been  
42 one for a while since Mr. Snow left. And I don't know  
43 the reason why and -- because we were never told.

44  
45           So it goes from there and then after --  
46 once a report is turned in, they put them altogether.  
47 Then they have to send those out to the secretaries for  
48 signatures. Then they go to D.C. and then come back and  
49 then we just wait.

50

1                   At first when we first started, they were  
2 coming in -- coming back. The appointees were coming  
3 back us like in October or November. But then as the  
4 years come, now we don't even get them until maybe --  
5 maybe next month. Then they will notify the appointees.  
6 And then they'll be at your winter RAC meetings and  
7 that's as best as I know how -- that I remember the  
8 selection of the Regional Council members for the State.

9  
10                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Barb. Go  
11 ahead, John.

12  
13                   MR. ERLICH: Yeah. I just want to  
14 emphasize though that the real key part of that process  
15 is selecting the bureaucrats to be on the panel. That's  
16 a real big part of the process.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Can you define that,  
19 please.

20  
21                   MR. ERLICH: Well, in other -- under the  
22 American system, when we allocate power, the usual way is  
23 through democratic means where people have an opportunity  
24 to decide where authority and power goes. Well, we don't  
25 have any system like that here when it comes to selection  
26 -- filling the Resource [sic] Advisory Councils and I'm  
27 not saying that we need to go to that type of system.  
28 What I'm saying is that we have a system that's real easy  
29 for bureaucrats to create a Council that they're  
30 comfortable with, that -- they might not do that on  
31 purpose. They could be doing it unconsciously, but I  
32 think you indicate yourself, there's a failure to  
33 communicate -- a.....

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right.

36  
37                   MR. ERLICH: .....persistent failure to  
38 communicate and I think that we need to start looking at  
39 some of the other parts in the regulatory scheme to see  
40 where are other weak spots and these are just a couple  
41 spots that I happened to look at is the selection process  
42 for the RAC members and the educational, life experience  
43 background of top managers.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

46  
47                   MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Tom Kron with the  
48 Office of Subsistence Management. One additional point  
49 just for clarification -- and Barb talked about, you  
50 know, the development of input in the interviews. Those

1 are all done by Staff and the agencies. The -- basically  
2 what goes up is a package then with their thoughts. The  
3 ultimate decision is made by the Secretary of Interior  
4 based on input from the Federal Subsistence Board.  
5 They're the ones that -- you know, ultimately the  
6 Secretary makes the call and -- but again I think, you  
7 know, the points that's been made is, you know, the  
8 earlier input about the candidates, you know, definitely  
9 is a role in the process.

10

11 But again I guess the point I want to  
12 make was it's the Federal Board and ultimately the  
13 Secretary of Interior that makes the call on what the  
14 recommendations are.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Do you  
19 have anything else, John. Any questions for John. Go  
20 ahead, Attamuk.

21

22 ATTAMUK: I just got one, John. Who's on  
23 the panel for our area and how is that panel chosen?

24

25 MR. ERLICH: I've never been on the panel  
26 and I haven't -- I don't think I've been employed here  
27 while the government was looking to fill someone on the  
28 panel. What I based my comments on is a lot of it's just  
29 watching over the years and finding out from people who  
30 got on the RAC what they went through to get on the RAC  
31 and just wondering, you know, what are some of the other  
32 ways that we get local influence, you know, into  
33 something that's supposed to be a local board and not  
34 seeing it. So.....

35

36 MS. ATORUK: Attamuk, is the panel  
37 members are -- names are -- what I understand -- it's not  
38 clear to me, but now you get me curious, is that the  
39 names are submitted for me to read each agency to be on  
40 the panel. And I think it's a Staff committee who goes  
41 out to select people to be on the panel members. And  
42 then I know there's been some squabbles about a lot of  
43 panel members that are on board right now and that might  
44 change this year, is what they were talking about, but  
45 I'm not sure and I don't know.

46

47 But I'll try to find out to see how they  
48 do select panel members for each region and for this  
49 region right now we have two, one from BLM and one from  
50 Park Service and none from Fish and Wildlife Service.

1 So.....

2

3 ATTAMUK: The only answer I get is from  
4 you is one from BLM and one from Park Service and that's  
5 it. No names, huh?

6

7 MS. ATORUK: That's -- we have from Park  
8 Service up here, we have Willie Goodwin and then we have  
9 -- who do we have from BLM? Well, Willie's not here.  
10 But we.....

11

12 MS. JACOBSON: Erica Craig was the panel  
13 representative from BLM that's here I believe.

14

15 MS. ATORUK: Pardon?

16

17 MS. JACOBSON: Erica Craig was our  
18 Wildlife Biologist.....

19

20 MS. ATORUK: Oh, okay.

21

22 MS. JACOBSON: .....who served as a panel  
23 member this year.

24

25 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

26

27 ATTAMUK: Okay. Thank you, Barb. But,  
28 John, I got questions on your earlier comments about your  
29 fire, that you said you had about 49 different fires here  
30 in our region and do you guys control the fire or are you  
31 guys keep them burning. The reason why I said that  
32 before a few years ago when I had meeting with my people  
33 in Maniilaq, they know when fires -- they want the fires  
34 turned off as soon as possible because the agents will  
35 say fire is -- it's good up to a point. The plants grow  
36 back within a few days, yet our main resource of caribou  
37 depend on the moss and it takes 50 years to grow.

38

39 That's why they don't want fires in our  
40 region and I express that, that we need to stop a fire  
41 and it's not coming from me. I had all 11 villages here  
42 in Kotzebue and they're the one that tell me that.

43

44 MR. ERLICH: My experience with fires in  
45 the year that I've been with BLM is I've reported a  
46 couple of them to a desk in Fairbanks and then apparently  
47 it's an InterAgency desk. They decide whose land is the  
48 fire and decide whose responsibility is it to decide  
49 whether they're going to fight the fire or not and I  
50 don't know how they go about making those decisions. I'm

1 thinking that Shelly, my boss, will be able to answer  
2 those questions better than I can, but I do know that  
3 they do oftentimes let fires burn and smolder.

4  
5 MS. JACOBSON: Yeah. There's a fire  
6 management plan and I don't know how often it gets  
7 totally overhauled, but we review it every year and they  
8 put different areas, you know, into limited, modified, or  
9 full critical protection and typically, you know, it's --  
10 surrounding the village is critical and then it moves on  
11 to, you know, grades out to full and then modified and  
12 limited out in the areas further away from primarily  
13 communities, but within those, there's often -- you know,  
14 Native allotments still get the critical protection. But  
15 I do understand, Attamuk, about the concern about the  
16 burning up too much of the caribous' habitat and in  
17 particular we're working with the Park Service employee  
18 that used to be an employee of ours who's working on his  
19 graduate project to try to help us develop a fire  
20 management plan for the Nulato Hills area, the critical  
21 winter habitat for the Western Arctic Herd, and try to  
22 identify some acreage figures maybe that we could work  
23 with so that over a period of time if we -- we're getting  
24 too many acres burned, we could move that into a modified  
25 or full protection and start suppressing even though  
26 otherwise at the moment now, it would be in limited.

27  
28 And this summer too, they did -- because  
29 -- I can't remember if it was like Ambler or Shungnak,  
30 but there was a fire real close to one of those  
31 communities I believe and that had to be of course  
32 suppressed and I think everything went okay on that, but  
33 BLM does the firefighting for the northern half of the  
34 State no matter whose land on it's on, but as John said,  
35 we do -- the landowner has a responsibility through the  
36 planning process to say what they want in terms of  
37 burning or not.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Attamuk.

40  
41 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Attamuk here again.  
42 Yeah. On that control fire they had this summer and a  
43 few years ago, is there possible you could forward it to  
44 me because I want to look at it more because I've been  
45 looking at and watching Noatak and different places that  
46 burned -- when they burn, when they're migrating, they  
47 can send it to avoid the burned area or when they go  
48 through the burned area, they just keep -- I mean them  
49 caribou could move when they want to move. And maybe  
50 this control fire is changing the migrating -- burn by

1 Ambler like you said and they're crossing above Ambler.  
2 That's also affecting us here and it's hurting us. So  
3 that's telling us something, if you really think about  
4 it. Control fire affects our migration of the caribou  
5 also is one of the impacts natural.

6

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others.

11

12

(No comments)

13

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CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If I remember in the '80s and '90s, BLM went through this region holding village meetings in regards to the issue of firefighting, how classifications were being made to critical, full protection, modified, and limited which means to let burn. And a majority of the communities in this region had indicated that anything close to the community would have a quick response from BLM.

As it further moves out away from the community, then they'd determine to watch which direction, how much is burning, whether it will get into the critical area. And the other is the area that let burn is a way -- further away from the community. Some of the discussion points, if I remember, from the community members were this is part of our only employment that we have on an annual basis. Where fire will not have a big impact, we'd like to see BLM let burn until such time that we can get crews into those areas for firefighting. And that was -- those were the discussions that occurred in the late '80s and early '90s if I remember. So that's why there's a fire management plan in place, that BLM or Shelly's referencing today.

Unless people say we want to change that, then, you know, it can change, but if it changes, then it's also comes with responsibility which means as a landowner then we have no choice but to pay for the cost of firefighting. Then what happens to the allotment owners. Where do they fit in. And these are some of the issues that we also need to consider and talk about if there's to be changes on how the system is set up. And I think it's critically important that if there's any changes that needs to be made, then there's got to be a good discussion for the communities to have along with other issues that can be put on the agenda for

1 discussion. I think it'd be an ideal thing to do to have  
2 some good discussion at the village level on these very  
3 issues hopefully this coming year.

4

5 Any other questions/comments for John.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
10 John. Let's take a quite ten-minute break and we'll come  
11 back at ten of -- or eight of.

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (On record)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Let us reconvene,  
18 please, the meeting. We'll go down to listen to the  
19 State of Alaska at this time.

20

21 Go ahead, Jim.

22

23 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and  
24 members of the Committee.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Can we quiet down.  
27 We're having a presentation. Go ahead.

28

29 MR. MAGDANZ: I work with the Division of  
30 Subsistence, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and  
31 Charlotte Westing here is with Wildlife Conservation.  
32 She'll have a presentation after mine.

33

34 I wanted to respond just briefly to a  
35 comment that Mr. Karmun made earlier about the chum  
36 bycatch studies for the Committee's information, the  
37 National Marine Fisheries Service and the North Pacific  
38 Fisheries Management Council are actually in the process  
39 of evaluating non-chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering  
40 Sea. They're writing a regulatory impact review and  
41 environmental impact statement right now. It'll be  
42 released to the public I believe in January for comment.  
43 So there is an opportunity coming up -- may actually be  
44 open during your winter meeting -- to make comments on  
45 the proposals to regulate non-chinook salmon bycatch in  
46 the Bering Sea. So that's something just to put on the  
47 back burner for now, but it's in process.

48

49 I'll talk first about a couple projects  
50 that we have that are continuing. We're continuing a

1 project that's funded the Office of Subsistence  
2 Management that looks at patterns and trends in  
3 subsistence fisheries harvest in Northwest. We submitted  
4 an annual report in May and we're continuing to do  
5 analysis and write-up in that project.

6  
7                   We have pending reports on subsistence  
8 harvest in Kivalina and Buckland that are underway. The  
9 analysis is done. The write-up is underway. We have a  
10 proposed comprehensive survey in one community in  
11 Northwest Alaska. At this point, we believe it will be  
12 Selawik. We've talked to the administrator there.  
13 They're interested. That is funded by the Minerals  
14 Management Service through the Northwest Arctic Borough  
15 and also by the Fish and Wildlife Service which is  
16 providing funds for local involvement in that.

17  
18                   We're continuing as we have for 12 years  
19 Western Arctic Caribou Herd surveys and they're called a  
20 caribou survey, but they're really about all big game.  
21 We ask about moose and bear and wolf and wolverine. We  
22 usually visit three or four communities a year in  
23 Northwest Alaska, both 22 and 23. In 2010, we did  
24 surveys in Noorvik, Ambler, Kobuk, and Shishmaref. In  
25 2011, our tentative communities are Deering and then  
26 several Seward Peninsula communities, Golovin and Elim,  
27 Shaktoolik and Unalakleet.

28  
29                   We've been talking with the National Park  
30 Service about getting support from them that would  
31 actually increase the number of communities that are  
32 involved in this to nine. We're -- concerned is the  
33 wrong word, but we're aware that the Western Arctic Herd  
34 has been at high levels for a long time and what we want  
35 to try to do is get as much documentation of caribou  
36 harvest right now so that if there comes a time when the  
37 herd declines, then we have some good information about  
38 the levels of use of caribou. So we see that program  
39 expanding over the next several years, which I think is  
40 a good thing. We'll even have some communities where  
41 we'll have three years of sequential harvest estimates.

42  
43                   There's also a project that's associated  
44 with the Selawik survey. It's a Western -- Northwest  
45 Alaska Subsistence Bibliography project where we had a  
46 college intern that BLM paid for that the IRA provided to  
47 us this summer for about three weeks that scanned and  
48 entered a bunch of old subsistence reports that were in  
49 our files that were not available to all the agencies.  
50 The goal is to come up with an electronic collection of

1 articles about subsistence that the borough could use in  
2 its planning process, that the other agencies could use  
3 in responding, for example, to requests for permits and  
4 other issues. So that will also be part of this  
5 Northwest Arctic Borough MMS Fish and Wildlife project.

6  
7 And close I want to show you a project  
8 that we have recently finished. We have -- two years ago  
9 we -- well, a year and a half ago in February of 2008, we  
10 surveyed households in Kivalina and Noatak as part of our  
11 Comprehensive Survey Program in July. In August, we  
12 published the final report on that. We mailed it out.  
13 Some of you may have been on the mailing list for this  
14 report and I have more copies. If anyone would like the  
15 full report, it's also available online.

16  
17 Just last week, we mailed out to the  
18 households in Kivalina and Noatak summaries of the  
19 results of that study, so I know Mr. Burns said that they  
20 received those in Noatak. Mr. Swan has said they're  
21 still on their way to Kivalina, but they should out there  
22 soon. I put some on the back table. I see most of them  
23 are gone now, so if people would like copies of these, I  
24 can print more and like I say, the report is available on  
25 the Web and you can look at it there or just call me and  
26 I'll get a copy -- a hard copy to you.

27  
28 I appreciate the Council's support over  
29 the years and it's been a pleasure working with you and,  
30 Mr. Chairman, if there are any questions, I'll do my  
31 best.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: (In Inupiat) Any  
34 questions from the Council members.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Jim.

39  
40 MS. WESTING: Well, good afternoon, Mr.  
41 Chair, and members of the Council. I'm Charlotte  
42 Westing. I'm the Area Biologist for the Alaska  
43 Department of Fish and Game. I live and work here in  
44 Kotzebue. And I'll just give you a little update of what  
45 we've been up to since we last got together in February.

46  
47  
48 So I guess for starters, I'll mention  
49 that the caribou count came out. When we last met, those  
50 photographs were being counted by Don Williams up in

1 Ambler. So he -- we released the count of 401,000  
2 caribou. You all probably saw that on the front of  
3 Caribou Trails. The last -- the previous count in 2007  
4 was 377,000. So we're not interpreting this as an  
5 increase in the herd. That change encompasses what is  
6 reasonable ability -- accuracy in counting that herd. So  
7 we're considering it to be probably stable right now.

8  
9 So that information came out and that was  
10 really -- everybody was waiting to see what that would  
11 reveal. And then John mentioned that we did moose  
12 surveys on Upper Noatak. That was a cooperative effort  
13 with the National Park Service, BLM, U.S. Fish and  
14 Wildlife Service, and the Department of Fish and Game.  
15 We focused our efforts upstream of the Kalaktovik (ph)  
16 and we saw about 150 moose. We knew we wouldn't see very  
17 many.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Which area?

20  
21 MS. WESTING: Upstream of Kalaktovik on  
22 the Noatak.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: How do you say it?

25  
26 MS. WESTING: It's downstream of the  
27 Numiaktuk (ph).

28  
29 MR. SHULTS: Kovaluktuk (ph).

30  
31 MS. WESTING: No.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No.

34  
35 REPORTER: How do you spell it?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: How do you spell it?

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 MS. WESTING: I'll have to look.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, that's okay. Go  
44 ahead.

45  
46 MS. WESTING: Okay. Well, anyway, it's  
47 about 4,500 square miles and we knew that the moose  
48 densities would be really low up there and that is indeed  
49 what we found. 0.03 moose per square miles. What is the  
50 pronunciation?

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICES: (Indiscernible)  
2  
3 MS. WESTING: No. It's above.....  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Which side from.....  
6  
7 MS. WESTING: It's.....  
8  
9 MR. SHULTS: On the north side. It's the  
10 river between the Kougarok and Numiaktuk.  
11  
12 MS. WESTING: Yeah. In between the  
13 Kougarok and Numiaktuk. Yeah.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.  
16  
17 MS. WESTING: Okay.  
18  
19 ATTAMUK: It's in the Noatak River.  
20 Let's just put it that way.  
21  
22 MS. WESTING: I just should have left it  
23 at the Upper Noatak. Okay. Anyway, the point is it's a  
24 very low density moose area. We knew that already. We  
25 hadn't looked at it before. With an extensive geospatial  
26 population estimate, so it just basically kind of  
27 confirmed our assumptions and what people have told us  
28 about that area and it's something that we'll look at  
29 relatively infrequently, probably once every ten years or  
30 something like that. We focus more effort in areas that  
31 experience more hunting pressure and just have higher  
32 moose densities.  
33  
34 Another thing that happened is the State  
35 -- we did twinning surveys and we focused those on the  
36 Lower Kobuk this year, mainly on the Lower Kobuk Delta  
37 and basically what you're looking for is just you're  
38 looking for cows that have dropped their calves and then  
39 you want to see what the proportion is of cows that have  
40 twins and cows that have singles. And that is not so  
41 much a measure of parturition or it's not supposed to be  
42 giving you any indication of how many calves are being  
43 produced. It's more of an indicator of habitat. And so  
44 it's something that we're entertaining looking at, just  
45 a way to assess moose habitat in Unit 23. So it's kind  
46 of a pilot project this year. We saw 18 percent for a  
47 twinning rate and that basically tells us -- it can't  
48 tell us very much with just one year of data and just  
49 looking at one area and our sample sizes were kind of  
50 smaller than we'd like, but we're trying to refine a

1 technique that would help us tell if we may be on the  
2 verge of a moose crash that's relative to habitat and 18  
3 percent is considered is very -- is considered healthy so  
4 -- or just that you don't have a problem on either end.

5  
6 So anyways, like I said, that -- you  
7 can't learn that much from twinning surveys. When you  
8 have just one year of data, it's -- you can hardly learn  
9 anything at all, but it was pilot project and something  
10 that we're looking at to try to just understand the  
11 things that drive changes in moose populations.

12  
13 So this fall we're talking about where  
14 we're going to spend our time doing fall composition and  
15 when we do fall composition surveys, we're looking for  
16 bull/cow ratios primarily and then also calf/cow ratios.  
17 And so we're going to be getting together next week to  
18 talk about where we focus those efforts and then also  
19 where we're going to focus our spring geo-spatial effort.

20  
21  
22 So that's all I have to say about moose.  
23 Are there any questions about moose?

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: None. Go ahead.

30  
31 MS. WESTING: Okay. Then I'll move on to  
32 muskox. The Seward Peninsula muskox population is looked  
33 at every couple years and this year was -- well, this  
34 last spring, it was time to do a Seward Peninsula muskox  
35 population estimate. And this year, we embarked upon a  
36 new approach and that was done with the cooperators and  
37 different agencies. The Park Service, BLM, U.S. Fish and  
38 Wildlife Service, and Fish and Game all worked on a new  
39 method this year which gives us confidence intervals or  
40 just a way to measure our precision with our estimate.  
41 And before we were just looking at that population using  
42 what we call minimum count.

43  
44 So you lay your eyes on as many muskox as  
45 you can and you know you got at least that. Well, this  
46 is a sampling technique that is supposed to help us get  
47 an estimate and then understand what range that  
48 population probably falls in. And so the result of that  
49 survey was about 3,400 muskox. If you compare that to  
50 our last minimum count which I really caution doing that

1 comparison because it's two different techniques, the  
2 last time it was looked at it was 3,100. So the growth  
3 of that population has likely slowed down quite a bit and  
4 who knows if it's stable or it's still increasing. Again  
5 since you can't compare the two, it's hard to tell that,  
6 but we're trying to make our way of estimating that  
7 population more sensitive so we can detect those changes  
8 a little better.

9  
10 So then after we get that estimate Seward  
11 Peninsula wide, we can break down each specific area  
12 because there are different hunting regimes that are  
13 experienced in each of those different areas, and we can  
14 get estimates for each of those different areas. And so  
15 for 23 Southwest, which is the area west of the Buckland  
16 Drainage, we had just a slight decline from the last  
17 count which was again the minimum count. And so that  
18 wasn't what was the concern with the -- and why the quota  
19 changed a bit this year. What drove the decision for the  
20 quota is the fact that I've observed a change in the  
21 bull/cow ratios in the population down there. And so,  
22 you know, previous to Tier II -- so the hunting history  
23 on this population was that when it was in Tier II, a  
24 pretty small proportion of the permits that were issued  
25 to Tier II applicants were ever filled and when Tier --  
26 when it changed from Tier II to Tier I and we went to a  
27 registration system, we knew we would probably have to  
28 make some adjustments along the way because we didn't  
29 really have a way of anticipating how many people were  
30 going to be going out to hunt. And with that -- with the  
31 registration system, people -- any Alaska resident can  
32 partake in that hunt and we just really didn't know what  
33 to anticipate.

34  
35 Our permits are not issued online. You  
36 can only pick them up in Kotzebue, Buckland, or Deering.  
37 So that's one limitation on the number of users that can  
38 participate in that hunt. But we knew that it would  
39 probably be very popular and there probably would be a  
40 lot of people coming out to take part in that hunt. So  
41 the first two years of that hunt, there were 16 animals  
42 that were on the quota. The first year, we just said,  
43 well, we've got 16 and we'll let them go -- we'll just  
44 see how it all plays out. Well, all 16 of those were  
45 taken by early December.

46  
47 And so what we learned from that  
48 experience and then from talking to people down Buckland  
49 and Deering is that a lot of people were holding off  
50 hunting until they got some snow cover so they could use

1 a snowmachine and so they could maybe take a cow. So Ken  
2 and I got together and we talked about that and decided  
3 that we should use a split quota. So we have a portion  
4 of the quota available in the fall, a portion of it  
5 available in the spring. So in 2009, that's what we did.

6  
7 And we had eight animals available in the  
8 fall and then four available in the spring. And so last  
9 year, instead of it closing the first week of December,  
10 it went all the way through the entire season. We had  
11 animals up until the very last day.

12  
13 So we did consider that as a better way  
14 to go and just providing opportunity for everybody and  
15 we're just trying to make these little adjustments as we  
16 go. So I didn't see anything concerning with the  
17 population estimate down in Unit 23, but in 2002, we had  
18 46 bulls per 100 cows. Then in 2008, we had 37 bulls per  
19 100 cows. 2009, we had 22 bulls per 100 cows and then  
20 this year in 2010, when I looked at it in March, it was  
21 down to 19 bulls per 100 cows.

22  
23 So there's a concern that maybe we're  
24 taking those mature bulls in a way that's not sustainable  
25 and we needed to make some adjustments. And so that is  
26 what -- what we did is just decide to reduce our harvest  
27 rate since our population estimate hadn't changed. We  
28 have the flexibility to use an up to 8 percent harvest  
29 rate. We decided we need to use a more conservative  
30 harvest rate. And so that's how the quota got reduced  
31 this year.

32  
33 I talked with Ron Moto -- well, Ken and  
34 I talk and we've talked with Ron. I talk with Delbert  
35 and then I also put together a piece of paper that was  
36 issued to everybody who picked up a permit just  
37 explaining the details of that hunt. But I probably  
38 should have gotten on the phone with Percy and just  
39 explained that to him and I regret that I didn't do that  
40 because that did probably come as a shock when the quota  
41 was reduced.

42  
43 But that's the history of why that  
44 happened. We're just trying to make sure that that hunt  
45 is going in sustainable way. So -- and I anticipate that  
46 -- you know, we know that there's interchange with other  
47 surrounding units to 23 Southwest and I anticipate and  
48 I've heard some reports already that there are more bulls  
49 that have trickled in and filled in. And so we can  
50 respond to that and increase our quota again next year in

1 response to that. But the bottom line is we just need to  
2 make sure that this is -- it's sustainable.

3

4                   And one of the hunters that took an  
5 animal this fall was from Deering and one was from  
6 Buckland. The other two were from Kotzebue and the  
7 remainder of the quota will be available after the first  
8 of January.

9

10                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I didn't know that  
11 Muskox trickled in.

12

13                   (Laughter)

14

15                   MS. WESTING: They do. Especially bulls.  
16 They like to find new areas and move around, so.....

17

18                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's got to be  
19 something behind it.

20

21                   (Laughter)

22

23                   MS. WESTING: Yeah, something behind it.  
24 So that's the story on that. We're going to continue to  
25 keep a close eye on the composition of those animals in  
26 Unit 23. We also look at it for the Cape Thompson  
27 population. So I'll be doing that again in the spring.

28

29                   But additionally, the Park Service and  
30 BLM and Fish and Game are talking about doing a  
31 comprehensive survey of the muskox and the Cape Thompson  
32 population. So there's been talk for a long time about  
33 the fact that population -- we have a traditional core  
34 area that we sample year after year after year, and if  
35 you just look at that core, it looks like maybe the  
36 numbers of muskox in that population are declining.

37

38                   But while we've been watching that  
39 decline, we've also been watching more and more animals  
40 move outside of the core and we've been seeing more and  
41 more incidental observations of muskox outside of that  
42 core, just spreading into 26A, north of the Brooks Range,  
43 and then also spreading into the Upper Noatak. So we  
44 don't know how much of that's happening and how much of  
45 what we're seeing with the population can be attributed  
46 to that and we all want to get a handle on that, but it's  
47 going to be pretty difficult to do because we're talking  
48 about a real low density population, a huge area with  
49 relatively few muskox if you look at Seward Peninsula and  
50 the density of muskox down there compared with the area

1 that we're talking about Cape Thompson. It's quite a bit  
2 different.

3  
4 But we're exploring techniques and we're  
5 planning to do that work this spring. We'll be basing  
6 our Kotzebue fair portion of that basing out of Red Dog  
7 for a portion of that and so that's an InterAgency effort  
8 that we're working on.

9  
10 Additionally, next year the Park Service  
11 will be leading sheep surveys and the Fish and Game will  
12 be involved on that in both the Baird Mountains and the  
13 DeLong Mountains, so we'll be looking forward to  
14 collecting that information.

15  
16 And Jim couldn't be here today. He's  
17 radiotracking. Jim Dau is the caribou biologist for the  
18 Department of Fish and Game. So he regrets he regrets  
19 that he couldn't attend, but we went to Onion Portage  
20 this year. We had some Park Service folk and some Fish  
21 and Wildlife representative there too and we put out  
22 numerous collars. We had two groups of kids come out.  
23 Shishmaref and Golovin came and joined us this year. It  
24 was a real successful effort. It was -- we had the same  
25 troubles that everybody else has had as far as finding  
26 bulls and not many animals crossing at Onion Portage, so  
27 it slowed down our sampling efforts. But it was pretty  
28 phenomenal weather. I mean it was hot just didn't really  
29 feel that much like fall and we think that's a big part  
30 of what we saw. So.....

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: They're crossing like  
33 heck now.

34  
35 MS. WESTING: Yeah. So we're continuing  
36 to do short yearling counts in the spring, calving  
37 surveys, and we'll be doing fall composition work this  
38 fall on caribou as well. So I'll take any questions if  
39 you all have them.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor.

42  
43 MR. KARMUN: Did you hear any reports of  
44 wolves up and down the Kobuk River corridor by any  
45 chance?

46  
47 MS. WESTING: Well, you told me about  
48 some.

49  
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. KARMUN: Well, I know. That's why  
2 I'm asking. I was just.....

3  
4 MS. WESTING: I've heard from you. I  
5 haven't heard from others. Jim may have heard from  
6 others, but he hasn't talked to me about it, so I'm not  
7 sure.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I flew the other day  
10 with the protection officer and we saw a herd of caribou  
11 moving south. On top of that, we saw wolves on top of  
12 the mountains looking at caribou. So they're following.

13  
14  
15 Any other questions for the State.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Just based on the  
20 discussions that I've heard to this point, I think there  
21 has been a lack of -- in regards to communication with  
22 Buckland. I think what you folks need to do is to make  
23 sure that you provide adequate information in regards to  
24 the changes that were made. That's were Percy was coming  
25 from.

26  
27 MS. WESTING: Uh-huh.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think if you folks  
30 can make sure that you communicate that to them, then  
31 there will be some understanding of why those changes  
32 were being made. So I think you need to make sure that  
33 that occurs.

34  
35 MS. WESTING: Yes, Mr. Chair. I agree  
36 and I think since the majority of the animals in 23  
37 Southwest are right by Deering, it's easy to kind of  
38 forget that Buckland as a real strong interest in them as  
39 well and they do have some around Buckland as well, but  
40 most of the hunting pressure is around Deering and most  
41 of the animals are around Deering and most of the people  
42 I hear from are from Deering. It's easy for me to just  
43 kind of get wrapped up in Deering. So I regret that and  
44 I'll do better with Percy. Hopefully he can forgive me.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, what you're  
47 doing, the intent of it is good and I can -- and that  
48 should be a plus for Buckland because of allocation for  
49 the winter when you hunt. You know, the summertime, it's  
50 pretty hard to try to try get up and through the tundra

1 to try to hunt. I mean walk, that's a long walk.  
2 Packing, that's a lot of burden on the back. And I see  
3 why you folks are trying to make an allocation to a time  
4 when they had better access by snowmachine. And I think  
5 it's something that as long as it was communicated and as  
6 long as people can understand why, then they'd say yep,  
7 that's what we wanted.

8

9 Any other comments/questions for Jim  
10 or.....

11

12 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Go ahead,  
15 Percy.

16

17 MR. BALLOT: I just wanted to say I  
18 appreciate all that stuff. I know that was being  
19 communicated to but I wanted her to know and anybody  
20 to know that the Native Village of Buckland has a set  
21 schedule for meetings and that's always the third Tuesday  
22 of each month. If there is anything that goes on with  
23 our resources or issues that are happening, anybody's  
24 always free to come and share with us whatever they can.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Percy.

27

28 MR. BALLOT: The other part is I had a  
29 comment today. One of the guys there, Jim Galvin, he  
30 says what's the chances of the State or Feds considering  
31 having Deering take all the Federal permits that are  
32 allotted and Buckland gets the State permits or something  
33 like that. Is that a workable solution or something to  
34 be discussed down the line?

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead and respond.

37

38 MS. WESTING: Percy, I'm open to talking  
39 about any option and I mentioned that to Ken. Ken and I  
40 have a great working relationship and we'll entertain any  
41 idea and that doesn't mean we can do anything, but we can  
42 sure talk about it. So I encourage people to share those  
43 with us. That's how we ended up with a split quota in  
44 the first place was from people telling us that -- you  
45 know, that they missed out on hunting because they were  
46 waiting for snow conditions and so, you know, we decided  
47 to try to do something and we'll continue to evolve to  
48 try to make this work for folks. So just keep in touch.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: A follow-up to that. All

1 the animals that were supposed to be caught are all  
2 caught and it's closed now until January, right?

3

4 MS. WESTING: That's correct, Percy.  
5 Starting January 1st, the hunt will open again and  
6 hopefully there will be great snow for traveling.

7

8 MR. BALLOT: All right. Males or  
9 females?

10

11 MS. WESTING: Yes. It'll be any muskox  
12 at that point.

13

14 MR. BALLOT: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other  
17 comments/questions for the State.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hearing, seeing none,  
22 thank you very much for your report.

23

24 And we'll go to Aukulruk Refuge.  
25 Aukulruk Refuge (ph). LeeAnne. Aukulruk is Selawik,  
26 that's the name in Eskimo. Go ahead.

27

28 MS. AYRES: Good afternoon. Thank you  
29 for some time on the agenda, and one thing I've learned  
30 from being last on the agenda, it's best to be short and  
31 brief. There are just a few topics that I'd like to  
32 touch on.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Actually you don't  
35 have to be short and brief.

36

37 MS. AYRES: Oh, okay. Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We can set up an  
40 evening session if that's what it needs.

41

42 MS. AYRES: Well, I saw when Barb started  
43 doing the dishes and turning the lights out, I figured  
44 I'd better step up the pace here, but I'm.....

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MS. ATORUK: Well, everybody will take  
49 off right after the meeting and not help me.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, as long as we're  
2 in this building, we'll keep it open.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MS. ATORUK: I have to do it during.  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 MS. AYRES: Well, the first thing I'd  
10 like to do for our presentation is to introduce Ann  
11 Orlando, our new Wildlife Biologist. We're really  
12 excited to have her come and join us. She comes from  
13 Iglookik and she lives.....

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Where?

16  
17 MS. AYRES: Iglookik in.....

18  
19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Nunavut in Canada.

20  
21 MS. AYRES: .....the high Canadian Arctic  
22 in Nunavut where she was working on a polar bear project  
23 with the government there and the Inuit community. So --  
24 she also hails from Davis where she got her Ph.d.  
25 landscape ecology.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Welcome to our  
28 Kotzebue.

29  
30 MS. AYRES: Welcome to Kotzebue, yes, and  
31 to our staff. We're excited to have her as a new  
32 addition. She brings with her kind of a great background  
33 of field experience working with large mammals and she  
34 also has quite a bit of experience in GIS and a lot of  
35 the other programs we use for analyzing our data.

36  
37 One of the first projects we're tasking  
38 her with as she starts getting familiar with the region  
39 and people in the communities around the Refuge is to  
40 work on a priority topic for the Western Arctic Herd  
41 Working Group and that was looking at winter habitat  
42 range for caribou. One of the challenges has been coming  
43 up with ways of monitoring snow conditions on the winter  
44 range. This has been something that Jim Dau with Fish  
45 and Game has been asking the Refuge to kind of take part  
46 in looking at some of these habitat issues. So that's  
47 kind of one of her first projects we're tasking her with.  
48 So and I'm sure there'll be a number of others that  
49 she'll be reporting back to the Council on.

50

1                   So with that, the area project, we'd like  
2 to share with you and Brandon is going to be talking  
3 about our fisheries work, but first we're going to take  
4 a little break from data and agency stuff and do  
5 something that was a fun -- kind of fun project and  
6 program that's going on outside of Selawik. And Linda's  
7 helping with a PowerPoint presentation and this is a  
8 presentation that we're actually presenting for the  
9 Village of Selawik.

10

11                   The Native Village of Selawik puts on a  
12 science culture camp and this kind of a celebration of  
13 the eighth year of this camp. Hannah Loon actually  
14 started the program and the Refuge has been involved with  
15 supporting it and participating in it for each year.

16

17                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Let's watch the flick.

18

19                   MS. AYRES: Hit the flick.

20

21                   (Movie presentation)

22

23                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I only can say that I  
24 wish that there could be some other cultural camps like  
25 this elsewhere.

26

27                   Thank you for that.

28

29                   MS. AYRES: Oh, well, thank you for  
30 letting us share it with you. Like I say, this really is  
31 for and from the Village of Selawik. I think that's one  
32 of the things that makes this camp really special is that  
33 it's just such a community event. You know, we really  
34 appreciate, you know, having our staff be able to go out  
35 and learn and participate with them and, you know,  
36 providing the funding for it is a role we play, but the  
37 work of the camp and the thing that makes it a success  
38 are really -- is really the community and the village  
39 there. So anyway I'm glad I was able to share it.  
40 That's always fun to see -- always makes me feel good to  
41 see -- especially those kids out there with the fish and  
42 working on the projects with the elders.

43

44                   I think the next thing I'd like to do is  
45 pass the mic over to Brandon, our Wildlife Biologist here  
46 in Kotzebue, and have him kind of update you on some of  
47 our fisheries projects and other things that were going  
48 on with the Refuge this summer.

49

50                   MR. SAITO: Mr. Chair and the Board. The

1 first thing I want to talk about is swan banding. The  
2 last year of swan banding went on this year. I think the  
3 Fish and Game also participated, but it was also looking  
4 for avian influenza and they haven't had any reported  
5 cases yet, so that's -- but that was a completion of that  
6 project.

7  
8                   And then I wanted to talk about the  
9 sheefish project which you guys have in the handout  
10 there. This is a new project that was actually -- it's  
11 actually kind of neat. I was just talking to John. He  
12 was asking about if all the telemetry we do can go into  
13 brackish water and that's actually kind of the reason for  
14 this project is because all the telemetry can go through  
15 the freshwater on the rivers, but when it gets into the  
16 brackish lakes, the signals attenuate and so we can't  
17 track them under the ice or in the water to see what they  
18 actually do and where they move. And so this study was  
19 brought to us from UAF and also partnering with the  
20 Native Village of Kotzebue and USGS and their Fairbanks  
21 Fish and Wildlife Office to track the fish during  
22 their -- see what their winter movements are through  
23 Selawik and Kobuk Lake and to describe the habitat and,  
24 you know, the depths and how the two populations mingle  
25 with each other.

26  
27                   So this -- the map shows the locations of  
28 these sonar receivers and they're spaced out based on  
29 traditional fishing spots and Alex Wagon had provided.  
30 And there were 20 receivers placed out there and they're  
31 about five feet tall so that -- and they were placed at  
32 depth so that they wouldn't be damaged by the ice. And  
33 we put out 160 transmitters, 80 in Kobuk and 80 in  
34 Selawik and so this spring we'll -- after the ice goes  
35 out, we'll go and pick up the receivers -- or the --  
36 yeah, the receivers and be able to download the data and  
37 then this will be the completion of the first year and  
38 then there'll be one more year after that.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions for  
41 Brandon.

42  
43                   (No comments)

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, very much,  
46 Brandon, for the report. Certainly something that be  
47 interesting to watch and see the movement of the fish.

48  
49                   Do you have any plans at all maybe to  
50 looking at setting a couple of those maybe up on the

1 Upper Kobuk part of our area just to try to determine,  
2 see what -- as far as fish is concerned if they continue  
3 because I understand the Paw (ph) River is starting to  
4 get quite a bit of beaver dams. So if that's the case,  
5 that is a spawning area of the sheefish. And it's  
6 something that we certainly need to look at and making  
7 sure that that spawning area is protected and I think  
8 that's why I was asking if there's any way that you're  
9 going to do this as well.

10

11 MR. SAITO: Yes. And it's actually being  
12 done. The other telemetry that we have been using, the  
13 radiotrack and we've been flying over and seeing where  
14 they are and so then I'm waiting for that data right now  
15 actually to see what they did this year, but yeah.  
16 They've been okay so far.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Any  
19 comments/questions for Brandon.

20

21 MR. SWAN: I have a question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

24

25 MR. SWAN: I've never heard of sheefish  
26 anywhere else but in this area. Is this the only area  
27 that has sheefish in the State of Alaska?

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No.

30

31 MR. SAITO: No. Yeah, the Yukon and --  
32 yeah, and all over Canada, so.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

35

36 (No comment)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Brandon.

39

40 MR. SAITO: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: LeeAnne.

43

44 MS. AYRES: One of the issues that you  
45 brought up early in the discussions that you asked us to  
46 kind of try and address was one of the ones regarding  
47 temperature changes and different things that we're  
48 seeing as far as climate change issues going and actually  
49 Alex Whiting with the Native Village of Kotzebue is doing  
50 some really exciting work herein Kotzebue Sound. And

1 we're looking at kind of partnering with him to expand  
2 what he's doing.

3  
4                   One of the things that we're seeing  
5 overall in some of the areas or one of the concerns is  
6 changes in warming temperatures that might lead to some  
7 of the issues with seeing more disease in fish. The  
8 other thing that Alex kind of observed and we've seen in  
9 the region before are algae blooms in Kobuk Lake and  
10 Selawik Lake. So that's one of the things right now he's  
11 working with the school in Kotzebue here to do some  
12 sampling out in Kobuk Lake. We hope to kind of help  
13 expand that and start looking at some of those issues  
14 both in Selawik Lake and on the Refuge.

15  
16                   The other topic that I'd like to bring up  
17 and update the Council on is in regard to the Selawik's  
18 management plan. We're in the process of revising our  
19 1987 Comprehensive Conservation Plan which is kind of the  
20 strategic plan laying out the direction of management on  
21 the Refuge.

22  
23                   In 2008 and '09, about this time in 2008,  
24 we went around to the villages are the surrounding and  
25 within the Refuge and asked kind of basically about, you  
26 know, the issues and things that were going on on the  
27 Refuge that they'd like to see addressed and about the  
28 current management of the Refuge and any changes that  
29 were needed there. And out of those meetings came a  
30 number of key planning issues that the Refuge addressed  
31 and that we've just finished putting together the draft  
32 management plan.

33  
34                   Right now, it's currently at the printers  
35 and will be coming back out and we'll be going back out  
36 to the communities with that plan and the alternatives  
37 that are involved in it. The actual comment deadline for  
38 the plan is January 15th. In addition to the plan being  
39 mailed out -- the whole big thick plan being mailed out  
40 to people on the mailing list, there's also going to be  
41 a summary of it and the actual kind of management  
42 alternatives and the preferred actions that the Agency's  
43 proposing that will go out in kind of a short, easy-to-  
44 read form to all the box holders in the region.

45  
46                   And I'd just like to just touch on some  
47 of the management alternatives and these are kind of the  
48 key issues that if you were reading the plan that you'd  
49 be looking for or looking at how the Agency responded to  
50 them. And the first one includes areas that are open to

1 permitting commercial operations, primarily guides and  
2 transporters. I won't go into detail on them unless, you  
3 know, maybe after I'm done if you'd like me to talk more  
4 about what those alternatives are, I'd be glad to, but  
5 let just run through the laundry list of planning issues  
6 that are involved in the management plan.

7  
8                   The next issue involves -- alternative or  
9 planning issue involves shared service and community  
10 buildings in Selawik and Noorvik; ATV use on Refuge;  
11 winter trail marking; managing and maintaining shelter  
12 cabins in the Sugarik Ridge and the Hot Springs Cabin;  
13 dogsled racing; and Willie Goodwin, R.G. Ferguson  
14 Memorial Snowmachine Race. And all of those have either  
15 kind of the current or the no action alternative, a  
16 preferred alternative, and then another alternative  
17 that's -- you know, that were some of the ideas that came  
18 up for discussion.

19  
20                   I think probably the overall change in  
21 the management or differences from the plan that was done  
22 in '87 involve really -- a big emphasis on partnerships.  
23 Like an example is with the winter trail marking of  
24 working with the borough and the Native landowners to  
25 actually come up with a system that works for folks in  
26 the region and maintain that. Another example is with  
27 shared service and community buildings, of looking at  
28 ways that we can work together to meet some of the  
29 education and resource needs and facilities that are  
30 needed by the community and the villages rather than  
31 doing something on the Agency on its own.

32  
33                   So I think that's kind of a thread that  
34 we heard from the communities and that seems to be at the  
35 management direction that we'll be going is basically on  
36 all of our programs, working with partners in the  
37 communities that are around the Refuge and the region.  
38 That's probably it on our management plan topics. Like  
39 I said, we'll be going back out to the villages, Kiana,  
40 Noorvik, Buckland, Selawik, and here in Kotzebue this  
41 winter to kind of talk more individually with the  
42 communities about some of these topics.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions for  
45 LeeAnne.

46  
47                   (No comments)

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any comments.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
4 LeeAnne, for your presentation. First of all, I want to  
5 thank you for a good report and I think this should be a  
6 good model for all the agencies to look at and to follow  
7 through in regards to how the Agency does its  
8 relationship work with the community of Selawik that is  
9 within the Refuge. These folks communicate well. That's  
10 why you see the film on the -- where that relationship  
11 certainly is to target the kids in regards to the  
12 education side of the picture. And not only that, there  
13 are meetings with the community and that's why when the  
14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife folks go to Selawik, they're  
15 welcomed there. They will say, hey, what's up. What do  
16 we need to work on. They involve the community through a  
17 process of planning.

18

19 So in the event that a plan failed, a  
20 finger wouldn't be at LeeAnne Ayres. The finger would be  
21 at themselves. They can say, oh, we messed up; let's fix  
22 the plan, and that is a process that these folks -- that  
23 this Agency goes through and they're good at it. I say  
24 that because I've experienced going out to the community  
25 of Selawik, to the community of Noorvik with them and had  
26 some public meetings with the community and they are very  
27 well accepted due to those communities and that's why I  
28 said this ought to be a good model for the agencies to  
29 work on, to follow. And I think it's something that,  
30 LeeAnne, you ought to be proud of, thanking your Staff  
31 for that work they do. And again welcome to the NANA  
32 region and (in Inupiat).

33

34 Thank you very much, LeeAnne.

35

36 MS. AYRES: Thank you, Walter.

37

38 ATTAMUK: Walter.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Attamuk.

41

42 ATTAMUK: Walter, I need to make you  
43 smile. Thank you for commenting on Selawik. Is it  
44 really you commenting do a great job or not scolding  
45 them. You did a good job, Walter, but I wanted to ask  
46 LeeAnne, on your culture camp, did you think of inviting  
47 the other villages to go see how the Selawik do their  
48 culture camp? Maybe like Walter say we would like to see  
49 it expand. Maybe if they go back to their village, the  
50 kids could say this is how they do in Selawik. Where are

1 you elders, the NANA elders that say they want to do  
2 culture camp and yet they're not doing nothing.

3  
4 MS. AYRES: Well, I think we did have  
5 Segorik who brought a number of folks from the borough to  
6 the camp one year and that was at the invitation of the  
7 village. So I think there has been some folks going. I  
8 think we have Brittany Sweeney who's also new to our  
9 Staff here that joined us as our Environmental Education  
10 Specialist to help Susan with a lot of her projects and  
11 she was the one that put the presentation together for  
12 Selawik. So I think we'd love to help them with some of  
13 the -- you know, like the posters and some of these  
14 presentations so that they can share what they're doing  
15 with the other villages. But it's definitely a -- you  
16 know, it's kind of -- it works for them and I'm sure  
17 anybody else who hears about it or would like to go and  
18 be invited to the camp is welcome.

19  
20 You know, Brandon's been down there and  
21 there's always kind of open for guests and company.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other  
24 questions/comments for Brandon or LeeAnne.

25  
26 (No comments)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much  
29 for a good presentation. Now back to -- yeah. Go ahead,  
30 Perc.

31  
32 MR. BALLOT: Well (indiscernible-  
33 telephone connection) that you do have a culture camp  
34 here too and I just wanted to also add that LeeAnne's  
35 welcome to Buckland too (indiscernible-telephone  
36 connection) and we do have a (indiscernible-telephone  
37 connection) culture camp activities for the Fish and Game  
38 or whoever to come down and share information with the  
39 kids things that are happening with the resources and  
40 their job.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: She's nodding her  
43 head, Percy. Thank you very much for the invitation.

44  
45 Moving on to our agenda. Do we have any  
46 -- well, let's go into our minutes. All of you should  
47 have reviewed your minutes of February 19, 2010. What's  
48 the wish of the Council.

49  
50 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Go ahead,  
2 Percy.  
3 MR. BALLOT: I got my minutes here. I  
4 move the February 19, 2010, you know, Subsistence Council  
5 meeting minutes.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There is a motion for  
8 adoption of the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional  
9 Advisory Council minutes. Is there a second.  
10  
11 ATTAMUK: Second.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Been seconded by  
14 Attamuk. Discussion on the motion.  
15  
16 MR. SWAN: Question.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question has been  
19 called for. All those in favor of adopting February 19  
20 minutes, signify by saying aye.  
21  
22 IN UNISON: Aye.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.  
25  
26 (No opposing votes)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries. Thank  
29 you very much.  
30  
31 MR. BALLOT: Can you hear me, Mr.  
32 Chairman.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.  
35  
36 MR. BALLOT: I was excused on that  
37 meeting there, that I move for adjourning at 6:30, so can  
38 we change that to somebody's name.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You were excused.  
41 That's what it says. You were excused. Oh, adjournment.  
42  
43 MR. BALLOT: Right.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Did Percy  
46 adjourn that; did he say? Yep. Yeah.  
47  
48 MS. ATORUK: No. He's moving to adjourn.  
49 We had to go to another meeting.....  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yep. Okay. Thank  
2 you, Percy. Moving on to our agenda. Do we have any new  
3 business.

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Barbara, do we have  
8 any new business?

9  
10 MS. ATORUK: No, I don't -- Mr. Chair.  
11 I don't have any at the moment. Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now that we have some  
14 time, we'll look at some -- listen to the comments I  
15 guess. We've listened to the agencies. We've listened  
16 to some folks with regards to some of the issues that we  
17 should have some concerns on and I think it's time that  
18 we listen to each of you from the Council so the agencies  
19 themselves can have a perspective of how the Council feel  
20 on issues. So with that, we'll start with Jon.  
21 Comments. Can you turn your mic on.

22  
23 MR. GREGG: I'm a little scattered right  
24 now.

25  
26 (Laughter)

27  
28 MR. GREGG: I'm going to pass for the  
29 moment, Walter, but I may ask you to come back to me.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you.  
32 Austin.

33  
34 MR. SWAN: Yes. The Community of  
35 Kivalina caught quite a large number of fish. It's been  
36 a while since we've done that. I remember the last time  
37 Fred was up there doing a survey and the number caught  
38 and where, what, how they were. I'd like to see that  
39 again, somebody from the Fish and Game come up and do a  
40 survey during the fall time doing a count and looking at  
41 the fish that we catch.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 MS. ATORUK: Do you mean Fred DiCicco?

46  
47 MR. SWAN: Yeah.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Fred DiCicco  
50 did a lot of -- over years the fish studies and fish

1 counts. So what he's asking is, is that because of what  
2 they're seeing now, he'd like to see somebody just  
3 participate in what's happening. In fact I think maybe  
4 one thing that we can -- you can benefit as well is that  
5 if these fish can be taken and frozen and get analyzed by  
6 different agency, that'd be an ideal thing to look at.

7

8 So with that, thank you, Austin.

9

10 Percy.

11

12 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any comments.

15

16 MR. BALLOT: Oh, no. Well, a good  
17 meeting. I just -- you know, I think we need to have a  
18 better understanding of the permit system or whatever for  
19 our village because of what is from BLM (indiscernible-  
20 telephone connection). I think we need some kind of  
21 notification where then we could make our comments and go  
22 ahead and who's getting these permits.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Percy. Is  
25 that it?

26

27 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Leslie.

30

31 MR. BURNS: I'm -- I couldn't say about  
32 when we had the fire about -- and thank BLM for -- and  
33 the fire -- for turning off the fire. I don't know how  
34 -- maybe another 10, 15 years that food will grown back  
35 for our caribou to use their route and maybe we'll have  
36 better luck next year or -- thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Leslie.

39 Pierre.

40

41 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy, let's listen to  
44 Pierre first. Go ahead, Pierre.

45

46 MR. LONEWOLF: The only thing that.....

47

48 MR. BALLOT: Can you have Barbara call me  
49 at 903-0331.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Have Barbara  
2 call you at what number?  
3  
4                   MR. BALLOT: 903-0331. I'm signing off.  
5 I got to go to a meeting.  
6  
7                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, Percy. Yeah.  
8 Enjoy your meeting. Barbara, you got the number?  
9  
10                  MS. ATORUK: 331?  
11  
12                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: 903 -- 3301 is what I  
13 -- Pierre, were you done?  
14  
15                  MR. LONEWOLF: The only thing I had was  
16 that someone had mentioned to me that all the studies  
17 that Park Service and Fish and Game and everybody else,  
18 they'd like to have like a central area where they could  
19 go find the stuff. You know, and they're not so much  
20 interested in the mathematical -- how did he put it --  
21 rigorous mathematical treatment of your sampling. He  
22 just wants to know what the general trends are and he  
23 said, you know, statistics can lie any which way you want  
24 the numbers to make up his mind and so, but someplace,  
25 you know, where people can find out. All these studies  
26 are -- you know, like even out here in the lobby, this is  
27 a study for that. Just put a pile of paperwork out there  
28 and someplace where they can go and easily access it  
29 because right now I think how many agencies we got here,  
30 three, four and you're all spread all over the place.  
31  
32                  So that's all I have.  
33  
34                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
35 Pierre. Mr. K.  
36  
37                  MR. KARMUN: Thank you. This is my  
38 fourth fall. I'd like to go out. Normally I've been  
39 going up to Kobuk River the last few years. I don't have  
40 a boat that will make it up the Noatak right now. But it  
41 seemed like a lack of black bear or the decline of them.  
42 I'd like to possibly see a survey or some kind of study  
43 done on black bear here in the future.  
44  
45                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Victor.  
46 Jon.  
47  
48                  MR. GREGG: Thank you, Walter. I  
49 appreciated all the information we received from  
50 everybody today and what I want to improve on personally

1 as a Committee member and as a Committee as a whole is  
2 how we take the information that we heard today, the  
3 intel that we heard today and get that out to the  
4 community and say this is what the RAC Board is listening  
5 to, this is what they're hearing, and these are  
6 questions. These aren't answers. This is what -- these  
7 are the questions that are being asked and how do we  
8 facilitate input from the community to this Committee.  
9 Those are the two main things that I thought about today  
10 while we were going over this information that we need to  
11 get better at.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
14 Jon. I guess I got everybody. I also have a few comments  
15 I would like to put on the table.

16  
17 First of all, I want to thank all of you  
18 for participating in this meeting today. I've alluded  
19 the fact that at the beginning of the process of our  
20 meeting the importance of all of us meeting together to  
21 address those very issues that impact, will impact, and  
22 have impact the residents of this region in one way or  
23 the other.

24  
25 I meant to ask when we had the caribou  
26 report if there was any impacts on caribou migrations by  
27 transporters. I don't know. I should have asked that  
28 early on while our protection officer was here. Does  
29 anybody from the Agency -- Park Service or BLM be able to  
30 tell us whether transporter really have an impact on  
31 detouring I guess the migration of a caribou herd, the  
32 Western Arctic Herd. If that's -- there is no answer at  
33 this point, we'll address it at the February meeting  
34 since our protection officer is out.

35  
36 The issue in regards to the relationship  
37 building that I've talked to many about is critically  
38 important. We saw a report from U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
39 in regards to the type of work they do and how they  
40 coordinate those kinds of efforts with the communities.  
41 The rest of us, I think it's critically important that  
42 relationship building be the priority to all of us. If  
43 we can't build that relationship, the continued process  
44 of separation is even going to become worse down the  
45 road. Then over time, what will occur is that we'll  
46 start pointing fingers at each other as to what some of  
47 those issues and what those problems are.

48  
49 We've had that relationship at one point  
50 when we had Dave Spirtes as a superintendent for the

1 National Park Service. It was such that Dave was open to  
2 building that, sometimes putting himself right on the  
3 line to where regional office can say, well, no, not that  
4 way. But Dave wasn't that type of a person. Dave  
5 Spirtes had an ear to listen with. He listened to  
6 issues. He listened to concerns. And he was ready to  
7 sit down and work on that relationship and he did.

8  
9                   Once that relationship was built, our  
10 communication network with the villages was such that he  
11 was able to go to a village and hold a village meeting  
12 and get good responses from village folks because of the  
13 very fact that he was open. He had an open dialogue --  
14 open-door policy to where he would talk to the folks  
15 about what the Park Service was doing. And I was very  
16 happy to meet with Mary in regards to that very issue,  
17 her openness to reestablishing that relationship which is  
18 certainly needed today.

19  
20                   Tomorrow it will not be fixed, but over  
21 time that trust level has to be built up to making sure  
22 it gets built up, that relationship, then we'll be much  
23 closer than where it is today. Some of the ways to  
24 building that relationship -- certainly Mary and I have  
25 to work on that, but we also have other agencies that can  
26 participate in these things by providing the very  
27 necessary information that folks at the village level  
28 need to know in regards to what BLM is doing and what  
29 others are doing. It's critically important.

30  
31                   Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd right now  
32 is at a good, healthy stage. At some point in time, if  
33 we don't watch how we utilize that resource, certainly  
34 can go on a decline as well. Other resources can go on  
35 a decline. Then what will happen is that public will say  
36 who is responsible for managing these resources. And it  
37 will end up to those line managers within that has a  
38 responsibility in managing their lands. So I think it's  
39 critically important that we all work on bettering what  
40 we have in place.

41  
42                   Proposals for the future, certainly  
43 something that we need to work on. We heard some of the  
44 bear issues that are becoming a problem. We heard some  
45 of the beaver issues that already are starting to impact  
46 the spawning areas and for fisheries. I think it's  
47 critically important for this body to work on proposals  
48 on beaver and bears for the February meeting. If the  
49 Agency please would work with us in putting together  
50 those very proposals, we've got biologists here that have

1 the numbers in regards to what those numbers may be.  
2 Let's come together and put together those very proposal.  
3

4                   Like mary indicated, she and I have plans  
5 to take some time to do village travels sometime this  
6 fall, hopefully before Christmas, just to have some  
7 dialogue with the villages, to try to get that gap closed  
8 in. Any of you folks that want to come are more than  
9 welcome to come, to participate and listen to some of the  
10 very critical issues and the needs of our people in this  
11 region. That communication network which has been pretty  
12 -- I don't want to call it separated, but is not -- is  
13 such that it's not really close because of the very fact  
14 that some of the issues that's been promised to us are  
15 not in place.

16  
17                   One of those is a transporter plan that's  
18 been promised to us, to this point have not been put  
19 together. That is critically important that we address  
20 that. The dependency on just the regional office to say  
21 this is how you will manage Federal lands is something  
22 that we shouldn't depend on. Remember we're part of the  
23 Federal system. We're Federal lands as well. We live  
24 here.

25  
26                   Somebody in Washington, D.C., at the top  
27 level agency or the regional office shouldn't be  
28 dictating to us as to how I should live within Kobuk  
29 Valley or Cape Krusenstern or the Noatak Preserve. What  
30 I'm getting at is that whatever plans, however plans are  
31 being devised, I want to see it on the table to making  
32 sure that the issues that we have concerns on are on the  
33 table.

34  
35                   We've been planned for too long. We've  
36 been planned for too long. We've been recipient of plans  
37 that have failed many times. We've attempted to make  
38 those changes over time over and over. Fish and Wildlife  
39 is good in putting together plans with a community and  
40 that's what they do. That's why the reception from the  
41 community of Selawik is so great because they were part  
42 of the design of a plan, because that plan impacts their  
43 way of life.

44  
45                   And some of our agencies we have plans  
46 that thick that were designed for us. Some of those  
47 models were used for Yellowstone. We're in Alaska.  
48 We're not down south. Let's devise those things that  
49 will fit Alaska needs, that will fit the NANA needs  
50 within this region.

1                   There's one individual in this very room  
2 that has been very supportive in there. He's put himself  
3 on a fine line sometimes from the regional office saying,  
4 nope, I'm sorry, you're going to have to leave. I say  
5 that because I know this individual puts himself on that  
6 line. That's commitment from that individual to making  
7 sure that the issues that we have in place are addressed.  
8 And I have to thank Ken for that.

9  
10                   There's times when we have our meetings  
11 in Anchorage at the regional office that he will make  
12 those statements and sometimes I will look at the  
13 regional office upper management. Yes, they have an eye  
14 on Ken sometimes. But nonetheless, he says because he  
15 believes the impact on a family who has the most need is  
16 there and should be addressed sometimes get wavered and  
17 get set aside.

18  
19                   We have a regional office that also will  
20 approve without consultation of what's happening within  
21 this region. The filming crews that I'm talking about.  
22 Discovery Channel is one of those. Cabelas is the other.  
23 These very entities, why do you think they do that. We  
24 all know Cabelas does advertisement for some big time  
25 hunts within this region and that's exactly what they do.  
26 They come up, do their filming in this region. So they  
27 can encourage their clients to find more people to hunt  
28 within this region. Great impact on this region, but yet  
29 we don't get consulted on these things. Certainly D.C.  
30 is going to hear about that and Department of Interior is  
31 going to hear about that.

32  
33                   We're not going to be quiet about it.  
34 But it's something that also needs to be addressed.  
35 Sometimes when you have an entity or an agency that plans  
36 to do studies, will go on and move on to do what they  
37 need to do without consultations. Like I said, if those  
38 things are going to happen, we want to be on the table so  
39 we can design these things, so we can help on what you're  
40 trying to do.

41  
42                   Sometimes when plans are being done to  
43 study archeological sites, these sites are critically  
44 important to all of us. 50 years from now, I don't want  
45 to be studied because I was buried at that site location.  
46 Leave me alone. That's exactly what you hear from some  
47 of these people at the village. Leave my ancestors  
48 alone. Don't dig. Leave them alone.

49  
50                   The reason why I say that is because too

1 much has been taken out. A lot of it is sitting in the  
2 Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., so they can  
3 continue to study who we are, what we are, what we do.  
4 These are important critical issues that we need to think  
5 about when we design to go out to the region to do those  
6 certain things.

7

8                   And I think if we can establish that  
9 relationship and close in the gap, we can address these  
10 much better than what we have today. Just imagine if  
11 that relationship is such that I can go to Mary's office  
12 and say, Mary, what do we have in plan, what do we need  
13 to do, where can we go, what's the issue, what's the  
14 problem. Then if that issue pops up, then we address it  
15 together. Not just the Park Service alone addressing it,  
16 but we as people as well.

17

18                   That's why I alluded to the fact that if  
19 we -- if there's going to be plans, we want to sit on the  
20 table. We want to partner with you so we can call that  
21 plan our plan. Not the agency plan, but our plan  
22 together. We've been studied too long. We've been  
23 planned for too long. We have to change that.

24

25                   I wanted to make sure that I addressed  
26 those issues. For future meetings I think it's  
27 critically important to all of us what we heard today.  
28 As far as proposals are concerned, I would like to ask  
29 our biologists to help us out, to look at doing proposals  
30 on bears as well as beaver because down the road, it will  
31 have more impact on the fisheries side because of the way  
32 that those creeks are dammed.

33

34                   You go up the Upper Kobuk, you'll see  
35 dams all over now. They're starting to move over to the  
36 Kivalina side further up. It's going to impact the  
37 fisheries and not only impact fisheries but the water  
38 itself as well. So it's critically important.

39

40                   So with that, again I want to thank all  
41 of you. If I in a way spoke offend any of you, please,  
42 I didn't mean to do it. Sometimes I have a tendency to  
43 be strong on some of the wording that I say. But please  
44 forgive me if I did that. And I want to thank you all  
45 for coming, to participating in this very meeting. And  
46 again welcome to the NANA Region, welcome to Kotzebue.

47

48                   Anything else, Barbara.

49

50                   MS. ATORUK: Nope, I don't have anything.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We don't ask you too  
4 often for comments. Do you have any comments.

5

6 MS. ATORUK: Oh, you're asking me?

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.

11

12 MS. ATORUK: Thank you. This is first  
13 time we've had with Northwest where we had eight members  
14 -- the whole -- all members attending and I really  
15 enjoyed that. And it's always good to come home and  
16 visit and see old folks here that are getting older by  
17 every year that I come back up here and they see the same  
18 of me and it's good to be home.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Welcome to the club.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What's the wish of the  
25 Council.

26

27 MR. LONEWOLF: Adjourn.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion to  
30 adjourn and this meeting is adjourned.

31

32 Thank you very much.

33

34 (Off record)

35

36 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 143 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 8th day of October 2010, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Kotzebue, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th day of October 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14