

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME I

7  
8 Northwest Arctic Borough  
9 Kotzebue, Alaska  
10 March 9, 2015  
11 11:20 a.m

12  
13  
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15  
16 Enoch Shiedt, Chairman  
17 Percy Ballot - (Telephonic)  
18 Verne Cleveland  
19 Michael Kramer  
20 Hannah Loon  
21 Enoch Mitchell  
22 Calvin Moto  
23 Raymond Stoney  
24  
25  
26  
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 03/09/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Good morning, everyone. It's 11:20. I'll call the meeting to order March 9th, 11:20. Roll call, please.

MS. LOON: Raymond Stoney.

MR. STONEY: Here.

MS. LOON: Austin Swan.

(No response)

MS. LOON: Hannah Loon, present.  
Michael Kramer.

(No response)

MS. LOON: Percy Ballot, Sr.

MR. BALLOT: Here.

MS. LOON: Verne Cleveland, Sr.

MR. CLEVELAND: Here.

MS. LOON: Enoch Shiedt, Sr.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Here, Attamuk.

MS. LOON: Enoch Mitchell.

MR. MITCHELL: Here.

MS. LOON: Calvin Moto.

MR. MOTO: Here.

MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. It looks like we do have enough Council members for a quorum. We're going to have Council member Percy Ballot joining us by phone. Austin Swan should also be joining us periodically. I haven't spoken to Mike. I got an email from him, so hopefully he'll be joining us here a little bit later. We do have enough for a quorum, Mr.

1 Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
4 Everyone, we'll start with the invocation. Hannah will  
5 give one. Thanks.  
6  
7 (Invocation)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Everyone welcome.  
10 Are we on radioland right now?  
11  
12 MS. BURKE: Not right now, but I  
13 believe we're going to have some broadcast time later.  
14 Mr. Green is going to be calling me back real soon to  
15 let us know what spots we have.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
18 Welcome everyone. We'll start with the introductions.  
19 We will start with Calvin.  
20  
21 MR. MOTO: My name is Calvin Moto, Sr.  
22 from Ipnotchialq or Deering, Alaska USA. We're trying  
23 to use our Inupialq name for our village or Ipnotchialq.  
24  
25 MS. LOON: (In Inupialq) Paniyavluk.  
26  
27 Paniyavluk is my Inupialq name. I'm  
28 Hannah Loon. I'm representing the village of Selawik  
29 and I'm also representative of Selawik elders.  
30  
31 Thank you.  
32  
33 MR. STONEY: I'm Raymond Stoney. I'm  
34 from Kiana and I represent the Lower Kobuk and I've  
35 been with this group ever since 1994, so it's been a  
36 while now.  
37  
38 Thank you very much.  
39  
40 MR. MITCHELL: My name is Enoch  
41 Mitchell. I'm from Noatak. I represent Noatak,  
42 Kivalina on the AC board. I'm also on the RAC,  
43 recently been on this past October. I'm also on the  
44 Unit 23 working group.  
45  
46 Thank you.  
47  
48 MR. CLEVELAND: Verne Cleveland,  
49 Noorvik. Welcome.  
50

1 MS. BURKE: I'm Melinda Burke. I work  
2 for the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm the  
3 Council's coordinator and I also coordinate for the  
4 Western Interior RAC.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. The public,  
7 we'll start -- I guess we've got no mic for them.  
8 They've got to just speak loudly as possible.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 MS. SWEENEY: Good morning. (In  
13 Inupiaq) My name is Brittany. I work here in Kotzebue  
14 for the Selawik Wildlife Refuge.

15  
16 MS. ATKINSON: (In Inupiaq) My name is  
17 Hannah Atkinson and I work for the National Park  
18 Service.

19  
20 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. George  
21 Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management. I'm the  
22 liaison for the Federal process to the Board of Fish  
23 and Board of Game.

24  
25 MR. BALLOU: Good morning. My name is  
26 Doug Ballou. I'm with the Bureau of Land Management,  
27 the Anchorage Field Office.

28  
29 MR. HARD: Good morning. Joel Hard  
30 with the National Park Service. I'm the Deputy  
31 Regional Director in Anchorage and I'm also, in the  
32 absence of the Regional Director, the person that sits  
33 on the Federal Subsistence Board, so they are  
34 represented for you here today.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. My name  
39 is Ken Adkisson. I'm a Subsistence Program Manager  
40 with the Western Arctic National Parklands for the  
41 National Park Service. I'm based in Nome.

42  
43 MR. CARTER: Bill Carter. I'm a  
44 fisheries biologist with the Selawik Refuge.

45  
46 DR. CHEN: Aloha, Council members. My  
47 name is Glenn Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian  
48 Affairs and I'm the Subsistence Branch Chief.

49  
50 MR. SMITH: Fred Smith, Northwest

1 Arctic Borough.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: Lance Kramer, NANA.

4

5 MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon. I'm the  
6 Northwest North Slope area biologist for Fish and Game,  
7 Sport Fish Division and tomorrow I'll be giving a slide  
8 show on some trout and sheefish projects we've been  
9 doing.

10

11 MR. BROOKS: Good morning, everyone.  
12 My name is Jeff Brooks and I'm here from Anchorage  
13 representing the Office of Subsistence Management. I  
14 live in Anchorage with my wife and children. I've been  
15 there roughly seven years, seven years in a month, and  
16 it's a pleasure for me to be here today. I'm looking  
17 forward to working with you again and I'd like to thank  
18 the people of Kotzebue for hosting us. Have a good  
19 meeting.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Could you  
22 hit the button please. Oh, we've got one more over  
23 here.

24

25 MR. MCKEE: You've already seen me, but  
26 for the record my name is Chris McKee. I'm the  
27 Wildlife Division Chief for the Office of Subsistence  
28 Management in Anchorage.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Now who is on  
31 radio land. I want them to introduce themselves. We  
32 need to turn the mic on.

33

34 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
37 Percy.

38

39 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Percy Ballot,  
40 Buckland. I've been on the board for I don't know how  
41 long. I apologize for not being there. I really like  
42 being on this board and I'm glad that you're all there.  
43 I'm pretty sure we'll have a real good, positive  
44 meeting anyway. I can hear everybody. Whenever you're  
45 ready to get started, Buckland will be online. Okay,  
46 bye. Oh, not bye. I'll be here.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else in radio

1 land.

2

3 MR. RICE: Mr. Chairman, this is Bud  
4 Rice, National Park Service management biologist. I'm  
5 in Anchorage online. Thank you.

6

7 MR. LIND: This is Orville Lind, Native  
8 liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management. Good  
9 morning.

10

11 MR. SHARP: Good morning. This is Dan  
12 Sharp with Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else.

15

16 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is  
17 Marcy Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
18 Preserve.

19

20 MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning, this is  
21 Drew Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
22 Anchorage.

23

24 MS. HYER: Good morning. This is Karen  
25 Hyer with Office of Subsistence Management.

26

27 MS. TONNESON: Good morning. This is  
28 Heather Tonneson with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
29 Service in Anchorage.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Is that  
32 everyone out there?

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Welcome  
37 everyone. Attamuk here and welcome to this cold  
38 weather here in Kotzebue. I think it will be a real  
39 productive meeting here. I would like to see it like  
40 that. It's going to get interesting later on. If you  
41 can't hear us, don't be scared to tell us to speak up  
42 if you're listening on the teleconference. Interrupt  
43 any time because you've got to hear what we're saying  
44 and we've got to hear. I've been in teleconference  
45 before and we can't hear. And those on the  
46 teleconference you've got to mute. If you have nothing  
47 happening, please put your phone on mute. That way we  
48 won't get interrupted.

49

50 Okay, we'll go back to the agenda.

1 We'll review and adopt the agenda, number 5.

2

3 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

6

7 MS. BURKE: For everyone in the room  
8 and on the phone, there's a couple of notations to make  
9 and a couple of slight corrections to the agenda.  
10 First I have to apologize for a typo of mine. I  
11 misspelled Brendan's name. I have him as Brandon.  
12 It's Brendan with an E under the FRMP projects. The  
13 major changes are number (a) on Page 2 at the very top.  
14 You can make a note that that's going to be tomorrow in  
15 the morning. We're going to discuss rural after Jeff  
16 gives his presentation tonight at the evening meeting  
17 so folks have a bit more time to digest it, you can  
18 circle (a) and just write down that that's going to be  
19 tomorrow.

20

21 The other items to add, I got another  
22 call from Jim Dau and he wants to spend a couple of  
23 minutes today making some additional notations on the  
24 PowerPoint and getting some talking points together, so  
25 we're actually going to have Jim tomorrow in the  
26 morning. He's going to be flying in to join us, so you  
27 can make a notation there. Also here under U.S. Fish  
28 and Wildlife Service I forgot to add Brittany's name  
29 and Bill Carter's name. Susan is out of town. So you  
30 can make that notation there as well.

31

32 Unless anybody else has any other  
33 corrections here in the room, that's all I have, Mr.  
34 Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Melinda.  
37 I'll give you a few minutes to review the agenda and  
38 adopt. Anybody propose to adopt the agenda.

39

40 MS. BURKE: That's correct, Mr. Chair.  
41 This is an action item.

42

43 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

46

47 MR. BALLOT: Move to approve the agenda  
48 as presented.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you,

1 Percy.

2

3 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
4 Before we approve this agenda, Mr. Chairman, I think we  
5 brought that up before, these RAC members it's a two-  
6 year terms, right? Three, okay.

7

8 MS. BURKE: Raymond, we do have some  
9 adjustments that have been made to the Council Charter,  
10 which we will discuss here a little bit later under  
11 some housekeeping business. I think the Council will  
12 be pleased with some of the changes to the Charter that  
13 have been made to address some of the concerns, like  
14 the delayed appointments and whatnot, so we will be  
15 discussing that at length a little later in the agenda.

16

17 Mr. Chair.

18

19 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. It  
22 was seconded by Raymond. Okay, number 6, election of  
23 officers.

24

25 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We have a  
26 motion and a second, but we didn't do a vote yet.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Sorry. Go  
29 ahead, Raymond.

30

31 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman. I move to  
32 adopt the agenda as written.

33

34 MR. MITCHELL: Second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Enoch. All  
37 in favor say aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. It passes.  
42 Okay, Melinda, we'll go to elections of officers.

43

44 MS. BURKE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair,  
45 for this first vote. I will take the gavel from Enoch.  
46 Just to remind everyone, the current leadership that we  
47 have here on the Northwest Arctic Regional Subsistence  
48 Advisory Council we've got Attamuk Shiedt as the  
49 Chairman, we have Raymond Stoney as the Vice-Chair and  
50 we have Hannah Loon for the Secretary. So first I will

1 open up the floor for nominations for the Chairman  
2 position.

3

4 MR. MITCHELL: Nominate Attamuk for  
5 Chair.

6

7 MS. BURKE: We have a nomination for  
8 Attamuk for Chairman. Are there any other names that  
9 would like to be thrown out or would anyone like to  
10 close the nominations.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MS. BURKE: It doesn't sound like we  
15 have any other names for the position of Chairman. We  
16 have Attamuk. I believe I feel comfortable doing an  
17 oral vote on this. All in favor for Attamuk to  
18 continue in the position of Chair please signify by  
19 saying aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 MS. BURKE: Wonderful. Sounds like  
24 that's unanimous. So congratulations, Attamuk. I will  
25 hand it back over to you for the Vice-Chair and the  
26 Secretary vote. Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, everyone,  
29 for the confidence in me. I'll serve you the best way  
30 I know how to do to preserve our lands. Back to the  
31 voting of Vice-Chair. Vice-Chair is Raymond Stoney for  
32 now. I'll take nominations. Go ahead, Enoch.

33

34 MR. MITCHELL: I nominate Raymond  
35 Stoney.

36

37 MR. MOTO: Second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not -- go ahead,  
44 Melinda, you take over.

45

46 MS. BURKE: So it sounds like we have a  
47 nomination for Raymond Stoney for Vice-Chair and we  
48 have a second. Mr. Chair, I think we can do an oral  
49 vote for this as well if anyone wants to call for the  
50 question.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I will take oral  
2 nominations at this time. Bear with me, I've been up  
3 since 3:30 this morning. I've had three hours sleep.  
4  
5 MS. BURKE: That's okay, Mr. Chair. I  
6 can help you out with this. All in favor for Raymond  
7 Stoney as the Vice-Chair please signify by saying aye.  
8  
9 IN UNISON: Aye.  
10  
11 MS. BURKE: Wonderful.  
12 Congratulations, Raymond. It sounds like it's  
13 unanimous.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Nomination for  
16 Secretary. Our Secretary is Hannah. Anyone have a  
17 nomination for Secretary.  
18  
19 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman. I nominate  
20 Hannah.  
21  
22 MR. MITCHELL: Second.  
23  
24 MS. BURKE: Verne.  
25  
26 MR. CLEVELAND: I ask for unanimous  
27 consent on that.  
28  
29 MS. BURKE: All those in favor signify  
30 by saying aye.  
31  
32 IN UNISON: Aye.  
33  
34 MS. BURKE: Wonderful.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
37 everyone. Under number 7 review and approve previous  
38 minutes for our meeting -- what meeting are we talking  
39 about?  
40  
41 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. On Page 5 you  
42 will find the meeting minutes from our fall meeting in  
43 Kiana that was held October 8th through 9th. Just a  
44 little side note there, I was really pleased that we  
45 were finally able to make that meeting happen in Kiana.  
46 It was a really, really wonderful show-out from the  
47 community. So from Pages 5 to 11 you will find those  
48 minutes, Mr. Chair. If anybody has any corrections,  
49 additions, modifications to make, now is the time.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Everyone has a  
2 few minutes to look at the minutes of the Kiana  
3 meeting.

4  
5 (Pause)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, everyone looked  
8 at the minutes. Does anyone have any corrections to  
9 make on the minutes.

10  
11 MR. CLEVELAND: I so move on the  
12 meeting minutes of October 8th to 9th.

13  
14 MR. LOON: Second.

15  
16 MS. MITCHELL: Second.

17  
18 MR. MOTO: Third.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. All in favor  
23 of Kiana minutes, no changes, in favor signify by  
24 saying aye.

25  
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Number 8,  
29 Council member reports. Maybe we'll start with Verne.

30  
31 MR. CLEVELAND: It's been a very warm  
32 fall or winter. The caribou are very healthy do to  
33 lack of snow, but right now we have snow and rain mixed  
34 and I don't know how they are in the next few weeks,  
35 but there's an abundance of caribou on the south side  
36 and they're very healthy. Other than that I haven't  
37 seen much change of anything, just the weather.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne. Go  
42 ahead, Enoch.

43  
44 MR. MITCHELL: I'm Enoch Mitchell from  
45 Noatak. This year we had a lot of wolves near the  
46 village. Wolves were spotted in the village several  
47 times. The local hunters went out and it was really  
48 rough terrain and didn't be able to get the wolves.  
49 Lots of visitors that were coming up spotted a big,  
50 black wolf just standing on the road, on the road from

1 Noatak to Kotz on the winter trail.

2

3                   We also have a teacher that put a  
4 motion camera outside just on the limits of the village  
5 and was able to get many photos of wolves. She had a  
6 motion camera out there set up, so they're pretty close  
7 to the village. One guy got a photo with a regular  
8 camera right outside his house, big, black wolf and  
9 took a picture of it.

10

11                   I was kind of wondering how they did a  
12 bounty hunt for wolves back in the past. I brought  
13 that up to Jeff, so I think he answered that. If it  
14 worked back then, maybe we can implement this plan  
15 again to use the rural residents in villages and our  
16 young people will have an interest in hunting wolves  
17 again. That's one thing that I would like to see,  
18 predator control.

19

20                   Also bears, they are overpopulated all  
21 along the river. We need to start implementing plans  
22 for these bears on predator control.

23

24                   For caribou, village of Noatak had no  
25 Western Arctic Caribou for the third consecutive year  
26 because they increased the non-locals to the  
27 accessibility of the Squirrel River. If you block that  
28 Squirrel River, when the caribou come -- I schooled in  
29 Kiana, I graduated from Kiana. I observed the caribou  
30 there. Fall time they'd cross right in front of the  
31 village of Kiana and then head up the Squirrel River  
32 and then from the Squirrel River they would go into the  
33 Agi River and the Eli River and Noatak would start  
34 hunting. So that's been practiced for decades and we  
35 understand that. When we hear Kiana start hunting  
36 caribou, Noatak will start hunting about four or five  
37 days to ten days. When they hear Kiana gets to the  
38 Squirrel, Agi, they'll start hunting.

39

40                   But the past three years the Agi and  
41 the Squirrel and the Eli River was too densely  
42 populated that caribou went into the Squirrel, popped  
43 right back out and turned around, thus creating this  
44 east/west trend. Now it's being called the east/west  
45 trend because it happened for three years or four or  
46 five years in a row. And that was not caused by  
47 natural element. That was caused by man.

48

49                   You see what that does to hunt caribou.  
50 There is a window for three years or more in there to

1 hunt our Western Arctic Caribou Herd, but they didn't  
2 get any for the past three years. Not even one Western  
3 Arctic Caribou Herd because they turned around. There  
4 was a window in there for Noatak to hunt because this  
5 fall (indiscernible), also the migration was late, but  
6 there was a window when we hear that Kiana get. There  
7 was a window in there for so long, until freeze-up  
8 time. Kiana did get -- we waited like 10 days and keep  
9 wondering where the caribou. They didn't show up.

10  
11 So right now, today, there's a lot of  
12 freezers void of caribou meat in the village of Noatak.  
13 I have this Arctic class at the school, Tim Nelson's  
14 class. He's going to the village getting photos of all  
15 these empty freezers void of meat plus comments that I  
16 will take with me as support when I go to the Board of  
17 Game.

18  
19 Everything else was okay. We had an  
20 increase of non-locals. They're increasing for a number  
21 of years and it's still increasing. This issue created  
22 -- it was like an unforeseen problem that happened  
23 after the CUA dates was developed. What happened was  
24 the hunters moved from the CUA date to the outer limits  
25 and now the outer limits are Squirrel, Eli and Agi  
26 River and the upper boundaries of the CUA dates.  
27 That's getting pretty well crowded.

28  
29 I've been talking with hunters in the  
30 village and Mike and we talked about this. There's a  
31 lot of room upriver, a lot of landing areas, a lot of  
32 caribou. Hardly anybody go hunt up there. The sport  
33 hunters could have quality hunts up there without  
34 creating issues with non-locals. When the CUA dates  
35 was developed, it was to separate the non-locals and  
36 locals by time, but actually it's not working now, so  
37 we've got to bring that up. The CUA dates worked for  
38 the Noatak very well, but the caribou moved out of the  
39 limits of the CUA dates, so creating new issues. We're  
40 trying to handle these in the best way we can without  
41 having a quality hunt as well as the Natives  
42 themselves.

43  
44 By the absence of the caribou in Noatak  
45 we lose some cultural identities, we lose some cultural  
46 activities. Our young hunters are going to graduate  
47 from a boy to a hunter. These little boys say, man, I  
48 didn't get my first caribou again. And the delicacies.  
49 It affected our Thanksgiving, our Christmas dinner by  
50 absence of caribou. So it affects the village in a big

1 way. A lot of big ways.

2

3                   There's a lot of concern right now that  
4 they're not getting their yearly meat. Noatak is not  
5 connected to the road system. We've got only one  
6 little store, very high-priced. The barge system  
7 doesn't make it up anymore, so we're in a hard spot.  
8 With this IM coming up from the State, as we move into  
9 this intensive management, more restrictions will apply  
10 to us and it's hard enough for us to get caribou right  
11 now.

12

13                   If this Proposal 202 passes as amended,  
14 we will be able to hunt Western Arctic Caribou again  
15 and hopefully everything will be back to normal and  
16 then we'll deal with the future regulations that's  
17 coming.

18

19                   That's all I got. Thank you.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch.  
22 I'll answer your question. You said bounty on wolf.  
23 The State had bounty before on wolves years ago when  
24 the caribou declined in the '60s. If you're worried  
25 about it, I would say Noatak should come up with a  
26 proposal to see if the State will come out with a  
27 bounty again to harvest wolves because there's so many  
28 numbers. With the high cost, it would help our  
29 harvesters out there to maybe eliminate some of the  
30 predator control we have because I know they're high in  
31 numbers.

32

33                   Thank you, Enoch.

34

35                   Go ahead, Raymond.

36

37                   MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
38 One thing I'd say, I said it again before, I certainly  
39 want to thank the Staff that went to Kiana and having  
40 this meeting was very, very important, very interesting  
41 to the local people even though there wasn't many in  
42 attendance in the community building, but when they  
43 learned from our staff, the Federal government and the  
44 State, they were real, real pleased of what they'd done  
45 explained to us. Thank you again very much for being in  
46 Kiana.

47

48                   The caribous this season was pretty  
49 successful all the way from Onion Portage all the way  
50 down below Noorvik. That's how much herd went. We

1 usually get a report from the State, the estimate  
2 population of these herd, but we never hear from the  
3 State how many went through, but there was quite a bit.

4  
5

6                   There was a lot of concern from the  
7 local people where they harvested caribou all the way  
8 from Onion Portage to Kiana, all the shoreline was -- I  
9 don't like to say it, but the caribou heads was left.  
10 Hundreds of them. So this situation should be  
11 addressed by a proposal. See if maybe we can change it  
12 or put some regulations in at least to clean up where  
13 you harvest caribou. It was kind of embarrassing from  
14 the people that left the caribou heads in the hunting  
15 area.

16  
17

                  Other than that, the caribou, there was  
18 a few stragglers around Kiana all winter. I get the  
19 reason why they stay right next to the school and right  
20 behind the school, the herd, because there was quite a  
21 few wolves around and those wolves are so tame they  
22 come right almost to your door. Those wolves we could  
23 see they were pups, they were so young, and they stayed  
24 around.

25  
26

                  Otherwise the caribou hunting last year  
27 was so successful. I want to thank all the agencies.  
28 You know, they gave us full support on harvesting the  
29 caribou last fall and I hope it continues that way.  
30 However, that one question came before and I know it  
31 will come on the proposal. It's written on the agenda  
32 for same day airborne nonresident hunters again.  
33 That's been on the book for more than 10 years. So  
34 those transporters, they don't care less what time they  
35 leave here and they get the caribou the same day. It's  
36 supposed to be after 3:00 a.m. the next fallen day, but  
37 however it's still happening. So one thing on my  
38 comment is that these agencies should have law  
39 enforcement on that management land. Five different  
40 agencies, they should have law enforcement.

41  
42

                  Other than that, Mr. Chairman, that's  
43 all I got.

44  
45

                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
46 Raymond. Go ahead, Hannah.

47  
48

                  MS. LOON: Good afternoon -- I mean  
49 good morning, everybody. I'm happy to say that  
50 whitefishing under the net (in Inupiaq), it means

1 fishing under the ice with net, was really good this  
2 fall and so we have a really good number of fish that  
3 we store to eat, frozen fish.

4

5                   On January 13 -- I live in Anchorage by  
6 the way and I am moving to Kotzebue to work with  
7 Aqqaluk Trust and on January 13 I went to visit my  
8 hometown right after Christmas until January 13. There  
9 was no caribou around there for a long time. It was  
10 really quiet. Then my daughter and her boyfriend went  
11 out just before I leave on January 14, so they went out  
12 and hunted for caribou so I was able to bring home  
13 caribou meat with me back to Anchorage, which was gone  
14 immediately because there were a lot of people that  
15 were wanting caribou meat in Anchorage and it travels  
16 far away. We're not the only ones eating the caribou.  
17 Our relatives in Fairbanks, Anchorage, far away eat  
18 caribou to spiritually feel that you connect with your  
19 land, that it comes from your homeland and you're proud  
20 to have such meal.

21

22                   Also on the predator control I'm  
23 thankful that something will be discussed sometime in  
24 the future about the bear that always wait by  
25 Kiana/Selawik Trail, winter trail in the fall time and  
26 sometimes we skunk too. There are times many years ago  
27 where we didn't have caribou for years, so I have  
28 sympathy for Noatak people. How lonely when you never  
29 have caribou for a long time. You have an obligation  
30 as Inupiat people to give a portion of your hunt to  
31 your families and your grandma and grandfather. You  
32 have obligation and it's sharing and spiritual well-  
33 being, healthy well-being. Your attitude connect with  
34 land and how lonely it is when Enoch talked that their  
35 freezers are empty and I think that we should come  
36 together to help Noatak someday, some form to help them  
37 and hear their concerns too.

38

39                   And Raymond is right about the waste of  
40 caribou heads. It's something we can discuss, that  
41 caribou heads. Elders always say where did you put the  
42 head, how come you never bring the head and legs. We  
43 need the legs for the mukluks and they just will cut it  
44 off. So those are things we need. Need to educate and  
45 let our young people be aware that heads are just as  
46 valuable as the rest of the body.

47

48                   Thank you.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

1 Go ahead, Calvin.

2

3 MR. MOTO: My name is Calvin Moto from  
4 Deering, Alaska. I'll make my comment short. I'll  
5 only talk for a half hour, okay.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. MOTO: Well, one of the things that  
10 we notice a lot is the weather this year. It's been  
11 warmer and less snow. Consequently, the predators are  
12 able to get to the caribou a lot easier than before.  
13 On the positive side of the caribou, they're a lot  
14 fatter this year. A couple weeks ago we had some snow,  
15 a couple days later it rained, so some of the feeding  
16 grounds were frozen and this is something that we were  
17 concerned about.

18

19 On the predators, we've noticed that  
20 there's a lot of wolves and they're possibly killing a  
21 lot of the calves. We see a few more extra wolverine.  
22 This past winter our hunters encountered bears in  
23 middle November when they should be hibernating.  
24 Because of the warm weather, I guess. You know, the  
25 bears get after the muskox because they don't run as  
26 fast. They kill one, take the hindquarter, then they  
27 turn around and kill -- I think they must get kill  
28 crazy. We found one time -- one winter they found four  
29 or five muskox that were killed by a bear and just  
30 left.

31

32 We would like to see more taken of bear  
33 on Federal lands. If there's a proposal, we should  
34 draft up for that. We started seeing not only brown  
35 bear, grizzly, black bear. In fact, like I said last  
36 time, one day in September a whole bunch of people ran  
37 into my house. They said there was a bear. It ran  
38 right through the village and ran up the hill. So  
39 there's a lot of bear and we're concerned.

40

41 The weather, it's affecting the way  
42 we're able to hunt. We had late snow, therefore  
43 hunters couldn't get out until around maybe December by  
44 snowmachines to where they were. They used ATVs and  
45 stuff like that. We're very concerned with the  
46 predators because sometimes the wolf even come to our  
47 village late at night. In fact, some people thought  
48 one time -- they thought there was a German Shepard run  
49 in the house. I said, oh, that's a wolf. Last winter  
50 they killed four wolves near the village. This is a

1 concern with us.

2

3                   What I'm really concerned with at that  
4 time of the year we have a lot of our young kids out  
5 playing. If some of them think those are dogs they  
6 don't think -- you know, we've been fortunate not to  
7 have bad things happen because of the predators.

8

9                   I'd like to say in conclusion thank you  
10 for giving me this opportunity to say something and I  
11 hope that we'll be able to figure out a way to control  
12 some of these predators.

13

14                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.  
15 Go ahead, Percy. You want to say something? You on  
16 the radio?

17

18                   MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.  
19 Calvin gave you all the weather already, so I'll just  
20 make mine short and sweet. There's been no snow, like  
21 you said, and we have the same thing that goes on in  
22 Buckland as Deering, but our hunters have got about 60,  
23 70 wolves this year and still counting. Otherwise life  
24 is good.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
27 Percy. I'll try and make mine brief. Mine is going to  
28 be kind of lengthy. After the fall hunt at Kiana a lot  
29 of people went up to Kiana and at Onion Portage was a  
30 short run and after that there was a big break in  
31 between. The caribou came in late again through Kiana.  
32 They hardly hit Noatak, like Enoch said.

33

34                   I get a call from later on, September,  
35 I get a call from Nome saying that they were seeing  
36 caribou already at Nome early and they say it's unusual  
37 for them to see caribou -- they not as fat. They used  
38 to get them not as fat, but this year they said they  
39 were real healthy. I'm hearing this from Shishmaref  
40 and Nome, I'm getting calls. I get calls from Huslia  
41 saying that day after Kiana, I mean that again they  
42 were seeing caribou at Huslia.

43

44                   For your information, if you talk to  
45 the elders, in the past, when it's rainy season caribou  
46 don't like to stay out in the open. They go to the  
47 trees when they're near trees. I'll tell you that  
48 right now that's what they were seeing. A lot of  
49 caribou in the trees. When they do, they will be fat.

50

1 I hear a lot of things on predators, on  
2 wolves and bears, which is very true. You hear it.  
3 Every village has about had it. We're just lucky that  
4 our children is not hurt and I would like hopefully,  
5 knock on wood, that no kid has got hurt.

6  
7 And for our fishing, since our numbers  
8 are down in other resources, our fishing numbers are  
9 high. There's someone here with trout. I'll tell  
10 you that the trout run at Noatak came in late due to  
11 the water temp. It was really warm until late in the  
12 season. Trout, like any other fish -- I mean, like  
13 fish, it's got to be cold before they get to a drainage  
14 and they were late. They came in a little bunch when  
15 we were commercial fishing, a late run. We hardly get  
16 any. I mean we did get some, but not numbers we see  
17 before in high numbers.

18  
19 Back to what Enoch said, I would like  
20 to see a bounty, with our declining caribou, that  
21 bounty on wolves for winter and our bears are scary out  
22 there. There's so many bears. Somebody yesterday saw  
23 me at Anchorage from Kiana saying thank God for the  
24 salmon that died in the river that their camps weren't  
25 bothered by bears because they had lots to eat.

26  
27 For your information, no matter on our  
28 resources, if the numbers get high, and high numbers  
29 are scary, that's when we should worry about our  
30 resources because that leads to -- like the elders  
31 always say, that leads to a decline. Like the caribou,  
32 if there's too many caribou, they eat the moss and it  
33 takes 50 years to grow. Any other resource will  
34 decline for their feed to get back in place. We all  
35 know, no matter what animal is there, if they can't  
36 feed their young, their numbers are going to decrease  
37 in their young. That's Mother Nature's way of taking  
38 care of everybody.

39  
40 And I will say this. This resource  
41 here -- north Alaska is so plentiful compared to the  
42 other parts of Alaska. We've got to try to save not  
43 only just the caribou but the other resources also. We  
44 have to start worrying. Federal land, Park land, State  
45 land, BLM, all got together and start worrying about  
46 other resources and what need to do to preserve for the  
47 future. We need to save for the future. This is the  
48 land of the last frontier where we have all our  
49 resources.

50

1 Northwest Alaska is gifted compared to  
2 the other parts of Alaska. We could get fish all year,  
3 summer and winter. No other place could hardly ever do  
4 that. There's a few other places, but not in numbers.  
5 I would say thank you for nature taking care of us  
6 Natives because we need to -- can't live without the  
7 resources. You agencies got to start -- you might have  
8 biologists that go to school, but some of these Natives  
9 -- and I'll tell you they don't like -- that's why when  
10 you ask for information, never say I need an expert on  
11 a Native. You will get no volunteer because no Native  
12 will volunteer as an expert, even me, because we all  
13 harvest about the same way. Some will take it more  
14 than the others on fish, caribou. It depends on his  
15 diet he like to take.

16  
17 I think the education part, the Park  
18 Service, the Federal, Noatak Preserve need to do is  
19 educate our little ones. I'll give you an example. A  
20 couple years ago when the caribou cross here in  
21 Kotzebue, our young ones was out there shooting at  
22 caribou with .22. They were doing more damage. Sure  
23 they were trying to do it, but they don't know that --  
24 they hear .22 is good falltime when you harvest with a  
25 boat. You drive up to it. To them, they thought --  
26 the young ones didn't know that. It's good to hunt  
27 when they're running on ice and on land. No, it's  
28 completely different.

29  
30 So if you have culture camps and stuff  
31 like that you go to, I think you need to tell the kids  
32 education and that's all part of to preserve for the  
33 future. I'll tell you one thing, we saw it here. Not  
34 only that, kids with a bigger rifle were shooting at  
35 caribou, but they were shooting at other people. We  
36 just got lucky nobody got hurt when they crossed right  
37 through town. Everybody, when they cross through town,  
38 everybody want to see the caribou and they were right  
39 in the middle of town. You know, it's good for it, but  
40 they're still -- even us Natives we need to be  
41 educated. The children need to be educated the right  
42 way. I'm not trying to say let's stop them. Let's  
43 educate them the right way and what kind of tools to  
44 use at different parts of the season.

45  
46 Okay, thank you. Go ahead, Enoch.

47  
48 MR. MITCHELL: I'd like to add this on  
49 my report. We had boats in Noatak go to Kiana to hunt  
50 caribou this fall and they had boats going further

1 upriver this fall and it cost lots of gas, expensive  
2 gas, to go up there.

3

4                   Also I forgot to ask -- I'm going to  
5 the Board of Game meeting and I'm going to ask for a  
6 letter of support from this group concerning proposals  
7 that we'll be proposing to the Board of Game next week  
8 in Anchorage. So I'm going to ask for support from  
9 this group.

10

11                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll be there also as  
12 a State AC. Not one of the Federal. I'm going to go -  
13 - Pete asked me to go for AC for Kotzebue.

14

15                   MR. MITCHELL: Also I didn't report on  
16 this. Me, myself, as a representative for the Village  
17 of Noatak, I implement these Inupiat, like we say,  
18 goals that is bred into all of us because we're Natives  
19 of the land, but there's some that we build on. One of  
20 those is spirituality. There's some parts where it's  
21 not really visible. There is spirituality in our  
22 Inupiat and we depend on that. So this spirituality,  
23 it contains our Lord Jesus, our Father God in Heaven.

24

25                   And stories like this don't come up or  
26 go by or we hardly hear. Anyway, this family in Noatak  
27 was setting a net this fall. They put in their net.  
28 They didn't have their rifle, but the father and mother  
29 and their little kids. So they put in a net. It  
30 wasn't catching fish so they decided to move it a  
31 little more and they did move it and then they moved  
32 their boat over here, so it did catch and so they  
33 started cutting their fish and the kids went over on  
34 the bend up the river to go get the wood, firewood, and  
35 while they were collecting firewood the ma and pa was  
36 cutting the fish and a big bear -- so we have a bear  
37 population all over and this happened right across the  
38 Village of Noatak on the other channel.

39

40                   So this bear started chasing those kids  
41 and the mother and father saw that, but they was way  
42 off on the whole big bend over there watching the bear  
43 charging the children and something in there. As that  
44 bear got closer to the children, that bear was getting  
45 faster and faster, getting closer and faster and  
46 definitely going to get those kids, but these parents  
47 they had no rifle. And then the mother had this little  
48 ulu in her hand, so she knows she's got nothing.  
49 Nothing to do. Can't help but watch her children die.

50

1                   So she said in the name of Jesus Christ  
2 stop, she said that to that bear. That's spirituality.  
3 In the name of Jesus Christ, stop. Well, that bear  
4 stopped right in his tracks, slides, skidded, stopped.  
5 That put tingling in me. I got touched by that when  
6 they told me. That bear stopped, lost the children.  
7 It was looking around, where'd they go, what's  
8 happening. It turned around right in its tracks and  
9 walked away. Those kids were running back. They were  
10 little kids, like seven years old.

11  
12                   So this is spirituality and this is  
13 concerning your caribou on the bear population. If  
14 something happened to those kids, I think we would have  
15 done something with the bear population. We should  
16 start implementing a plan now before anything happens  
17 like that.

18  
19                   So that's the message.

20  
21                   Thank you.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch.  
24 Okay, everyone is done with their report. You had  
25 something to say, Percy?

26  
27                   (No comments)

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, go ahead,  
30 Melinda.

31  
32                   MS. BURKE: Yes, I was just going to  
33 add onto Attamuk's report. He did a really wonderful  
34 job at the Board meeting this last January. Gave a lot  
35 of really great comments on the rural and the C&T,  
36 which we're going to be talking about a little bit  
37 later, so I just wanted to let the Council know that  
38 you were very well represented with your Chairman.

39  
40                   We should check in to see if anybody  
41 brand new has joined us on the phone. I thought I  
42 heard a couple of beeps during the Council member  
43 reports. Do we have anyone who has yet to identify  
44 themselves on the teleconference.

45  
46                   (No comments)

47  
48                   MS. BURKE: Okay. Thanks, everybody.  
49 I think lunch is still cooking away just a little bit.  
50 I was hoping that the Council, if you would like to

1 cover one more agenda item before we break for lunch,  
2 Jeff's prepared to speak to C&T if there's no public  
3 and tribal comments, which is where we're at.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone out there in  
6 the public that would like to speak. Yeah, go ahead.

7

8 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair. Lance Kramer  
9 with NANA. I also would like to suggest eventually for  
10 a proposal for Park Service to move that corridor, to  
11 move it further east, because it didn't do any good  
12 last year because there weren't any caribou in the Agi  
13 and not many hunters in the Agi. We need to move it  
14 further east to Cutler area, so hopefully Frank Hays  
15 could do that. That way if there are nonresident  
16 hunters up that way, they'll have that time barrier,  
17 you know. Maybe we can move the barrier to later.  
18 Right now it's only September 15th, but maybe we could  
19 move it to September 30th. That will allow those  
20 caribou to cross the Noatak naturally and get into the  
21 areas that they need to get into.

22

23 As for caribou, I think also we  
24 probably should study maybe caribou migration with Jim  
25 Dau on the Red Dog Road. He has some studies where  
26 they've been bouncing off the Red Dog Road and going  
27 around Noatak quite a ways. So I think we need to  
28 start talking about a study about that to make sure --  
29 because Kotzebue hasn't got many caribou in many, many  
30 years on the Noatak River and Red Dog Road I think has  
31 a little bit to do with that.

32

33 Thirdly, there are a lot of bears and I  
34 would like to put it out there that when we do make a  
35 proposal that we increase the take. Instead of 1 bear  
36 a year, maybe to three grizzly bears a year per person.  
37 Also allow that we can sell the hides. You know, any  
38 time something comes against money, money always wins.  
39 We see that with the polar bear years ago with the  
40 outsiders, you know. Man, they almost wiped out our  
41 polar bears because there was money attached to it.

42

43 If we just increase the take, not many  
44 people are going to take it because they don't do much  
45 with grizzly bears, but if they're able to sell the  
46 hides on eBay or whatever, then more people will start  
47 taking grizzly bears. I know I would shoot three if it  
48 was open to three, you know. Man, if I could proxy  
49 hunt for more, I would proxy hunt for more because  
50 there's lots. That one year we counted 19 on a flight

1 from here to Wulik River. Nineteen and it was a lot of  
2 sows with three grown cubs. They're very healthy and  
3 we need to do something drastically about the bears to  
4 help with the moose population.

5  
6 I also think that we need to begin  
7 studying caribou up in the summer grounds with the  
8 calves. They're dropping good and there's a lot of  
9 calves, but for some reason they're separating from  
10 their mamas, so we really need to start working with  
11 Jim Dau on that. Maybe some research in that area.

12  
13 Other than that thanks for your time.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you.

16  
17 MR. KRAMER: One more thing, Attamuk.  
18 I'm sorry. One more thing. I know that for that  
19 Proposal 202 that it was suggested maybe that we close  
20 the cow season from earlier, like March 15th, but I  
21 wouldn't suggest to close it March 15th completely  
22 because sometimes we need cows, you know. Right now  
23 it's five a day on State land. So it would be nice to  
24 see maybe a mixed bag limit, you know. Maybe three  
25 bulls and could only get two cows in the spring. That  
26 would be nice. But to close cows completely from March  
27 15th to June 30th that's pretty tough, you know,  
28 because people are going to go a long ways and maybe  
29 they're going to only see a little bit of cows.

30  
31 The other thing too, if we close it  
32 completely, we might make criminals out of our own  
33 people. That fellow Justin with the troopers, he'll  
34 start busting people if they see cows, you know, dead  
35 on the snow and we don't want to make criminals out of  
36 our people. We want to still allow them to get cows if  
37 they need to get cows, but we'll limit it, you know.  
38 Not five a day, not five cows a day, maybe two cows a  
39 day. Give them a chance to take home some meat if they  
40 see some. So that way we're still protecting cows, but  
41 we're still protecting our people as well.

42  
43 Same thing with the bulls in the fall.  
44 I know that some of the RACs want to close the bulls in  
45 the fall, but I say maybe make a mixed bag limit, you  
46 know. Maybe only take two bulls because some people  
47 like to get young bulls in the late fall. But, again,  
48 that way we're not making our people into criminals.  
49 When you completely close something to a caribou like  
50 that, you'll see our people will start going to jail.

1                   That guy, Justin, like he did with the  
2 wolverines up in Kivalina, he'll be busting people left  
3 and right. We don't want our people in the courts, you  
4 know. You don't want to close it off to them like  
5 that. So I would suggest in that Proposal 202 for an  
6 amendment that there be mixed bag limits so we're not  
7 making our people criminals.

8

9                   So those are my suggestions anyway.

10

11                   Thank you.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I have  
14 more comments on Proposal 202, but when the time comes  
15 I'll talk about it. You'll hear what we have to say  
16 when the time comes on Proposal 202. Thanks for your  
17 comments. Well taken.

18

19                   Go ahead, Melinda. You hear anything  
20 about our lunch?

21

22                   MS. BURKE: I think it's going to be a  
23 few more minutes, Mr. Chair. If we want to take a  
24 break and let everybody get a snack, I think we can  
25 cover another agenda item before we formally break for  
26 lunch if that's okay with you.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, before we go on  
29 break I just want to say one last time is there anyone  
30 else on the public comments would like to say anything,  
31 even out there on the phone.

32

33                   (No comments)

34

35                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll take a  
36 short break before our lunch. We'll take a break  
37 before our lunch and then we'll have lunch after the  
38 break.

39

40                   (Off record)

41

42                   (On record)

43

44                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Enoch, are you out  
45 there? We're going to call the meeting back to order  
46 for a little while and then go on lunch.

47

48                   MS. BURKE: Everybody, in your yellow  
49 packet, on the right-hand side, you have a big  
50 briefing, C&T briefing. For everyone on the phone

1 we're going to go ahead and cover under old business  
2 10(b), the customary and traditional use determination.  
3 Jeff Brooks is going to be the speaker and we're going  
4 to cover that agenda item before we take our lunch  
5 break.

6

7 Percy, this briefing is on the right-  
8 hand side and, Austin, if you're on the phone too, this  
9 is on the right-hand side of your packet. On the top  
10 it says briefing, customary and traditional use  
11 determination process. For those in the room, there's  
12 plenty on the back table.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Jeff. You  
15 have the floor.

16

17 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 Members of the Council. My name is Jeff Brooks. I  
19 work for the Office of Subsistence Management in  
20 Anchorage. I'm with the Anthropology Division. I'm  
21 here right now to talk to you a bit about this large  
22 briefing that's in your packet. Again, it is in the  
23 supplemental materials and it's available on the back  
24 table.

25

26 I'm going to start by summarizing the  
27 content of the document. Is everybody hungry or not?  
28 If you're hungry, I'll keep this short. If you're not,  
29 I'll go on. The document appears rather long and  
30 that's mainly because there are two appendices with a  
31 lot of detail. So it consists of two appendices and  
32 one expanded briefing or analysis. The first 20 pages  
33 is an expanded briefing. We've also called it an  
34 analysis of the possible effects to the regions if the  
35 changes that were proposed were undertaken. It's  
36 important for me to remind you that that's not a  
37 regulatory analysis. That is basically an expanded  
38 briefing.

39

40 I'd like to start with the content of  
41 Appendix A. Basically what that is is it consists of a  
42 letter from the Southeast Chair, Mr. Bertram Adams,  
43 requesting that the Federal Program, as part of the  
44 Secretarial Review, take a look at how customary and  
45 traditional use determinations are made. That also  
46 contains a summary of what the RACs have said to date  
47 on the changes. So, again, it's part of the  
48 Secretarial Review that was started in 2010 and that's  
49 why we've been hearing about this quite a bit. I  
50 briefed you on this information a year ago here in

1 Kotzebue and also last fall in Kiana.

2

3

4                   What OSM asked all the Regional  
5 Advisory Councils to consider were four things. One,  
6 get rid of the C&T determinations and instead use  
7 ANILCA .804 criteria. So the customary and traditional  
8 use determinations process is currently in Federal  
9 regulation. Also ANILCA Section .804 has criteria in  
10 it to determine the eligible subsistence harvesters in  
11 a time of conservation need.

12

13                   Also they want to ask if they should  
14 change the customary and traditional use determinations  
15 in any other way. Another question was make no  
16 changes. These were the things that you were briefed  
17 on as part of the Secretarial Review.

18

19                   In 2014, Southeast made another  
20 request. I'll cover that in just a minute here.  
21 First, I'd like to provide you with the summary of the  
22 review to date and I have a handout that Melinda will  
23 pass out. So, as I said, this request was made of all  
24 the RACs.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Before you go on, the  
27 guys on the teleconference, were they able to get this  
28 copy?

29

30                   MR. BROOKS: Percy has a copy and  
31 Austin as well. Thank you for asking, Mr. Chair. So  
32 we had three Councils to date that had voted through a  
33 formal motion to change the customary and traditional  
34 use determination process. That was Southeast,  
35 Southcentral and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Three  
36 Regional Advisory Councils voted to keep the  
37 determination process as is; Kodiak/Aleutians, Western  
38 Interior and Eastern Interior. There are four Councils  
39 that still have not made a formal motion; Bristol Bay,  
40 Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic and North Slope.

41

42                   Again, this is not a request for a  
43 formal motion or action today. Basically I'm here to  
44 keep you apprised of what's going on with this.  
45 Another reason that it is confusing that after this  
46 first request we got another request in 2014 from the  
47 Southeast Regional Advisory Council to ask the RACs  
48 specifically to look at some proposed language and they  
49 also asked the OSM staff to conduct an analysis of  
50 that.

51

1                   So what the Southeast RAC had asked in  
2 a nutshell was should we consider getting rid of the  
3 eight factors that are currently used to make customary  
4 and traditional use determinations and replace those  
5 with what's already in the law, ANILCA .804, with the  
6 three criteria there. Another part of their informal  
7 proposal would be to increase the flexibility by region  
8 so that you would allow each Regional Advisory Council  
9 to determine its own process to identify eligibility of  
10 rural residents for the Federal program. The third  
11 thing was the Board would defer to the recommendations  
12 of the Regional Advisory Council on customary and  
13 traditional use determinations.

14  
15                   So that is the second request and that  
16 is found in the second letter of your briefing. Again,  
17 this is Appendix B and that starts on Page 32. The  
18 very first part of this document, however, is what the  
19 Staff at OSM actually did for this series of meetings.  
20 Primarily Ms. Pippa Kenner, one of our anthropologists,  
21 with the help of other Staff, put together the first 20  
22 pages of the briefing in front of you. What that is  
23 designed to do mainly is to show examples across the  
24 different regions of what it could look like if we did  
25 eliminate these eight factors and go with the ANILCA  
26 .804 criteria.

27  
28                   There is an example in there for your  
29 region. If you turn to Page 15 of the briefing, you'll  
30 see in the middle of the page it says Northwest Arctic  
31 Region. What this shows is a small table of the  
32 exiting regulations. So if you did away with the eight  
33 criteria and went with the .804 criteria, you would end  
34 up opening this up to all rural residents for the  
35 species listed here. In Unit 23 on the books right now  
36 it says that the customary and traditional use  
37 determination for coyote, beaver, Arctic fox, red fox,  
38 hare, lynx, muskrat and wolverine is open to all rural  
39 residents, so there would be no change there.

40  
41                   Now if you're comparing it to the  
42 ANILCA .804 process, in this region we don't have an  
43 example of an .804, but there is something in  
44 regulation. If you turn to Page 16, you'll see another  
45 table that has come out of the regulation booklet.  
46 It's concerning muskoxen in Unit 23. If you read the  
47 italicized part of that down in the lower right-hand  
48 corner, you'll see it says that Federal public lands  
49 are closed to the taking of -- it says moose, it should  
50 be muskoxen, it's a typo -- except by Federally

1 qualified subsistence users hunting under these  
2 regulations.

3

4                   So this is not an .804 determination  
5 from ANILCA. Basically what is reflected here in your  
6 region is that the current customary and traditional  
7 use determination already includes the people who are  
8 most dependent on muskoxen, so there is no reason to do  
9 an .804 determination. So basically the current  
10 customary and traditional use determination sort of  
11 mirrors what the possible .804 analysis in  
12 determination would look like.

13

14                   So in some regions these changes could  
15 affect people differently. What the Southeast Council  
16 has asked is that not only do we do an analysis or a  
17 briefing for them on what a proposed change would look  
18 like, they've also asked that we put this before the  
19 other RACs for their information and input.

20

21                   I'll remind you one more time this is  
22 not an action item. You're not obligated to make any  
23 motions on the Southeast's proposed language. As far  
24 as next steps go, this is ongoing. However, at some  
25 point in the future, the Southeast Regional Advisory  
26 Council could submit a formal proposal to change how  
27 the Federal Subsistence Board does customary and  
28 traditional use determinations.

29

30                   With that I'll end and I'll try to  
31 address questions that you may have.

32

33                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Jeff.  
36 Anyone have questions. Go ahead, Calvin. Hannah,  
37 you'll be next.

38

39                   MR. MOTO: I understand Congress is  
40 trying to change ANILCA. What affect will it have if  
41 they do change? I know that they have been trying for  
42 a couple years to reword ANILCA. What bothers me is  
43 most of the people in Congress, the ones that are  
44 trying to change it, are thousands of miles away. They  
45 say we don't need this law. It disturbed me.

46

47                   I wonder if it does pass, what would  
48 happen to determine the traditional use and stuff like  
49 that, you know. I've been reading up on it lately and  
50 it kind of disturbs me, you know.

1 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Moto, for  
2 your question or comment. I'm not aware of any  
3 Congressional movement or action at the moment to  
4 rewrite parts of ANILCA, but I have heard at other  
5 public meetings and Regional Advisory Council meetings  
6 that people do comment about sort of the long reach of  
7 the folks in Washington and that they prefer to have  
8 their management decisions based on the ground and  
9 working with managers who live here with the people.  
10 I'm not really sure though what information you've seen  
11 about Congress trying to change ANILCA.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 MR. MOTO: I follow anything that  
16 pertains to our traditional way of life, hunting,  
17 fishing, gathering of food, you know. That's why I'd  
18 like to try to bring that up because I understand that  
19 Young is opposed to that change also and Murkowski.  
20 Just thought I'd bring that up.

21  
22 MR. BROOKS: Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Jeff.

25  
26 MR. BROOKS: No, I'm good. I'm fine.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

29  
30 MS. LOON: Yes, thank you. On the  
31 Northwest Arctic Region you listed these certain  
32 animals. Just to remind you to add mink, even though  
33 we rarely get them, land otter, marten, ground  
34 squirrels for Kivalina area and muskrats. Just add  
35 those on Page 15.

36  
37 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Thank you, Hannah.

38  
39 MS. LOON: Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So these regulations  
42 they're trying to propose, are they going to make it  
43 for the whole state, one rule for all? Is that what  
44 they're trying to do? Because we are all different  
45 because Alaska is so large. At times I always feel  
46 like the Federal changing in more like units or  
47 sections, you know, Alaska, Southeast Alaska and all  
48 the way up to Barrow because we all differ, yet we  
49 harvest the same animals but at different times.  
50

1 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
2 understand your question. In general, a change to the  
3 way customary and traditional use determinations are  
4 done would be for the entire state. However, what  
5 they're trying to do here, instead of applying -- well,  
6 one could argue that if you try to apply the eight  
7 factors to all the regions in a consistent manner, that  
8 you're not allowing for regional differences in the way  
9 people do things and what time of year they do things.

10

11

12 So one of the proposals -- one of the  
13 language changes would be to allow more flexibility for  
14 regions to do things the way they want to concerning  
15 customary and traditional use determinations. So if a  
16 region, for example, wanted to change a customary and  
17 traditional use determination from a small area around  
18 a community or two to the entire Game Management Unit,  
19 that's a recommendation that the Regional Advisory  
20 Council could make to the Federal Subsistence Board.

21

22 The proposal to change the language --  
23 which again is not formal. It hasn't been formally  
24 submitted. This is some ideas that the Southeast  
25 Council has put before the other Regional Advisory  
26 Councils, would be not only to allow for the  
27 recommendations of the RACs to be deferred to by the  
28 Federal Subsistence Board but also to allow some  
29 flexibility from region to region so that the Regional  
30 Advisory Councils could make their own recommendations  
31 on how to do things. So the customary and traditional  
32 use determinations would not look the same across the  
33 whole state.

34

35 Did that answer your question?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, thank you.

38 Anyone else. Go ahead, Verne.

39

40 MR. CLEVELAND: So it's up to this  
41 Council to make a determination whether to have ANILCA  
42 or customary? It's up to the Council right here?

43

44 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Verne, for your  
45 question. The first part of the review did ask -- OSM  
46 asked all the RACs if they wanted to change the way  
47 customary and traditional use determinations were made.  
48 Some of them said no change, some of them said, yes,  
49 let's change it. There are four Councils, including  
50 yours, the Northwest Arctic, who haven't made any

1 action or votes or motions. That's mainly because they  
2 wanted more information and time to learn about the  
3 differences between customary and traditional use  
4 determination, particularly the eight factors that we  
5 use in regulation, and the ANILCA .804 process. There  
6 are only three criteria in that section of the law.

7  
8                   So basically it's not up to your  
9 Council to decide whether or not to eliminate the eight  
10 factors and only go with ANILCA .804. That's something  
11 you can discuss and make recommendations on in general,  
12 but it's not necessarily up to you to make a decision  
13 on that. This isn't an action item. If the Southeast  
14 Regional Advisory Council submits a formal proposal to  
15 the Board, that will go out in the regular process and  
16 it will go before all the RACs, including yours, and  
17 that proposal could include language to the effect of  
18 eliminating the eight criteria in the C&T process, the  
19 customary and traditional use process, in times of  
20 conservation shortage or concern using what's in ANILCA  
21 to determine the eligible rural subsistence harvesters  
22 among all those who are eligible.

23  
24                   I don't think that we'd be able to get  
25 rid of the customary and traditional use determination  
26 process altogether, but it's possible that a proposal  
27 could come forth that asks for the eight factors to be  
28 eliminated and the Board to rely solely on what we call  
29 the .804 process, which is from Section .804 of the  
30 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

31  
32                   MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else. Go  
35 ahead, Enoch.

36  
37                   MR. MITCHELL: So we're going to try to  
38 remove the customary and traditional and go with ANILCA  
39 Section .804. And then the C&T was created by the  
40 State and it concerns our cultural and traditional.  
41 Does ANILCA apply this to this .804 or -- what I'm  
42 trying to say is does ANILCA .804 will it affect our  
43 local cultural and tradition?

44  
45                   MR. BROOKS: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
46 Mitchell, for your question. What I think you're  
47 asking is does .804 account for the same customary and  
48 traditional uses that the customary and traditional use  
49 determination does now. Let me just read to you  
50 quickly what the three criteria are for the .804. So

1 in times of conservation shortage if the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board had to make the group of rural  
3 residents smaller to hunt a certain population.

4  
5           Like for example in the Seward  
6 Peninsula area there was concerns with muskoxen, so  
7 they wanted to limit all the people who had customary  
8 and traditional use to a smaller number. So what that  
9 assumes is that the State -- all the State seasons are  
10 closed, commercial is closed and for Federal lands you  
11 would make a determination who among those rural  
12 residents who have a customary and traditional use  
13 determination could harvest from a population.

14  
15           What the analysis looks at is three  
16 criteria and this is under ANILCA. Customary and  
17 direct dependence upon the population as the mainstay  
18 of livelihood. Two, local residency. And, three, the  
19 availability of alternative resources. The eight  
20 factors in the current regulation for customary and  
21 traditional use include things like that as well, but  
22 there are eight of them and you can read those for  
23 yourself on Page 37 of the briefing. It's actually the  
24 second to last page. It shows the current regulation  
25 for both the customary and traditional use  
26 determination process and the .804 process.

27  
28           More broadly, your question, I think,  
29 is it's not one of where one thing would be gotten rid  
30 of and the other thing would apply. There would still  
31 be room to use both tools and flexibility. Basically  
32 it would come down -- if this proposed regulation were  
33 to pass, for example, and it really did include  
34 regional flexibility and the ability of the Regional  
35 Advisory Councils recommendations to be upheld by the  
36 Federal Subsistence Board, it would probably ensure  
37 that you would have more of a say in actually making  
38 sure that your customary and traditional practices and  
39 uses of resources are protected.

40  
41           Did that answer your question?

42  
43           MR. MITCHELL: Well, the one thing to  
44 Native core or culture is the caribou of Noatak. The  
45 availability of caribou is not there. The customary  
46 and traditional use is realizing your culture. The  
47 absence of caribou. When this issue is resolved, I  
48 think this will pertain to us after we get our caribou.

49  
50           MR. BROOKS: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Verne.  
2  
3 MR. CLEVELAND: We can go all day on  
4 this one and probably not get resolved on anything  
5 because it's just going to go on and on. Can we have  
6 more info or anything on this?  
7  
8 MR. BROOKS: I have more materials that  
9 I can give you today, but really I think what you've  
10 been asking for is that we, as the Staff, and Melinda,  
11 myself, others plan some type of a workshop, training  
12 session, more time off the record to actually work with  
13 you and talk to you about this. And that certainly can  
14 be done. I mean that's what we should do if the  
15 Regional Advisory Council requested it.  
16  
17 MR. CLEVELAND: That would be good to  
18 have a work session on this and explain to this Council  
19 and see what's right and see what's wrong. That would  
20 even be better for us to realize what's going on here.  
21  
22 Thank you.  
23  
24 Good idea, a work session.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.  
27  
28 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It  
29 said on Page 7 there are no examples of ANILCA section  
30 determinations in the Southeast Alaska and they list  
31 those. We discussed this some time ago when you first  
32 -- somebody brought it up that we can't decide for  
33 Southeast Alaska what they want to do because our  
34 region is different from theirs. Plus Southeast Alaska  
35 people are more formally educated and they know how to  
36 read these lines .804, what they're needing and what  
37 they have already. So they're learned, but we can't  
38 decide for them or Yup'ik, Tlingit, Haida, we got 200-  
39 something tribes and we can't speak for other regions  
40 for their resources.  
41  
42 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Ms. Loon.  
43 Yeah, we hear that from the other Councils,  
44 particularly in the case of the four hear that haven't  
45 taken any action and are requesting more work with  
46 their Staff on this. We definitely are not asking you  
47 to take action or make a decision for the Southeast and  
48 I agree and hear you that, yes, the regions are  
49 different.  
50

1 I think what the Southeast really  
2 wanted was that OSM take a good look at their proposed  
3 language, give them feedback and some type of informal  
4 non-regulatory analysis or in-depth briefing on what  
5 the possible effects of it could be. It was just a  
6 better idea to put it before all of the RACs and not  
7 just deal with Southeast and OSM. I mean the Southeast  
8 Council wanted everybody else to see it, be able to  
9 weigh in. I don't think they're expecting all the  
10 Regional Advisory Councils to make a formal motion and  
11 vote one way or the other.

12

13 Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Before I get to you,  
16 Calvin, I'd like to say something. I think the problem  
17 here is that you're talking about two different things.  
18 You're talking and deer in Southeast Alaska and you're  
19 talking about our unit on moose. I think that's where  
20 the mix up is and the understanding is getting hard for  
21 the Natives here. You've got to be careful on your  
22 layman terms here.

23

24 If you're going to talk about our  
25 section, you should talk about the issues we have here,  
26 not mention other areas because we don't get deer at  
27 all. That's a conflict I think we're hearing and the  
28 problem we're having, is you're trying to base it for  
29 the whole state on areas that we don't harvest or they  
30 don't harvest moose and that's where the mix up is  
31 being at. To make us understand and do it better, I  
32 think we've got to be careful of how you use it for  
33 comparison.

34

35 That's the trouble. We're worried  
36 about moose. We're worried about caribou. We don't  
37 really worry about these deer and the dates because we  
38 don't harvest deer. I hope you understand what I'm  
39 trying to say. I think we have to be careful because  
40 we Natives are real limited on our layman terms.  
41 That's where the mix up is.

42

43 For your information, U.S. Congress was  
44 looking to ANILCA to make those proposal changes. I  
45 don't know whatever happened to it. Calvin, I hear  
46 that too because I was called on it. It is scary if  
47 there's any changes to it. But we never know how the  
48 President is going to do. He's never there. One  
49 President will go this way, the next one might go  
50 completely different. That's why the process of

1 Federal it takes forever for us to get anything done.

2

3                   We might talk about the same thing for  
4 10 years. Me and Raymond have been here for a long  
5 time. We've been talking about certain things for the  
6 last 20 years. It's really hard, but that process is  
7 so slow, the Federal. It's not you guys' fault we have  
8 to go through Congress. That's the problem we have.  
9 We'd just say stay away, Congress, leave these guys  
10 alone and we'll get somewhere.

11

12                   Go ahead, Raymond. Oh, I thought you  
13 had your hand up.

14

15                   MR. STONEY: No, I didn't.

16

17                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

18

19                   MR. MOTO: Okay. On customary and  
20 traditional use determination process, for a long time  
21 every time we go to meetings they said we don't have  
22 documentation, especially on B. A customary --  
23 community of area shall generally exhibit the following  
24 factors which exemplify customary and traditional use.  
25 The Board shall make customary and traditional use  
26 based on the application of the following factors: a  
27 long-term, consistent pattern of use excluding  
28 interruption beyond the user's control. A pattern of  
29 use occurs for many years.

30

31                   Well, we shot them down one time. We  
32 were building the water sewer project in Deering. We  
33 found where houses used to be. On one side there was a  
34 big table, one side there was a whole bunch of caribou  
35 bones and on the other side there was a lot of geese  
36 bones. So we took pictures of them and brought them to  
37 the next meeting. I told them a picture tells a  
38 thousand words. This is about two or three thousand  
39 years ago when these things were hunted. There were  
40 geese, crane, ducks, and then there was caribou, some  
41 moose. And I said you're always after us about not  
42 having documentation. I said I think this will tell  
43 you a thousand words that we used that for thousands of  
44 years.

45

46                   So this is something I thought I'd  
47 bring up because every time I read this it makes me  
48 kind of -- you know. But I thought I'd bring that up.

49

50                   Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

2

3 MR. BROOKS: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

6

7 MS. LOON: I think I feel some of us  
8 were quiet for a while. When we're real quiet, we're  
9 wondering. If you could have a determination process  
10 on subsistence by rural residents and there's  
11 differences between State and Federal. What will  
12 happen if we eliminate -- these are questions I could -  
13 - what will happen if we eliminate the eight factors?  
14 What will happen if we defer on customary and  
15 traditional use determinations? Like Verne says, we've  
16 been discussing subsistence for a long time. I'm glad  
17 you are working on this for our better understanding  
18 just to make sure we understand before we decide.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Hannah.

21 Melinda, go ahead.

22

23 MS. BURKE: Yes, I just wanted to throw  
24 something out there. I think it was a really great idea  
25 to workshop this more carefully. One year from now the  
26 Office of Subsistence Management is trying to put  
27 together an all-Council meeting, so that means next  
28 year instead of having all the meetings taking place in  
29 the region our winter cycle will all be in one week in  
30 Anchorage. All of the Councils meeting together to  
31 discuss common issues.

32

33 There will be time for break-out  
34 sessions and I think that this topic would be a perfect  
35 one for that meeting and that gathering. I know that  
36 it is on our possible topic of discussions. So Jeff  
37 and I will definitely be sure to pass your suggestion  
38 forward. I think even having some time before our next  
39 meeting in the fall to workshop this a little bit is  
40 going to be -- and Jeff and I will work on getting some  
41 more examples.

42

43 Thank you. I've definitely got that  
44 down here. Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I think  
47 that would be a great idea. I'll tell you one thing,  
48 if we all get together and all our concerns, it might  
49 take a whole week, so might have to travel Sunday.  
50 Don't be surprised if we have to stay longer. I will

1 commit myself for that week because like I always  
2 state, this is a great land, this is a great state.  
3 It's got to be preserved the right way for the future.

4

5                   Anyone else. Go ahead, Verne.

6

7                   MR. CLEVELAND: (In Inupiaq).

8

9                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What Verne said is we  
10 all need to understand and move forward with this.

11 We've all got to understand it and we need to  
12 understand it. We've been talking about this for so  
13 long on certain things that we do it -- once we talk  
14 about it one way, later on we'll talk about it a  
15 completely different way, a concern that do come up.  
16 That's what he's trying to say.

17

18                   Anything else, Verne, in Eskimo?  
19 Hannah, you'll translate the next one.

20

21                   MR. CLEVELAND: I was going to have  
22 Melinda translate, but that's okay.

23

24                   (Laughter)

25

26                   MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Cleveland.

27

28                   MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you. A workshop  
29 would be better.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
32 Jeff. Back to Melinda.

33

34                   MS. BURKE: Sure, Mr. Chair. I think  
35 we all need a good lunch break at this point. Looking  
36 at the agenda, I think we're doing pretty well. So how  
37 long would the Chair like to call for lunch? I know  
38 folks have a couple errands. I have some per diem  
39 checks and we'll have food being served up here  
40 probably in about 15 minutes or so hopefully.

41

42                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll ask the guys  
43 from the village and see how long they want to take.  
44 It's not Friday, let's put it that way. The bank is  
45 not full right now. The bank is right across the  
46 street. Do you guys want to take a whole hour, maybe  
47 2:30? If we need to, we can have a working lunch.  
48 We'll take a break now at 1:17 and resume at 2:30.

49

50                   MS. BURKE: Thanks everybody on the

1 line. We'll ring back in about 2:30 or shortly before  
2 2:30.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (On record)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll call the  
9 meeting back to order at 2:30 in the afternoon.  
10 Carmen, you have the -- are you Carmen? Who did she  
11 say?

12

13 MS. LOON: Brittany Sweeney.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Brittany? Sorry. I  
16 was reading what Enoch gave me. Go ahead, Brittany,  
17 you have the floor. Sorry.

18

19 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you. I'm the other  
20 naluagmiu girl who's here today.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MS. SWEENEY: My name is Brittany  
25 Sweeney and I work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
26 Service of the Selawik Refuge here in Kotzebue. I've  
27 been here for five years. Also today on the phone we  
28 have Heather Tonneson who works in the Regional Office  
29 and we're going to be updating you what's happening  
30 with a statewide rule that Fish and Wildlife Service is  
31 proposing for National Wildlife Refuges. I think that  
32 Susan briefed you about this before at the Kiana  
33 meeting, so I'm just going to update you on what's  
34 happened since then and then give you a chance for  
35 feedback or questions.

36

37 Heather, are you there? Maybe not.

38

39 MS. TONNESON: Yes, I'm on.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Excuse me. I think  
42 we need to find out who is on teleconference.

43

44 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Right before we  
45 started it didn't sound like there was any new callers.  
46 It sounds like we have all the same ones from this  
47 morning.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

50

1 MS. SWEENEY: The Fish and Wildlife  
2 Service is working through the process to update  
3 regulations that govern sport hunting on Wildlife  
4 Refuges in Alaska. This process has been going on and  
5 for the last six months we've been talking to people  
6 all over the state and taking their feedback, so there  
7 have been some changes to what we're proposing since  
8 last time that you heard about it. But there's two  
9 main pieces to what's being proposed and this is  
10 relevant to what you've been discussing today because  
11 you've been talking a lot about predators and your  
12 concerns with predators.

13  
14 So the first piece of what we're  
15 proposing is -- I'll read you the policy statement and  
16 then I'll try to explain it. It says predator  
17 reduction activities with the intent or potential to  
18 alter or manipulate the natural diversity of species  
19 populations or habitats, e.g. artificially increasing  
20 or decreasing wildlife populations to provide for more  
21 harvest opportunity would be prohibited on Refuges in  
22 Alaska. So that's the first piece.

23  
24 I know, Calvin. I'm up right after  
25 lunch, right. Not very lively. So we're just  
26 clarifying the position of where the U.S. Fish and  
27 Wildlife Service stands with relation to large-scale  
28 predator reduction. We do support harvest of predators  
29 and we're not proposing to change any existing State or  
30 Federal harvest practices or bag limits that are  
31 currently in place.

32  
33 Then there are a couple of specific  
34 methods and means that we are looking to prohibit.  
35 Again, these would be for sport hunting and none of  
36 these are currently on the books for our region, but  
37 this rule would just clarify that they wouldn't be able  
38 to be allowed in the future. So those are take of bear  
39 cubs or sows with cubs. There are some exceptions in  
40 certain areas where they have customary and traditional  
41 practices and they ask those to be included, so we did  
42 include those in certain areas in the Interior, I  
43 believe.

44  
45 The next one is take of brown bears  
46 over bait would be something that we would be  
47 prohibiting. It's not currently allowed. Take of  
48 bears using traps or snares. Take of wolves and  
49 coyotes during the denning season, which it's currently  
50 closed during the summer, and same day airborne take of

1 bears. So, again, none of these are currently legal.

2

3                   When this rule was originally  
4 discussed, there was a longer list of items. There  
5 were like 16 things and then we heard a lot of feedback  
6 from people and we've narrowed down the focus to these  
7 five, but if you want to give feedback on any of these  
8 five or you have questions, those are the ones that  
9 we're currently proposing.

10

11                   Also, just to let you know, in the  
12 original language we talked about allowing the  
13 collection of natural resources, like firewood and  
14 berry picking, on Refuge lands by sport hunters,  
15 recreationalists and we took that out, but it is still  
16 open for subsistence users and will be.

17

18                   So the question that you might be  
19 wondering is why are we proposing these, what has led  
20 to this proposed rule. So I'll just put all the big  
21 text up here. There's a lot of words. I'm probably  
22 not going to read all of that, but as a Federal agency  
23 the Fish and Wildlife Service we take our marching  
24 orders from the laws that were put in place that gave  
25 us the authority to manage Wildlife Refuges.

26

27                   One major example is ANILCA, which  
28 we've talked about today, but Selawik Wildlife Refuge  
29 was created under ANILCA and it listed purposes that  
30 said this is how you will manage this Wildlife Refuge.  
31 It said we will maintain wildlife populations in their  
32 natural diversity. So the motivation for this rule is  
33 our understanding or interpretation of how we're  
34 supposed to put those laws into place.

35

36                   You can see our interpretation of  
37 natural diversity means that we think that we need to  
38 keep viable populations of all the wildlife species.  
39 If you look at the Congressional record where they told  
40 us how to manage these new Refuges in the '80s, they  
41 talked about keeping the natural mix and not favoring  
42 one species over another, that we should keep the  
43 natural processes in place and let nature take its  
44 course in a lot of ways.

45

46                   Then the other piece of the rule we're  
47 proposing has to do with how closures would be done on  
48 Refuges if there has to be a  
49 temporary or emergency closure. And on the paper you  
50 have in your booklets that has the bear, it's like a

1 fact sheet, on the back of that there's a table that  
2 sort of gives you a lot of detail about what types of  
3 closures, but basically we're just updating them to  
4 make them more similar to the subsistence processes and  
5 the processes that are used by other agency processes.

6  
7 Here's the list of reasons why we can  
8 have a closure. We're adding to that to say that  
9 conservation of diversity or biological integrity is  
10 one reason why we could have a closure. Right now our  
11 emergency closures can be only for 30 days and we think  
12 that 30 days is a really short time to see a difference  
13 in something, so we're proposing that an emergency  
14 closure could last 60 days, which I think is similar to  
15 the State and others. Then after an emergency closure  
16 the next level is a temporary closure. It says it's  
17 only for as long as is necessary to deal with the  
18 cause, but it could go as long as five years.

19  
20 Right now there's a list of what you  
21 have to do to give notice before the closure takes  
22 effect. We're adding to that list that we'll have to  
23 consult with the tribes before the closure would take  
24 effect. That's for permanent or temporary closures.  
25 Then other legal requirements as far as where we would  
26 have to publish in the CFR before closures would take  
27 effect. So, as I said, that fact sheet has a table  
28 listing what those differences are. Then the other  
29 thing is we would also be able to use the internet to  
30 help spread the word. We would add that to our list of  
31 ways to notify.

32  
33 So because this Regional Advisory  
34 Council deals with Federal subsistence regulations, I  
35 want to clarify that this proposed rule is for sport  
36 hunters on Refuges. It doesn't apply to subsistence  
37 hunting, so it doesn't change any Federal regulations  
38 or it doesn't take away any authority from this group  
39 to propose any subsistence regulations in the future.  
40 We're dealing with a different set of users. So this  
41 is people from outside the region and the rules that  
42 would apply to them on the Refuge.

43  
44 Then to clarify for you where in our  
45 region this would take effect, this rule is for  
46 National Wildlife Refuges. So, in our region, the  
47 Selawik Wildlife Refuge is the Selawik River, the lands  
48 around Selawik and then the Kobuk River delta, but it  
49 would only apply on the Federal lands. On this map  
50 those are the green lands. The red-colored NANA lands

1 wouldn't be included. It would be the same for other  
2 National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska, so there are  
3 several of them throughout the state and you can see.  
4 That's the blue color on this smaller map. So this  
5 doesn't apply to Parks or private land or State land,  
6 just National Wildlife Refuges.

7

8                   Was there a question on the phone?

9

10                   MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Does that include  
11 the BLM lands up past the Buckland area?

12

13                   MS. SWEENEY: No, Percy, this is not  
14 for the BLM lands. It's only U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
15 Service managed lands in the National Wildlife Refuge.

16

17                   MR. BALLOT: Okay.

18

19                   MS. SWEENEY: So in our area the only  
20 thing that would be changed is the dates for the wolf  
21 season. Currently I believe it's closed from May 1st  
22 to July 31st. That's the denning season. The dates  
23 would be changed slightly from May 1st to August 9th,  
24 so a nine day difference. And these are the sport  
25 hunting dates.

26

27                   So, as I said, we've started on this  
28 process and we've been doing tribal consultation,  
29 government-to-government consultation and we've talked  
30 to the RACs at your last meeting. The next steps that  
31 will happen with this process are in April we'll  
32 actually put it out there as a proposed rule and there  
33 will be public comment from anybody who wants to make  
34 public comment. Then we'll update the proposed rule in  
35 the fall after the comment period, then early next year  
36 we would publish it as a final rule and that's when it  
37 would take effect.

38

39                   So the RAC can give feedback at any  
40 time. I'll take your comments now and here's contact  
41 numbers for myself and Heather for anyone who wants to  
42 give comments or feedback. At this point I'll pause  
43 and give you a chance for questions.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I think what  
46 you need to do as you go and that way we won't get  
47 mixed up take it section by section and we would  
48 question because I have one you commented on.

49

50                   MS. SWEENEY: I can go back to the

1 slide.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. What I'm  
4 saying is you propose make some regulations in place  
5 close to complying with the State. I feel as the Park  
6 Service and the Selawik Wildlife, Noatak Preserve, the  
7 Monument and the Bering Land Bridge, we've got so much  
8 Federal lands that we shouldn't worry about it because  
9 the State worry about us when things are too late. I  
10 think we should make our regulation in place. Don't  
11 worry about complying with the State. Reverse it.  
12 Make the State comply with us because we live off the  
13 land.

14

15 When we try to say there's any kind of  
16 reduction or we see something happening, even if we  
17 call the State, they won't listen to us. The Federal  
18 will listen to us. I really believe in that. We  
19 should try to reverse and we take the lead in all  
20 resources because there's so much resources here in  
21 Alaska. If the others disagree with me, I got no  
22 problem with that.

23

24 And the taken of young of all  
25 resources, our culture from way back, always when  
26 they're rearing their young, bears, wolves, even  
27 they're predators, give them a chance because we have  
28 to preserve Northwest Alaska traditionally the way it's  
29 done. Don't wipe it out like the Western world will by  
30 taking the young. Sure, we want to get rid of the  
31 predators. We got no problem with that, but give them  
32 a chance to rear their young and don't harvest the  
33 mothers while they're babies. If they can't fend for  
34 themselves, they're going to decline. Once they decline,  
35 we will have to worry about it again later. We don't  
36 need to make problems for ourselves or issues or  
37 concerns.

38

39 That's my comment and they're welcome  
40 to say anything about this. We should make our own  
41 regulation. Not worry too much about the State.

42

43 MS. SWEENEY: Just to respond to a  
44 couple points of what you said. You're right, we do  
45 have a lot of different Federal lands in our region.  
46 So the information that I presented would only apply on  
47 the Wildlife Refuge, not Monuments, Parks or Preserves.  
48 The National Park Service has their own rules that they  
49 have done for sport hunting. Yes, we have also heard  
50 that most of these means and methods that we were

1 proposing to eliminate are not traditional anyway and  
2 they're not something the people have normally done.  
3 So most tribes and RACs that we've spoken with didn't  
4 have a lot of issue with those particular methods and  
5 means.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So you're going to  
8 propose on your wolf season from August 1 to April 30,  
9 you're going to move it to August 10?

10

11 MS. SWEENEY: That's right. It would  
12 lengthen the closed period for wolves by nine days  
13 longer. So it's a very slight change. Then again it  
14 doesn't change any of the subsistence harvest dates or  
15 anything. This is just for sport hunting on Refuges.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, because I've  
18 seen, you know, wolves, young pups well after August  
19 that they could fend for themselves or September.

20

21 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, so September would  
22 be open.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else  
25 have questions for her?

26

27 MS. SWEENEY: There were a couple, Mr.  
28 Kramer and Ms. Loon.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

31

32 MS. LOON: I don't understand the wolf  
33 season.

34

35 MS. SWEENEY: The wolf season, okay.

36

37 MS. LOON: I mean I want to let you  
38 know that we do not take wolf until maybe November or  
39 December. The wolf hide or any kind of winter hid,  
40 fox, wolverine, around February and there's a star they  
41 call something, and when those two stars in the east  
42 are close together, that is a sign indicator to take  
43 the wolf traditionally.

44

45 Our season in our mind, in our heads,  
46 we don't care to take wolf in August, no, maybe around  
47 November, December until maybe April, in our  
48 understanding. So these don't make sense to me anyway  
49 on paper.

50

1 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, I understand.  
2 People usually hunt wolves when the fur is in good  
3 condition. So, for that reason, I didn't think these  
4 dates would make very much difference in our region  
5 anyway because people aren't hunting them at that time  
6 anyway. So this is more informational, but we want to  
7 make sure the RAC is informed about whatever we're  
8 working through, but we didn't think it would affect  
9 people on the ground very much in our region.

10  
11 MS. LOON: Pretty soon the dog's hair  
12 will shed outside our yards around April, May. That's  
13 the same way the wolves and other winter furbearing  
14 animals. Their hair will be funny.

15  
16 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you, Hannah.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
19 Yeah, she is right. We traditionally don't hunt wolves  
20 until later in the winter because when the down is  
21 perfect in the hair it looks nice. How would you like  
22 it if we get it in August and it's all still shedding,  
23 getting rid of the summer. You hear what Hannah say  
24 and I think they all hear it. That's a good point,  
25 Hannah.

26  
27 Go ahead, Mike.

28  
29 MR. KRAMER: I agree with what Hannah  
30 says, but you guys state that you guys are -- I mean  
31 whoever that was that -- who is that, Congressman  
32 Waddell, back in the day, he must have been on  
33 something else other than crack to make a decision that  
34 it should not change, you know, that the habitat in  
35 their natural diversity. This is the 21st century. We  
36 require change to be able to adjust to changing  
37 climates, subsistence usage our resources, you know,  
38 whether they're bountiful or hurting.

39  
40 You guys say that you follow the State  
41 regulations or you guys go by the State regulations.  
42 Is it under subsistence or both?

43  
44 MS. SWEENEY: So, in most cases the  
45 Fish and Wildlife Service allows the State to set the  
46 sport hunting rules that apply on Refuge lands, but  
47 this proposal has come about because in other areas of  
48 the state, some things that the State and the Board of  
49 Game have proposed we feel don't fit with these laws  
50 that we are required to enact. So that's where the

1 conflict has come in. In most cases, the State harvest  
2 limits and seasons and bag limits apply on Refuges the  
3 same as -- and then the Federal subsistence system,  
4 which we're dealing with, comes in for local residents.

5  
6 So this proposal has come about because  
7 of some disagreements with the State or different laws  
8 that they're charged with enacting and then different  
9 laws that we have, so they have to follow their  
10 processes like under intensive management and we have  
11 to follow what our understanding is of what we were  
12 told to do under ANILCA and other laws that we have.

13  
14 MR. KRAMER: I know that on the State  
15 side -- I hold a seat on the State Fish and Game  
16 Advisory Council here. I know that I'm going to be  
17 trying to push to increase the take of wolves to be  
18 unlimited and have a no closed season. That proposal  
19 will be coming up that I'm going to draw up here  
20 sometime soon for the State meeting. I just don't  
21 understand why they don't want to allow change other  
22 than something that takes a very long time.

23  
24 MS. SWEENEY: I think your point is a  
25 good one that we just can't freeze something in time.  
26 We can't just lock it and say it's going to be like  
27 this forever. I think part of our understanding or how  
28 we interpret that is to keep the natural processes in  
29 place that -- you know, like Attamuk was saying, that  
30 Mother Nature has a way where things go up, things go  
31 down and you allow these things to self-regulate  
32 through the natural process. We want to keep all the  
33 components in place and keep those natural processes  
34 like fire, flooding, predator/prey relationships and  
35 let things go up and down as they have been able to do  
36 and not start interfering with a lot of those.

37  
38 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, because, you know,  
39 you've got two villages within the Selawik Wildlife  
40 Refuge. You've got Noorvik and Selawik and I'm pretty  
41 sure that they should have some kind of a say as to  
42 what goes on within the area of their communities.  
43 Having someone make a rule to where they're not allowed  
44 to have change, that's not really right.

45  
46 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you. We have gone  
47 to those tribes with consultation on this and we'll  
48 continue to consult with them. Again, whatever this  
49 group would like to propose under subsistence bag  
50 limits, seasons, this rule will not affect that. This

1 is only dealing with the sport hunting rules. The  
2 villages and the local communities would still have an  
3 opportunity to deal with their predator populations and  
4 continue to harvest as they have done. We don't have  
5 any issue with that.

6  
7 The types of things that we're talking  
8 about are like aerial shooting of wolves like to  
9 eliminate 80 percent of the population and things like  
10 that. Those are the type of things that we think would  
11 shift the dynamic or the natural diversity so much that  
12 it would mess up those processes and those natural  
13 rhythms. So we don't have a problem with local people  
14 harvesting for bears in any way.

15  
16 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, just about a week  
17 ago I actually got to see my first coyote taken here in  
18 the region. A guy brought it to me just coming back  
19 down from upriver. Once coyotes come into this area,  
20 the foxes are gone. It will be between the wolves and  
21 the coyotes. But, yeah, that's the first one I ever  
22 seen, but I heard that there's been several taken.  
23 Once them buggers move in, then it's going to have some  
24 kind of a change, a lot of change around here.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Mike. Go  
27 ahead, Raymond.

28  
29 MR. STONEY: No, I don't have anything  
30 right now.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

33  
34 MR. MCKEE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Chris  
35 McKee with OSM. I just wanted to add -- Brittany  
36 mentioned at the end of her last comment, but I wanted  
37 to give a practical example how this wouldn't change  
38 Federal regulations. In the last Federal cycle, we had  
39 a proposal to allow baiting of brown bears in Unit 25D,  
40 which includes most of Yukon Flats National Wildlife  
41 Refuge. That was approved by the Board, so that's a  
42 perfect example of how these regulations that she's  
43 talking about right now would have no affect on the  
44 baiting of brown bears in Unit 25D under Federal  
45 subsistence regulations. So that's just a practical  
46 example for you.

47  
48 MS. SWEENEY: Right. So even though  
49 that's on our list here that it's banned for sport, it  
50 could still be allowed for subsistence if you wanted to

1 go that way in the future. Because I know that you've  
2 talked several times already about looking at ways to  
3 increase take of predators, so that would be something  
4 that you could do.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

7

8 MS. LOON: Never in my life I hear of  
9 our people using bait to get them. The animals give  
10 themselves to the hunter. Baiting is Lower 48 custom,  
11 not our custom.

12

13 MS. SWEENEY: And I would add that part  
14 of the reason for putting them on here is the safety  
15 concern. Once brown bears become food habituated  
16 they're more dangerous to people. So that was part of  
17 our thinking behind that rule.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Do you hear what  
20 Hannah is saying? We all saying that we here in  
21 Northwest Alaska never use bait on bear. You're  
22 talking about the Interior, you know. What we always  
23 understand is you make the rule for the Interior, yet  
24 it might apply to us when we never do it. So I think  
25 what you guys need to understand is culturally how we  
26 do it in each region. They might do it different in  
27 other region like I always say that's completely  
28 different and we're different. That's why we need to  
29 be in sections saying -- I don't want to become a rule-  
30 breaker, but we don't agree completely with baiting.  
31 That's trying to ask the bear to come to our campsites.

32

33 MS. SWEENEY: Correct. And we're not  
34 trying to propose that you start baiting. I mean if  
35 you don't want to do it, we're not going to make you do  
36 it. We're just saying it's banned for sport hunters to  
37 come from outside and do it on Refuges.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think the  
40 misunderstanding always say when you're going to do a  
41 certain area and when you mention it, we always feel  
42 like you're going to do it for us. He's right on the  
43 wolves. Wolves are a real concern. We need to start  
44 taking wolves and bears. We all know that, but we want  
45 to do it the way we do it here. I don't want to worry  
46 about how they do it in the Interior.

47

48 Go ahead, Raymond.

49

50 MR. STONEY: You know one thing that

1 concerns us about wolves and stuff and of course the  
2 trappers are residents of our villages, they come to  
3 our area wanting to trap and they've got the authority  
4 to do that. However, just like you said, they use  
5 bait. When that happens, they using bait, and they  
6 blame us. They say this guy was over there too.  
7 That's his bait, he left them stuff out. For the  
8 history of these animals, way back as far as I can  
9 remember, 65 years ago before Statehood our  
10 grandparents and our parents were strict regulation-  
11 makers. They make the rules and stuff even though  
12 there's no law enforcement. You can't fight them, you  
13 can't go against them. You have to be with them.

14  
15 So, like you said, when you put that on  
16 for people that want to use bait, it's just a violation  
17 of our way of life 65 years ago. I think that  
18 shouldn't be in that system. Just like for these  
19 regulations and the dates and stuff, I don't see why  
20 you've got a proposal from August 10th to April.  
21 There's no such use for wolves in August because their  
22 fur is so thin. The only way that people that dealt  
23 with these animals is November, January and part of  
24 February. That's the only time they could use them.  
25 So this proposal in some ways I'm uncomfortable with  
26 the dates.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you, Raymond. I  
31 feel like what I was trying to explain and then the  
32 comments I'm hearing back from you we got our wires  
33 crossed a little bit. I think we're flipped. I feel  
34 like some of you think we're telling you we want you to  
35 do these things. No. These aren't things that we are  
36 saying should not be done. We're prohibiting these  
37 actions and they're not currently allowed now. We are  
38 making a law that they won't be allowed in the future.  
39 So we do not want anyone to start baiting or start  
40 taking wolves in the summer. We're not trying to put a  
41 new practice on you. We understand that you have your  
42 own ways. We're just clarifying that any proposals in  
43 the future to do these things under sport side wouldn't  
44 be allowed on Refuges because we don't think it allowas  
45 for a healthy wildlife population.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I think we are  
48 all trying to say the same. I think you understand now  
49 Northwest Alaska, the Natives, are so into preserving  
50 for the future that we be careful of what we take and

1 how we try to preserve for the future. Maybe that's  
2 why Northwest Alaska is gifted with so many resources.  
3 Let's put it that way. Northwest Alaska. Like my  
4 grandpa said, he went through two starvations at his  
5 time. The Northwest Alaska is so good to preserve for  
6 the future that they will not harvest calves of any  
7 kind, especially caribou, because those are for the  
8 future for us to live on.

9

10 But these dates bother us as August to  
11 start taking wolves. That's the problem I think.  
12 That's the understanding where, as Natives, we're  
13 trying to see it like that.

14

15 MS. SWEENEY: Sure.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The reason why I  
18 oppose it, the Western world people that don't know  
19 anything about our resources will start taking wolves  
20 and I will feel sorry for your wife and try to use it  
21 for ruff, it will look terrible. That's what we're  
22 really saying, we like ours in prime. I think you  
23 understand what we're saying. But these.....

24

25 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, I do. You have  
26 your own season.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: These dates -- these  
29 dates are getting to us. I'll tell you that right now.

30

31 MS. SWEENEY: Okay. Because I think a  
32 couple people have mentioned that. So just to clarify,  
33 the law that's in place right now opens the season for  
34 wolves on August 1st. That's already the law. I don't  
35 think very many people are taking them then, but that's  
36 what the law is already right now. We're just  
37 proposing that it's going to change ever so slightly.  
38 This is the State sport law that it opens for take on  
39 August 1st. So we would propose that it wouldn't open  
40 until August 10th, but I'm hearing from you that you  
41 would go even further. You would keep it closed until  
42 November.

43

44 Okay. So I can give that feedback that  
45 you feel like it should stay closed even longer. Is  
46 that what I'm hearing from the Council?

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. The reason why  
49 I say that, I lived here in Kotzebue. I do act stupid  
50 when the Cabela guys are here summertime. They're fall

1 hunting, okay. I've seen them come back with pelts of  
2 wolf after the day is open. And they will brag  
3 wherever they go home to and say, oh, I got a wolf from  
4 Northwest Alaska and the word will get out, which is  
5 okay because they're a predator. But it's just the  
6 thought of him killing wolf just because it's open for  
7 Northwest Alaska. To you hear what I'm saying? I've  
8 seen that.

9

10 MS. SWEENEY: Yes. I've seen that as  
11 well. So to clarify the Council's intent so that I'm  
12 passing this comment on correctly, when do you think  
13 the wolf season should open? When would it -- January  
14 1st until December 31st. You think it should open  
15 August 1st?

16

17 MR. CLEVELAND: August 1 is fine as  
18 long as -- because we've got too much wolves. When you  
19 run into a wolf out there, heck, go after it. If  
20 there's a bounty on wolves, we wouldn't be talking  
21 about this. We'd be going for it. If we went bounty  
22 on wolves like right now, this conversation would be  
23 over a long time ago. If we had bounty, that would go  
24 through you, right, to open a bounty on wolves?

25

26 MS. SWEENEY: Well, yes, if you wanted  
27 to do it on any -- whatever type of land you were going  
28 to propose it, you'd have to go to the people who  
29 manage those lands. So you'd have to go to the Park  
30 Service for Parklands, you'd have to go to us for the  
31 Wildlife Refuge, but the very first slide that I had up  
32 here about what we were proposing, I just want you to  
33 know that any large-scale predator reduction program,  
34 like I said the example of shooting wolves from planes,  
35 and I don't know who Fish and Wildlife Service would  
36 interpret a bounty, but anything that has the potential  
37 to suppress the predator population so far that it  
38 changes the predator/prey dynamics, the Fish and  
39 Wildlife Service is saying that we wouldn't allow  
40 something like that, like a large-scale predator  
41 reduction. Which is not to say that we have any  
42 problems with predator harvest by local people. We  
43 don't. And we don't have any problem with liberalizing  
44 seasons or bag limits. I know that local people are  
45 their own predator control.

46

47 But I just wanted you to know that this  
48 rule that we're proposing would probably make it harder  
49 to get a bounty on wolves through Fish and Wildlife  
50 Service .

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Then how do you guys do  
2 it in Upper Koyukuk or by Allakaket area? Who's  
3 hunting the wolves over there? Is it the State or is  
4 it Federal?

5  
6 MS. SWEENEY: I'm not familiar with  
7 that area at all. Do you know?

8  
9 MR MCKEE: I'm sorry, I was taking  
10 notes on something else. What was the question again?

11  
12 MS. SWEENEY: He asked in the Upper  
13 Koyukuk, Allakaket area who is doing the taking of  
14 wolves or like the predator reduction. It's not a Fish  
15 and Wildlife Service program.

16  
17 MR. MCKEE: No, it isn't. No, no.  
18 Predator reduction, at least right now, is purely the  
19 State.

20  
21 MR. CLEVELAND: Well, this one guy had  
22 reported that the State or someone was hunting wolves  
23 from the air in the Allakaket area just to have moose  
24 population and it's being done as we speak.

25  
26 MS. SWEENEY: No, you're right. Those  
27 types of programs are being done by the State and they  
28 call it their Intensive Management Plan or Program. So  
29 there are some actions like that on State lands, but  
30 Fish and Wildlife Service is clarifying through this  
31 process that we would not allow things like that on  
32 National Wildlife Refuges because of the reasons I said  
33 about the laws that we have to follow about protecting  
34 all the different wildlife populations.

35  
36 MR. CLEVELAND: Can that happen because  
37 of our decline of caribou? Is that the same thing with  
38 moose, those caribou?

39  
40 MS. SWEENEY: Well, like I said, the  
41 State and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service we have  
42 different laws that we have to follow. So the State  
43 does have their intensive management process that they  
44 use when moose and caribou populations get low and  
45 that's when they come and do these large-scale predator  
46 reduction programs. So that's why they do those things  
47 in those places to try to raise the population levels  
48 in moose and caribou.

49  
50 Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't

1 believe that that should be allowed on Wildlife Refuges  
2 and that's what we're proposing to ban because we  
3 believe that over the long run that -- let's just say  
4 for an example right now our caribou population is low  
5 and if we were to come in and do a predator reduction,  
6 that might allow the caribou to rise again, but we  
7 think that -- you know, caribou populations go low  
8 sometimes because of the food. Like you were talking  
9 about, their lichens that they eat, and there's this  
10 natural cycle where they go down and then they can come  
11 back up.

12

13                   If we start to interfere with that and  
14 do these predator reduction to let them come back up  
15 before the habitat is ready, we might actually end up  
16 staying lower for longer. So that's our understanding  
17 of it and our thinking as to why we wouldn't do a large  
18 aerial shooting of wolves from planes, for example.

19

20                   Does that make sense, Verne, how I  
21 explained that?

22

23                   MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, thank you.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.  
26 You had your hand. Thanks, Verne.

27

28                   MR. STONEY: Okay. I know for the wolf  
29 situation I could see the days right there from --  
30 these days from August through April, the only way we  
31 could see -- it was different 65 years ago. Our  
32 grandparents' father, they authorized themselves to  
33 hunt from November until about last day of March  
34 because that's the only time the fur is good. That's  
35 the only time. And then in the earlier or later dates,  
36 of course before Statehood, I see what happened. The  
37 Federal Fish and Wildlife people they were hunting  
38 wolves themselves because they get bounty. It's a \$50  
39 bounty for the wolves if you get one. The State give  
40 you \$50.

41

42                   At the time we didn't like what they  
43 were doing, our parents didn't like what they were  
44 doing. They were using poisoned food. They'd put those  
45 in the field way out and the wolves eat a little part  
46 of it. They only just go about like 20 feet and  
47 already dead. In fact, I've heard stories from Upper  
48 Kobuk they wanted food because the dogs never eaten for  
49 a day and a half. They thought they were good and they  
50 fed them to the dog. The lasted half a day. That's

1 how the Fish and Wildlife people were operating wolf --  
2 concerned the history of wolves.

3  
4 Just like I said, I'll really make it  
5 strong that I don't think these dates of August to --  
6 is not very agreeable date to what wolves -- like I  
7 said, November is the time to start thinking about  
8 trapping. Then, of course, the latter part of March  
9 because I seen these animals before. In fact, about 10  
10 years ago, I seen little foxes, they were only about  
11 like four inches tall, eight of them, all by themself  
12 alone. The mother wasn't there. The next day we went  
13 back and checked. They were gone, those little foxes.  
14 They told their mother that we were there. That's how  
15 wolves operate also. So I'm very very uncomfortable  
16 with the seasons for wolf in August. I don't think  
17 nobody want to hunt wolf. How would they hunt, by foot  
18 or boat or what?

19  
20 MS. SWEENEY: Okay, thank you. So I  
21 will pass on your comment that it should only be open  
22 from November through March. Then also thank you for  
23 recalling the history. It's good to be reminded about  
24 things that have been done in the past. That's one of  
25 the things that we're trying to learn from, that our  
26 own agency did these things in the past and it didn't  
27 always work out good. There were problems. So we're  
28 trying to learn to do things better and this is where  
29 we're at now.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think it's well  
32 said. Whether we like the predators or not, our take  
33 got to be real careful of the fur time, the time it  
34 look good. Like I say, a guy coming from Oklahoma  
35 someplace and he get it in August. He say I shot a  
36 wolf. That's about all he wants to do and he wants to  
37 have the bragging rights. Like I stated, we don't like  
38 them as predators yet. We want to be careful to keep  
39 our resources in place whether we like them or not.  
40 We're trying to be conservative and Mother Nature's way  
41 of taking care of Northwest Alaska.

42  
43 I will protect Northwest Alaska whether  
44 they agree with me or not. The best traditionally the  
45 way we harvested since I was a child. I'm 69 and I'm  
46 proud of it and I've been harvesting. My first hunt  
47 was 9 years old. Not everything. I don't like to take  
48 fur because I can't eat it. That's just me. I'll take  
49 it if I have to when I need it. So that's what we're  
50 trying to say, you know, when you mix us up with dates

1 like this and we're trying to understand it and when  
2 you use comparison with different areas, that's when we  
3 get thrown off and get mixed up.

4

5 Go ahead, Hannah.

6

7 MS. LOON: Thank you, Brittany, for  
8 your information. I think it's very important for all  
9 of us agencies to understand. We like to, in our small  
10 villages and in our camps, see things in its natural  
11 way and that's why we go out and check the weather and  
12 look for signs, indicators and say, oh, maybe the  
13 sheefish will start running, we have to watch for  
14 those. So it's better to keep things in its natural  
15 form and primarily in means and methods of taking any  
16 kind of resources.

17

18 Thank you, Brittany.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

21

22 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, the only question I  
23 have regarding that, the dates on that, is that for  
24 sport or is it for subsistence?

25

26 MS. SWEENEY: That is for sport hunting  
27 season on the National Wildlife Refuge lands only. So  
28 the subsistence dates, bag limits and seasons would not  
29 be changed by this proposed rule.

30

31 MR. KRAMER: Okay. I think we should  
32 leave it as is for purpose of sport. If they want to  
33 get a wolf when it's all -- when its hide is half  
34 there, then let that be their problem. We know when to  
35 harvest them. I think we should leave it as is and let  
36 the good Lord decide how we want to take our animals.  
37 If others want to take them when they're not in prime,  
38 so be it. At least we're doing some kind of predator  
39 control.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone  
42 else. Go ahead, Enoch.

43

44 MR. MITCHELL: Brittany, thank you for  
45 all your information. These regulated changes are on  
46 NPS lands, no?

47

48 MS. SWEENEY: No. It would only be on  
49 the Selawik Wildlife Refuge. It's the only area in our  
50 region that it would affect. So it wouldn't apply to

1 Noatak or Cape Krusenstern, only the Selawik Wildlife  
2 Refuge, which is Selawik, Noorvik area and up to the  
3 divide between Selawik and Kobuk River side. So it  
4 wouldn't apply around Noatak.

5

6 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

7

8 MS. SWEENEY: On the phone, yes, go  
9 ahead.

10

11 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I heard you mention  
12 about November to March for the rule. Right now it's  
13 April 15th?

14

15 MS. SWEENEY: Yes. Percy, to clarify  
16 our discussion, right now the sport hunting season for  
17 wolves is open from August 1st until April 30th. The  
18 rule that we're proposing would have it open on August  
19 10th until April 30th, but several members of the  
20 Council said that they don't think it should open in  
21 August because the fur is not in good shape and they  
22 felt that the wolf season should only be open from  
23 November to March.

24

25 MR. BALLOT: I agree with them on the  
26 first part for August, but for us we think March and  
27 April is the best time when the fur is at its prime.  
28 So I would think somewhere into April.

29

30 MS. SWEENEY: So currently it goes  
31 until April 30th, so you think it should stay open  
32 until April 30th?

33

34 (No response)

35

36 MS. SWEENEY: Maybe we lost him.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hello, Percy, you  
39 there?

40

41 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, he wants to be able  
42 to hunt in March and April still, so I will write that  
43 down.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
46 Enoch. Thanks, Percy.

47

48 MR. MITCHELL: I forgot what I was  
49 going to say.

50

1 MS. SWEENEY: You thought it was going  
2 to apply for Noatak, right, so maybe you had some  
3 concerns, but since it's not going to apply for your  
4 area maybe not so concerned.

5  
6 MR. MITCHELL: How much sport hunters  
7 you get over there?

8  
9 MS. SWEENEY: Our numbers are pretty  
10 low. I think I actually have that in my other folder.  
11 This year I think somewhere in the teens, number of  
12 sport hunters that came in. They were mostly on the  
13 Upper Tag and Upper Selawik and I think they took like  
14 a couple of moose, a couple of caribou and one bear  
15 total. So on the Refuge we're not talking about very  
16 many people that are coming from outside of our area to  
17 hunt.

18  
19 MR. MITCHELL: Eighty-five percent of  
20 all sport hunters go to Noatak. That's lots. So those  
21 guys are only in their teens, so you can't count me in.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

24  
25 MS. LOON: Thank you, Brittany. You  
26 gave us good information. I was listening to Percy and  
27 Percy sure knows a lot about predator control and,  
28 Mike, he made a good statement. If it will help with  
29 predator control, I think I would agree with that.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So we're going to  
32 just leave it open in the name of predator control.

33  
34 MS. SWEENEY: Right. So even though  
35 this is not one you would hunt, this is not your  
36 traditional season, it's okay to be open now because  
37 our numbers are high.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: In other words, what  
40 you're saying now is leave it open for them in August.

41  
42 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, even if you won't  
43 hunt.....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And we will have  
46 unrule for us because it's our culture. That's what  
47 we're really saying. It's our culture to take it when  
48 the fur is better, but for them -- I think I'll agree  
49 to what Mike say and Hannah say. For them it will be  
50 okay if we understand it. But if you're going to put

1 it in regulation, I think you need to try to make it in  
2 our layman terms that could be understood from Kobuk  
3 and Shungnak saying this is for Selawik Wildlife  
4 Refuges. When we're trying to talk for Northwest  
5 Alaska, we're seeing it as a whole for Northwest  
6 Alaska. We're not just seeing it for Selawik or seeing  
7 it for Noatak Preserve too. That's the problem the way  
8 I understand them, is we all have it.

9

10 MS. SWEENEY: Right. Because normally  
11 the RAC talks about all Federal lands and now I'm only  
12 talking about one agency, so it's different. But we  
13 wanted to make sure to keep you informed. So that's all  
14 I'm here for, to bring you this information, make sure  
15 you know how to contact us if you want to give  
16 feedback. Susan Georgette is our Refuge Manager and  
17 most of you know how to get a hold of her.

18

19 So if you have any further comment  
20 about this, you can know where to reach us.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
25 Calvin.

26

27 MR. MOTO: I would like to say I think  
28 ANILCA is good, but most of it, if we want to pass it  
29 through ANILCA, we have to go through Congress a lot of  
30 times and that's where we have a big road block. You  
31 notice a lot of times they say ANILCA and then you have  
32 all these different changes that are mandated through  
33 Congress. We have to go through Congress to get  
34 everything, these proposals. We can make all kinds of  
35 proposals, but the people that control us are 3,000  
36 miles away.

37

38 It's kind of hard for me to really  
39 visualize how we, as a sovereign Native group could  
40 help ourselves. It's hard for us to think about the  
41 different regulations and how they're interpreted. A  
42 lot of times it's different. We interpret it one way  
43 and they interpret it another way and this is the  
44 problem we're having with all these different kinds of  
45 proposals that come up, you know. I thought I'd bring  
46 that up.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MS. SWEENEY: So just to respond,

1 that's part of the reason why we're only proposing a  
2 sport thing and not a subsistence change because we  
3 have this Council to make decisions for subsistence, so  
4 we're not trying to make that decision for you. Just  
5 for sport.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So do you want us to  
8 adopt it or you want us to vote on it?

9

10 MS. SWEENEY: No, this isn't an action  
11 item. This is informational for you so that you know  
12 what process we're working through. If you wish to  
13 give me any comments or feedback, you're welcome to do  
14 that and I've written down what I've heard from you and  
15 I'll be passing that on. You'll probably be hearing  
16 more about it. Like I said, it's ongoing this summer.  
17 There will be a public comment period. We just wanted  
18 to brief you on it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
21 Anyone on the phone -- Percy, you got any other comment  
22 on this or you're okay with it?

23

24 MR. BALLOT: I'm okay with it. It's  
25 just sport hunting. I just wanted to make sure that  
26 you guys understood that we feel that the fur is always  
27 best all the way up to March and April.

28

29 MS. SWEENEY: Okay. Thank you, Percy.  
30 I think we lost you for a minute there or maybe you  
31 dropped off. But, yes, after you made that comment we  
32 all agreed with you that that should stay open.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
37 Any update on our late lunch?

38

39 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think  
40 it's just finishing. What we can do is, if you would  
41 like to, we can move on. We've got Ken Adkisson who is  
42 ready to speak to action item D and I can get a couple  
43 staff members to help me bring the soup in the room and  
44 folks can get up and start serving themselves if that's  
45 okay with you. Do you want to have Ken go ahead or do  
46 you want to take a break?

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hear they want to  
49 take a breath break. So let's take a 10-minute break  
50 or so. We'll convene in 10 minutes.

1 (Off record)\_

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, is everybody  
6 ready? We'll call the meeting back to order at 3:45.  
7 Go ahead, Ken. You have the floor.

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, thank you.  
10 To the Chair and Council members, good afternoon. My  
11 name is Ken Adkisson. I'm with the National Park  
12 Service, Western Arctic National Parklands. What I'd  
13 like to do this afternoon is give you a very brief  
14 update on the status of one piece of very old business  
15 and that is the proposed Park Service regulations  
16 related to the collection and use of wild renewable  
17 resources, primarily wildlife and plants in the use and  
18 sale and so forth of handicrafts.

19

20 I say old business because the Park  
21 Service has been before you now several times with  
22 updates on this long, ongoing process and I won't go  
23 into all the history of it and everything this  
24 afternoon, but for those Council members who may be  
25 fairly new what this relates to is the use of  
26 naturally-occurring shed, discarded or as the result of  
27 natural sources of mortality the parts and pieces of  
28 various wildlife species as well as the use of those  
29 parts that are collected as part of the natural legal  
30 harvest of an animal and also plant materials.

31

32 The reason we're doing this is because  
33 there's a real disconnect between existing Park Service  
34 regulations and people's traditional practices and use  
35 of these resources. What we're trying to do through  
36 the proposed regulations is bring the regulations into  
37 line better with the customary and traditional  
38 practices of people.

39

40 What you have in front of you is a  
41 simple one-page outline of some proposed regulations.  
42 It says preliminary draft. This is far from complete.  
43 It's not. It's just a portion of what the actual regs  
44 will look like, but they give you a good idea of some  
45 of the approach we're going to follow. This relates to  
46 the collection of things like horns, antlers, feather,  
47 fur, bones and so forth from wildlife, the nonedible  
48 parts of fish and, more importantly, it includes  
49 plants, which generally have been ignored in  
50 regulations.

1                   Now the use of handicrafts for personal  
2 or family use is provided for in the Federal  
3 subsistence regulations. Unfortunately, the Park  
4 Service has earlier long-standing regulations that  
5 prevent anything going beyond that, such as the sale of  
6 something you would make. So you can make it and use  
7 it under existing regulations, but you can't sell it if  
8 you turn it into a tool or a handicraft and want to  
9 sell that or you can't use it in barter and customary  
10 trade and that's what we're trying to fix.

11  
12                   Like I said, this has been a long,  
13 ongoing process, but we're finally nearing the  
14 completion of it. Over the last couple years we've  
15 have an environmental assessment produced. We've had a  
16 finding of no significant impact signed off on and  
17 we're proceeding to developing the regulation package.  
18 We're getting close to having a complete package draft  
19 that will be out hopefully soon and you'll have a  
20 chance to take a look at that. So this is just a quick  
21 update and a sample.

22  
23                   If you look at that, you can see that  
24 it's really very, very simple, at least in appearance.  
25 It only does a couple major things. It adds to several  
26 definitions in existing Federal Park Service  
27 regulations. For example, it defines a handicraft and  
28 that's basically a follow up on existing subsistence  
29 regulations to make those compatible. It defines what  
30 a wild renewable resource is. You'll see that it  
31 includes a variety of animal parts and products.  
32 That's in this draft that you'll see really relating to  
33 plants, but that's going to be included in the complete  
34 package when it's there. It revises the definition of  
35 subsistence uses by adding in words relative to  
36 handicraft articles and adds the coverage for customary  
37 trade and barter to include the handicraft sales and  
38 trade and those components.

39  
40                   If you look down to the bottom part of  
41 the page, you'll see a Section 13482, which is really  
42 the core of the reg and relates in this case just to  
43 animal parts and not the plants. The section A that  
44 you see there basically defines eligibility. What the  
45 reg is going to say is that to participate in the  
46 activities under this new regulation relative to animal  
47 parts, there's some things that you're going to have to  
48 have. You're going to have to have a positive  
49 customary and traditional use determination for that  
50 species to be able to collect and use and trade those

1 part of those species.

2

3                   To give you an example of that, you  
4 would need a customary and traditional use say for  
5 muskoxen to be out in the field and collect parts of a  
6 dead muskoxen that you find. To collect parts of a  
7 dead moose, you'd need a customary and traditional use  
8 determination for the moose. In terms of plants, all  
9 you'd need is one thing and that's a customary and  
10 traditional use determination for any species in your  
11 area and that would enable you to collect and use the  
12 plant products.

13

14                   The second part of it relates to what  
15 the Park Service Superintendent can do in terms of  
16 establishing conditions or requirements related to the  
17 collection of that and the details of that, of course,  
18 are really to come and it will probably be included in  
19 things like the Park Compendiums and stuff or we'll  
20 specify anything. I think from the earlier  
21 presentations you've had you'll see that it's going to  
22 be probably pretty general and pretty liberal.

23

24                   There may be a few restrictions. In  
25 fact, some of you have suggested some places or times  
26 or conditions maybe that you would prefer not to see  
27 things collected, especially around some cultural sites  
28 or sites of significance to individual communities. We  
29 can be sensitive to that sort of thing. There may be  
30 sites of heavy public use that we want to somehow  
31 restrict collection of. For example, Unit 22, say  
32 within a five-mile radius of Serpentine Hot Springs,  
33 which is probably the single most heaviest public use  
34 site and Bering Land Bridge, that kind of thing.

35

36                   The other thing is you'll need some  
37 kind of written authorization to do it and people have  
38 been adamant in most of the meetings about not wanting  
39 to have to require individual permits and we're  
40 sensitive to that. So probably what you'll see when  
41 the final regulation is implemented is some kind of  
42 published list of communities whose residents have the  
43 authorization to collect these things within a certain  
44 area. So that's what that will probably look like.

45

46                   Then the final part of it is that some  
47 existing State regulations related to bear claws and  
48 thing like that now or probably in the future will  
49 likely be incorporated into it, but that's kind of to  
50 be expected. I guess the bottom line of all this is,

1 unless you have specific questions, we are moving along  
2 with it.

3

4 We hope to have a complete package that  
5 includes all of the regulatory material, like the  
6 preamble to the regulation, all of the legal  
7 requirements like the Paperwork Reduction Act and  
8 various kinds of impacts on things that make the  
9 regulation package much more thick and bulky than the  
10 actual reg because you can see that the actual reg is  
11 going to look pretty simple. In fact, the only real  
12 part of the meat of it would be adding plants to mirror  
13 that section kind of on animals. We're getting closer  
14 and you'll have a chance to review the final package  
15 when it's done.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken. On  
18 the plants, you're mentioning just the Natives could  
19 get plants is what you're really saying? Not the  
20 pharmaceuticals coming around and say they need the  
21 plants.

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, that would be sort  
24 of commercialization, I think, of it to like collect  
25 stuff for sale to pharmaceuticals. This would not  
26 cover pharmaceutical companies coming in and trying to  
27 collect stuff, natural products.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: About 12 years ago on  
30 the plant side for different meeting with Migratory  
31 Birds and even with the Federal we mentioned that we  
32 don't want pharmaceuticals to collect plants unless  
33 they go to a different area because they were -- the  
34 pharmaceuticals was trying to start from south of  
35 Alaska to come up this way, to work their way up.

36

37 MR. ADKISSON: That would be prohibited  
38 to have those people come up and do it. Right now you  
39 can go out and collect plants in individually for your  
40 personal use and consumption, be it medicinal or food  
41 or whatever. You can collect plants for subsistence  
42 use. What you can't do is take some plants, be it  
43 wood, bark and things like that, make them into  
44 handicrafts and then sell them. The exception to that  
45 is Kobuk Valley National Park has special Park  
46 regulations that allow the sale of like bark baskets  
47 and things, but it's pretty limited. What we're  
48 proposing to do is open up the whole wide range of  
49 plants to whatever handicraft you think you can make.

50

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Verne.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: What about moose horns,  
2 when they drop them?

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: That would be covered  
5 under this and you could do that. Technically, right  
6 now that's illegal. If you're out in the field and  
7 come upon a shed pair of moose antlers, technically,  
8 under existing Park Service regulations, you cannot  
9 pick those antlers up and go do something with them.  
10 When these regulations are adopted, you will be able  
11 to do something like that.

12

13 MR. CLEVELAND: What about they're on  
14 the river, no land, on the river and they picked them  
15 up? I've got a collection of about four or five  
16 antlers at home, dropped. What do I do with them?

17

18 MR. ADKISSON: I think you're -- well,  
19 I'm not going to even speculate that. I don't even  
20 know that you got them.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. ADKISSON: I think when you get  
25 through with them you'll be able to -- when this thing  
26 is through, you'll be able to use them or do what you  
27 want with them and I wouldn't much worry about whether  
28 it's State jurisdiction or Federal jurisdiction along  
29 the riverbank. You'll be safe under almost anybody's  
30 regulations to pick it up except for perhaps -- be  
31 advised that there's special regulations both in State  
32 and Federal regulation related to caribou antlers in  
33 the Kobuk River area and those aren't changing.

34

35 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll have your card  
36 just in case I get in trouble. Thank you.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

41

42 MS. LOON: Thank you, Ken, for all this  
43 good information. I know you talk about it before. My  
44 question is how about bear bladders, what Koreans  
45 always try to buy under the table?

46

47 MR. ADKISSON: No, bear bladders would  
48 remain prohibited. There's some things like that that  
49 are already covered under wider prohibited practices.  
50 A lot of bear parts except where those are provided for

1 for handicrafts like under Federal subsistence  
2 regulations. You could find a dead bear and make  
3 things out of parts of the bear and sell those and make  
4 them into handicrafts and sell them, but bear bladders  
5 would be something else. Probably you wouldn't find  
6 too many of those out occurring naturally.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
9 Enoch.

10  
11 MR. MITCHELL: Ken, you're with the  
12 National Park Service?

13  
14 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, the Western Arctic  
15 National Parklands.

16  
17 MR. MITCHELL: You're a scientist  
18 or.....

19  
20 MR. ADKISSON: No. I'm a subsistence  
21 program manager.

22  
23 MR. MITCHELL: In Noatak?

24  
25 MR. ADKISSON: I do work for four Park  
26 areas. Noatak National Preserve, Kobuk Valley National  
27 Park, Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Bering  
28 Land Bridge National Preserve, but I'm stationed in  
29 Nome.

30  
31 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. Are you aware of  
32 the issue with Noatak and sport hunters on the  
33 Squirrel?

34  
35 MR. ADKISSON: Fairly well aware of it,  
36 yeah, and dealt with it. I'm a little foggy on some of  
37 the issues related to exactly what's going on with the  
38 animals right there between Kiana and through the  
39 Squirrel and how that pattern is playing out. In  
40 general, I'm pretty familiar with the situation of the  
41 user conflict in Unit 23.

42  
43 MR. MITCHELL: And the fact that Noatak  
44 didn't harvest any Western Arctic Caribou Herd for  
45 three consecutive years. That's from Noatak. To me,  
46 it's violating ANILCA. Do you have any process or  
47 proposals concerning this matter?

48  
49 MR. ADKISSON: I heard one proposal or  
50 one thing. I just heard a comment about trying to

1 adjust the Park Service controlled -- special  
2 management area for transporter services, move that  
3 further east or whatever and another comment about  
4 maybe extending it or shifting the time. I will take  
5 those comments to the superintendent. We're constantly  
6 searching for a solution to that and I was going to  
7 sort of quickly report on it later, but now that it's  
8 come up I'll just address it right now.

9

10 We're completing two research projects.  
11 One is through the University of Alaska Fairbanks on a  
12 traditional ecological knowledge project related to  
13 caribou from Noatak that you're probably familiar with  
14 that study. Another one relates to a combination of  
15 soundscape or sound data collection along various parts  
16 of the Noatak and trying to relate that to some caribou  
17 collar information and stuff.

18

19 Hopefully we have those two things  
20 wrapped up fairly soon. I don't think the data will be  
21 available to use them for this current transporter  
22 season, but it's possible those studies will give us  
23 some information that could be used to modify our  
24 special use permit conditions for commercial use  
25 authorizations in the following cycle, but we haven't  
26 seen the final reports yet.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

29

30 MR. MITCHELL: I just wanted to give  
31 you a heads up of where Noatak is heading. You'll  
32 probably be getting some proposals from us in the  
33 future.

34

35 MR. ADKISSON: I welcome them.  
36 Everybody knows that this is a longstanding issue up  
37 here and I hope some day we're closer to solving it.  
38 Undoubtedly there's going to be things in the natural  
39 environment that are causing movements of caribou that  
40 we're going to be pretty much powerless over to deal  
41 with, but if we can trace it to something that's as a  
42 result of our management practices through our  
43 commercial services, I think we'll try to fix that.

44

45 MR. MITCHELL: You could come up and  
46 meet with us, pretty nice room, we'll take care of you.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Appreciate that. Thank

1 you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you, Ken.  
4 Thank you, Enoch. We're done with that part. Now  
5 we're going to go to number 11, new business. Wildlife  
6 closure review. Melinda, who is going to do that?

7

8 MS. BURKE: Yes, that's going to be  
9 Chris. I'll have Chris put his name tag up there.  
10 Chris McKee, he's our wildlife chief there in the  
11 Office of Subsistence Management.

12 MR. MCKEE: Thanks, Melinda. Mr.  
13 Chair, members of the Council. You'll notice on your  
14 booklets on Page 15 there's a wildlife closure review  
15 briefing and then starting on Page 16 I'll go over the  
16 single wildlife closure review I have to go over with  
17 you folks for your region. It should be relatively  
18 quick. I just want to go over briefly about wildlife  
19 closure reviews in general and kind of what they're all  
20 about and the briefing kind of speaks to that briefly.

21

22 Office of Subsistence Management  
23 reviews existing wildlife  
24 closures to determine whether the original  
25 justifications for closure continue to apply. Now when  
26 I say closures, in the case of Federal subsistence, I  
27 mean closures in this case to non-Federally qualified  
28 users. So existing closures will be reviewed at least  
29 every three years and are typically completed on a  
30 three-year rotational schedule.

31

32 There's a typo in the first paragraph  
33 of that briefing that I'll correct. It says most of  
34 the closures being reviewed this cycle were last  
35 reviewed by the Federal Subsistence Board in 2008.  
36 That's incorrect, it's 2011. We generally start the  
37 writing of the closure reviews three years after the  
38 last one was reviewed, so we started the writing of  
39 this closure that I'm going to talk to you about in  
40 2014 and typically present it to the RAC the following  
41 winter meeting the following year, so it appears it's  
42 four years. It's actually three years when the process  
43 starts.

44

45 A Wildlife Closure Review contains a  
46 brief history of why a closure was implemented, along  
47 with a summary of the current resource condition and  
48 the OSM recommendation as to whether the closure should  
49 be continued or lifted. So the Councils are asked to  
50 consider the OSM recommendation and share their views

1 on the issue. Input from the Councils is critical to  
2 the development of regulatory proposals needed to  
3 address adjustments to  
4 regulations. After the Council hears the discussion of  
5 the closure review you have three options, which should  
6 be in  
7 the form of an action item. You can either maintain  
8 the status quo, modify the closure or remove the  
9 closure altogether.

10  
11 If the Council recommends to modify or  
12 rescind the closure, they should submit a proposal as a  
13 separate action item after reviewing the closure. We  
14 try to do this every three years. We go on rotating  
15 cycles depending on which region has had the last  
16 slough of reviews done. This year this RAC and I  
17 believe three other RACs had closure reviews to do.

18  
19 That's basically the gist of the  
20 closure review policy. It's every three years. It's  
21 driven by conservation. On the next page I'll talk to  
22 you about the specific wildlife closure review for your  
23 area. Again, it starts on Page 16 of your RAC booklets  
24 and it is Federal Wildlife Closure Review WCR14-27.  
25 The location of the closure is in Unit 23, specifically  
26 within Cape Krusenstern National Monument and it's for  
27 muskox. You can see the regulation down there under  
28 current Federal regulations.

29  
30 You'll notice that the last sentence in  
31 there, and I'll paraphrase it, but it says Cape  
32 Krusenstern National Monument is closed to the taking  
33 of muskoxen, except by resident zone  
34 community members with permanent residence, etc, etc.  
35 So that means that non-Federally qualified users are  
36 not allowed to hunt muskox in this particular area, but  
37 it's even more specific than that in that it limits the  
38 people who can hunt muskox to even a smaller group of  
39 people, so this is a fairly specialized closure I guess  
40 you could say, would be one way of putting it.

41  
42 The closure was initiated in regulatory  
43 year 2005-2006 and was initiated by a Federal proposal,  
44 Proposal WP05-19. So we went through the regular  
45 Federal proposal process, so that's when we started  
46 basically the three-year review process. It was  
47 reviewed again in 2008, brought before this Council  
48 most likely during your winter meeting of 2009, again  
49 in 2011 and here we are again now in 2015. So you  
50 understand the way the process goes.

1                   The justification for the original  
2 closure was that there was a small allowable harvest  
3 and that the resident zone community requirements for  
4 parklands limits the number of users that were capable  
5 of harvesting the species because of biological  
6 conservation concerns.

7  
8                   I just wanted to mention very quickly  
9 in terms of the biology for the species, aerial surveys  
10 for muskoxen in the core count area within Cape  
11 Krusenstern, and Ken can correct me if I'm not accurate  
12 on this, but the core area within Cape Krusenstern is  
13 the coastal areas from basically the mouth of the  
14 Noatak to Cape Lisburne.

15  
16                   Those aerial surveys indicated that the  
17 population had declined between the mid-2000s and early  
18 2010s. You can see that on Figure 1 of your booklet on  
19 Page 18. Also composition data collected between  
20 2004-2014 indicate that  
21 bull:cow ratios had also declined and the decline in  
22 the number of mature bulls may be partially responsible  
23 for the decline in muskox populations on the Seward  
24 Peninsula and Cape Thompson areas, as well as other  
25 areas of the State.

26  
27                   In terms of the harvest history, and  
28 you can see that on Table 1 on Page 19 of your booklet,  
29 the total reported Federal harvest has been no more  
30 than 1 muskox per year. No harvest under the Federal  
31 hunt has been reported since 2010. Total allocation for  
32 the affected muskox population is 8 permits. That's  
33 split between 6 State Tier II permits and 2 Federal  
34 permits. The average annual harvest under the State  
35 Tier II hunt was 3.8 muskox between 2005 and 2013.

36  
37                   Illegal harvest has been suspected to  
38 occur, but is currently not factored into the State or  
39 Federal hunt management plans. However, as most of you  
40 probably know, a documented case of illegal harvest  
41 occurred in 2013 when 6 cow muskoxen were killed from  
42 the Cape Thompson population.

43  
44                   So that's kind of a quick overview of  
45 some of the biology and the harvest. In terms of OSM's  
46 recommendation, our recommendation at this time is to  
47 maintain the status quo, that is to maintain the  
48 closure to non-Federally qualified users. The reason  
49 being that the aerial surveys in the core count area  
50 have shown a decline in the population over the last

1 decade and also declines in the ratio of mature bulls  
2 to cows over the last decade along with the uncertain  
3 causes of the population decline warrant a conservative  
4 management approach within Cape Krusenstern at this  
5 time.

6

7                   Additionally, recent illegal harvest in  
8 the Cape Thompson area prompted the closure of the  
9 State Tier II hunt and any additional harvest within  
10 Cape Krusenstern other than the 2 bull Federal quota  
11 does not appear warranted at this time. The necessity  
12 of the closure to Federal public lands in the affected  
13 area will be reassessed in three years, per the Board  
14 review process, or sooner if additional survey data  
15 suggest the closure should be lifted.

16

17                   I want to emphasize that last part.  
18 These closure reviews don't just exist in some ether  
19 somewhere that aren't affected and nothing happens with  
20 them until three years go by. If something changes  
21 biologically, then anybody can submit a proposal to  
22 open the closure or whatever at any time. That's not  
23 really relevant now per our recommendation, but I just  
24 wanted to make the Council aware of that. So that's my  
25 presentation on this closure review and I can try to  
26 answer any questions if I can.

27

28                   Thank you.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hannah, before I get  
31 to you. If you open the Tier II hunt, are you talking  
32 about that Kivalina Monument over here for the  
33 muskoxen?

34

35                   MR. MCKEE: I wanted to have Ken close  
36 to me because I think he can answer some of those  
37 specific questions.

38

39                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I have a  
40 follow-up question on it.

41

42                   MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken  
43 Adkisson, National Park Service. This closure only  
44 refers to the specific Federal hunt within the  
45 boundaries of Cape Krusenstern National Monument. It  
46 includes nothing outside of the Monument on BLM lands,  
47 State lands or Park Service lands in the larger Noatak  
48 drainage.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So under emergency

1 they're closed, I understand that, but so if you're  
2 going to reopen it, are you going to open it to the  
3 public under Tier II under grandfather rights or are  
4 you going to put it in a hat that everybody that want  
5 to get a muskox could put their name in a hat.  
6 Hopefully they draw me instead of -- because I'm  
7 hearing from Kotzebue for the State that the same  
8 people over and over could hunt muskox and no other  
9 people could get it under grandfather right. They want  
10 to change that and I told them I would bring this up at  
11 this meeting here because I was getting calls on it. I  
12 want to keep it like -- because we don't like the idea  
13 of same people over and over getting muskox.

14  
15 MR. MCKEE: Ken can get into maybe that  
16 specific question, but I want to make clear that what  
17 I'm presenting to you is under Federal harvest  
18 regulations. The Tier II permitting system is a State  
19 process. It has nothing to do with the Federal  
20 program. What I'm talking about is the closure under  
21 Federal subsistence regulations.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: My question is if you  
24 reopen it, what process are you going to take to --  
25 who's going to take the harvest if it's one bull?

26  
27 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken Adkisson  
28 again. Let me try to address that because it's really  
29 a complicated issue. I'll try to make this very short.  
30 There's two things going on with muskoxen in Unit 23  
31 right now. One is this closure review and how to deal  
32 with the Federal hunt within Cape Krusenstern. The  
33 problem really there is this original recommendation  
34 was based on a small number of people who permanently  
35 basically live there in the Monument. Their  
36 opportunities to compete for other permits outside the  
37 Monument were limited, there were access issues, and it  
38 was probably a very solid determination. It was backed  
39 by the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource  
40 Commission.

41  
42 What we're discovering now is that in  
43 the intervening years many of those people no longer  
44 reside there and they've either died or moved back into  
45 Kotzebue or something else, so we're really faced with  
46 the question whether we need to enlarge the pool of  
47 eligibles on that hunt. I don't know what the final  
48 answer will be to that. We haven't had a chance to  
49 thoroughly vet that issue with the Cape Krusenstern  
50 SRC. I know there's a feeling among some members at

1 least that we should expand it to people who have camps  
2 in the Monument. So let me just say we need to revisit  
3 that whole hunt. I just don't know if now is really  
4 the best time to do it. Let's just put that aside for  
5 a minute.

6

7                   Then there's the other problem, which  
8 is called the expanded area. The Cape Thompson  
9 population has been doing two things. One, it's been  
10 declining or relatively stable in the core area while  
11 it's been expanding further to the east. Animals now  
12 can be found distributed throughout at least north of  
13 the Noatak River and animals from that core population  
14 now can be found in Unit 26A. There's enough animals  
15 out there to probably double the core population total  
16 with that. The trouble we've been having is getting  
17 good survey data on that larger expanded population.  
18 We're not going to be able to do it this year. We do  
19 plan in the next month or so to get a survey of the  
20 core population done again as well as composition work,  
21 which will give us a better idea of how to work with  
22 the State on determining allowable harvest.

23

24                   The State, however, in this last Board  
25 of Game meeting in January 2014, expanded their hunt  
26 area basically to include the whole Noatak drainage.  
27 That creates a problem now in the sense of we now have  
28 an open State hunt, which is Tier II in the Noatak  
29 drainage while we have no Federal opportunity provided.  
30 If you open up your reg book, you'll see there's no  
31 open Federal season on muskoxen in that part of the  
32 area. So this creates sort of another problem that  
33 just sort of has been bubbling along. And I don't have  
34 a good answer for that one right now, especially since  
35 I can't sell much without biological information in  
36 which to do it or offer up.

37

38                   I think one legitimate thing you could  
39 consider is putting in a proposal that would make the  
40 Federal hunt area equivalent to the State hunt area,  
41 which would then give an opportunity to put a Federal  
42 hunt in there. I'm not sure how the State would react  
43 to that in all honesty because we're sharing the same  
44 quotas, but it would take an action to open up a  
45 Federal hunt in that whole Noatak drainage area similar  
46 to the current State hunt that's open and a Federal  
47 hunt could be worked out and we could either share  
48 harvest or compete with permits or whatever and we  
49 could run a Federal subsistence hunt in there and it  
50 would probably, based on the number of eligibles, would

1 probably be similar to some of the muskoxen hunts we're  
2 running in Unit 22, which would basically a random  
3 drawing from among all Federally eligible users. And I  
4 mean random, so I mean there would be no guarantee  
5 anyone -- everyone who applied who was eligible would  
6 have the same equal opportunity to get a permit.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Before I get  
9 to you, Hannah. For your information, there's nobody  
10 camping.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: That's what I'm saying.  
13 We're losing that, so we can.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And what the other  
16 people are telling me, the same people over and over,  
17 get the permit to get muskoxen. They want to see a  
18 change to it. They asked me to bring it up. The same  
19 people over and over, every year, get the muskoxen. I  
20 can't because of grandfather rights. I mean we can't  
21 is the way we understand it. Before the time comes  
22 when you're thinking to reopen it, consider opening it  
23 to everybody from Noatak, Kotzebue and Kivalina that  
24 want to get muskox instead of the same people over and  
25 over that has authorization to pick and they pick  
26 themselves.

27

28 MR. ADKISSON: I can't control the  
29 State Tier II.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I mean if you ever do  
32 it, if you open it.

33

34 MR. ADKISSON: I'll tell you what. The  
35 quickest way to get there, given the craziness of two-  
36 year regulatory cycles and other things would be for  
37 you to recommend in this review the second option,  
38 which is modify it, right. You just make a  
39 modification and we can write up the proposal along the  
40 lines you just suggested and then that can go before  
41 the SRC for their comment and we will try to pay a lot  
42 of deference to Cape Krusenstern Federal SRC for that  
43 Park Unit because for us they're the primary audience  
44 we're dealing with. What they decide we would probably  
45 largely try to back, whether it would be some other  
46 modification or whatever. The starting point I think  
47 would be for you folks right now to suggest a second  
48 option.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I will

1 bring it back.....

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Oh, and then do another  
4 thing too. Suggest a second Federal regulation that  
5 would establish a Federal hunt in the Noatak drainage.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Go  
8 ahead, Hannah.

9

10 MR. ADKISSON: Chris's point to me is  
11 well taken. He said modify this closure but don't  
12 remove the closure and the details are going to be on  
13 what that modification is and that means that OSM will  
14 have to do a Staff analysis on that and something will  
15 probably change and you'll get another shot at looking  
16 at it in the fall. So it probably is not going to make  
17 any difference for this year's hunt, but we will have  
18 time to let the SRC look at it before the RAC probably  
19 sees it in the fall.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thanks. Go  
22 ahead, Hannah.

23

24 MS. LOON: Thank you. And thank you,  
25 Ken, for coming forward to give us more understanding  
26 because you talk slower for us, me elder. Anyway, one  
27 time we have seen muskox in Selawik for several years  
28 now and there are a bunch way above heads of Tagagawik  
29 River that LeeAnne presented to us and she asked the  
30 IRA Council and I was there what do you want to do with  
31 them. We told her we don't harvest -- have no  
32 knowledge of how to harvest or process food and it's  
33 not in our diets, but there are some in the Selawik  
34 area headwaters and I think they're going, but nobody  
35 really care for them from our village.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
40 You had your hand up, Enoch.

41

42 MR. MITCHELL: That's pertaining only  
43 to the muskox in Noatak, right?

44

45 MR. ADKISSON: I'm sorry, Enoch. What?

46

47 MR. MITCHELL: The next proposal what  
48 you're proposing, that only pertains to the muskox?

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah.

1 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: So what I'm suggesting  
4 is that, one, the Council today make a recommendation  
5 to OSM to maintain the closure but modify the closure  
6 on Cape Krusenstern, on this action that Chris has  
7 before you, and then come up with an entirely new  
8 proposal that simply says establish a Federal hunt  
9 within the existing State hunt area in the Noatak  
10 drainage or whatever. We can work with you on language  
11 for that. Then a part of our job at that point will be  
12 figuring out what the allowable harvest in that new  
13 area is and how we're going to run a hunt in  
14 conjunction with the State hunt, but we can do that  
15 down the road.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go  
18 ahead, Verne.

19

20 MR. CLEVELAND: I have a question. How  
21 broad is your count on the muskox? Do you just count  
22 in Cape Krusenstern or the whole area?

23

24 MR. ADKISSON: No, the general thing  
25 what we try to do is we'd like to concentrate a lot on  
26 Krusenstern especially because that's Parkland, but the  
27 survey goes all the way to about Cape Lisburne and  
28 along the narrow coastal area. It's that area  
29 described by Chris as the core area. That's the  
30 traditional area and we generally run those surveys in  
31 conjunction with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
32 so we're all participating in it. Like I said, it will  
33 go all the way sometimes as far as Point Lay until we  
34 run out of animals.

35

36 MR. CLEVELAND: So you don't count the  
37 muskox that go inland? You don't count those?

38

39 MR. ADKISSON: We've got a limited  
40 amount of data from one year that we tried to do that,  
41 Mr. Cleveland, and it is our hope that we will get  
42 surveys going in what we call the expanded area that  
43 you're talking about. The problem with that is we use  
44 a specific technique of distance sampling to do it.  
45 It's fairly intensive in requirement for air crews and  
46 airplanes and it's pretty expensive, but it's cheaper  
47 in the long run than doing the old traditional minimal  
48 count surveys.

49

50 The current plans that we have with

1 ADF&G is we're currently engaged in trying to get a  
2 Seward Peninsula muskox survey off the ground, but  
3 weather hasn't been contributing. We needed to do one  
4 last year, weren't able to do it, so we're really  
5 intent on getting it this year. If we can't because of  
6 weather, we may take the resources and shift that to  
7 cover that larger area in the Noatak.

8

9 If the Seward Pen goes, we're going to  
10 only have resources to do the core area again. The  
11 plan ultimately is to do probably a survey including  
12 the core area and the expanded area of the Cape  
13 Thompson population like every two years and randomly  
14 work that with the -- or not randomly, but alternate  
15 years with the Seward Pen's survey, which we try to do  
16 every two years.

17

18 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

19

20 MR. MITCHELL: Do you got enough count  
21 on that total number of muskox?

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: It's around 500, I  
24 think, give or take, in the total area, which is the  
25 expanded area, and about 200-some or below 300 in the  
26 core area.

27

28 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

29

30 MR. ADKISSON: I don't have those at  
31 the tip of my fingers, but I can find them. Chris may  
32 have them.

33

34 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

35

36 MR. ADKISSON: The last one we had for  
37 the core area was 245 muskoxen in the core area, so  
38 it's about five-some-plus in the total area. But we  
39 have only like about one count in the total area, so  
40 who knows what it's really doing.

41

42 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, thank you. Just  
43 as long as you keep a count on these muskox. You know,  
44 if something happens to the caribou for the people of  
45 Noatak we might be turning to muskox. Anyway, better  
46 keep close count on these muskox. They're a large  
47 herd, they'll multiply faster and get very very large  
48 and got to watch for the food like we provide for the  
49 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and the moose and some of  
50 these other species. It's good to keep on top of the

1 numbers of muskox.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Percy, I hear  
4 you, but Mike had his hand up. You'll be right after  
5 him, Percy.

6

7 MR. BALLOT: Okay.

8

9 MR. KRAMER: I support modification but  
10 continue closure. I think what these guys are talking  
11 about, all these same guys get to harvest muskox every  
12 year, I think if we do reopen this again I think they  
13 should be void for two years anybody who has harvested  
14 muskox prior should be void for several years and allow  
15 other people to be able to take them. That way you get  
16 to spread the harvest. If not, have community quotas,  
17 like Kotzebue 5 muskox, Noatak 5 muskox, Kivalina 5  
18 muskox.

19

20 That way you're spreading the quota out  
21 and you're allowing different people within the  
22 communities to be able to harvest these animals. That  
23 way it isn't so discriminatory, just favoring one  
24 specific group of people who go out there and get them  
25 every year because they qualify. A lot of other people  
26 qualify. I'd love to get one one day. I enjoy the  
27 meat that I've tried.

28

29 I just don't think that it's fair that  
30 these people continue to be able to take muskox because  
31 they're qualified and they've been qualified for the  
32 last five years. To me, they should be exempt. They  
33 should no longer be able to harvest a muskox for a  
34 five-year period. Allow someone else to. Every year  
35 it should be someone else different allowed. But I  
36 think it needs to be divvied up between communities  
37 that harvest these animals. I think we should support  
38 a modification but continue closure until the  
39 population is at a good harvestable amount that we can  
40 continue to sustain.

41

42 That's it.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Mike. You  
45 want to answer that and we'll get to you, Percy.

46

47 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I just wanted to add  
48 real quickly that's a perfect example of how these  
49 closure reviews work. So they don't exist in a vacuum.  
50 If conditions change, then we can change that or modify

1 it. So what you've just talked about is a perfect  
2 example of that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, okay. Go  
5 ahead, Percy.

6

7 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I was going  
8 to mention exactly what Ken said. If we make this move  
9 now, it's going to take a year or two for it to go into  
10 effect if we recommend to OSM to amend the closure to  
11 include Noatak area. So that by the time we get into  
12 the regulation itself we'll be able to make these  
13 modifications or suggestions that Lance, I think, that  
14 was talking suggested. I was just going to make a  
15 motion to do exactly what Ken said a while ago.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

18

19 MR. MCKEE: Just to make clear that any  
20 proposals that you submit now are not going to be taken  
21 up by the Federal Subsistence Board until April of  
22 2016. So the process starts now, but, as you all know,  
23 it's a lengthy process. So just wanted to clarify  
24 that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We understand what  
27 you're saying, but what we're saying is we want to  
28 change it and we don't want the same people harvesting.

29

30

31 MR. MCKEE: I understand.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And I think you hear  
34 that the muskoxen expanding. You go up the Noatak, you  
35 will see it. Hannah said that in Selawik and they're  
36 just moving and they're expanding and they're getting  
37 away from that Cape Krusenstern to an area. They're  
38 expanding different places in the area. Maybe that's  
39 why you're seeing numbers not increasing. Like in  
40 front of my camp I see for a year now they're  
41 increasing by two. Last summer I didn't see eight.  
42 This time I see 17 going by Agi across the mountains,  
43 right across. We counted them from my camp. They're  
44 saying that they're increasing, but that count you did  
45 in a certain area is declining because they're  
46 relocating. Each bull want to have his own territory.  
47 I wouldn't share.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: He don't want to  
2 share, so he move his herd. Go ahead, Calvin.

3  
4 MR. MOTO: When the subject of muskox  
5 come up to the hunters, they say tell the Fish and Game  
6 and Federal, whoever, to take their muskox to whoever  
7 want them because when they go hunting they're always  
8 in the way for caribou hunting. We tried that muskox  
9 but we didn't care for it, so anybody that need muskox  
10 you should just air lift them to that area. That's  
11 what they said.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 MR. MOTO: Every time -- some other  
16 problems we have in the summertime when we go seining,  
17 they're always around when we go seining for salmon and  
18 it gets to be a problem. We finally had to get some  
19 hunters with rifles to make sure they didn't bother the  
20 people that were trying to get their subsistence salmon  
21 or whatever fish they were trying to get. It's a real  
22 problem.

23  
24 We have anywhere from 24 to 40 hang out  
25 right across from where the clinic is. Right across  
26 there. Kids, especially in the fall time when there's  
27 cross-country running, they're there too and the kids  
28 are afraid to go up that way. So they said tell them  
29 to take them away. That's what they said. I don't  
30 know if that's the right solution, but we have guys  
31 that get permit, but they don't use them the last  
32 couple years. We're not very fond of muskox meat.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.

35  
36 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
37 As we all know in the last 15 years now, we've been  
38 hearing the muskox has one or two permits that's been  
39 issues. Somebody that wants to hunt muskox in this  
40 area. If they were lucky, I imagine they get a permit  
41 in order to hunt muskox. In our area we see them once  
42 in a while fiddling around everywhere. So about 15  
43 years ago, because we argued with this for a long time,  
44 muskox trying to legalize it to hunt in this area.

45  
46 Of course, you know we were told a man  
47 with the Park Service that some of the big game in part  
48 of our region in Alaska is used for ceremonial  
49 purposes. Like in Fairbanks, if somebody had a  
50 ceremony, they'd legalize a big game whether it's

1 closed or not. So this question came to our attention  
2 here in Game Unit 23. You said all big game is  
3 authorized to be used for ceremonies. That's all big  
4 game. I asked that question, you mean all the big game  
5 is authorized to use for ceremonies. Yeah. That  
6 includes muskox, is that correct. My question hasn't  
7 been answered yet.

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair, Mr.  
10 Stoney. Ken Adkisson again. The only Federal  
11 ceremonial hunts I'm really familiar with are pretty  
12 much those that I helped involve with establishment and  
13 those are things like the moose and muskox hunt and  
14 whales. Those are specific regulations for that  
15 specific community to take a specific animal or numbers  
16 of animals. So I guess my general thing is that unless  
17 there's a specific reg for it, it's not allowed, but it  
18 would probably take a reg specialist to answer your  
19 question. My initial reaction is that, no, that's  
20 probably not a correct view of it.

21

22 If the community comes forth with a  
23 request for a ceremonial hunt and provides the  
24 information for the proposal, that can be dealt with  
25 and addressed in the process.

26

27 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Ken.

28

29 MR. MOTO: Another problem we have is  
30 our cemetery is on the bluff, you know, and last couple  
31 years the muskox has been going up there and trampling  
32 those markers we have, grave markers. It's a good  
33 thing we know where the markers belong, but it's  
34 getting to be a real problem with them because when the  
35 mosquitos are out they go up on the bluff where the  
36 wind is better.

37

38 The last two or three years we had  
39 about five or ten markers knocked down and some of the  
40 graves trampled, so this is a problem for us. They  
41 were supposed to build a fence and we got the material,  
42 but they never put it up yet. So we don't know what to  
43 do anymore. So we have to have guys go up there with  
44 Hondas to make sure that they're not up there.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

47

48 MR. MCKEE: Just quickly to answer  
49 Raymond's question, I don't see anything under Unit 23  
50 regulations or Federal regulations that have any

1 ceremonial harvest for Unit 23. I can't speak outside  
2 of that because I'm trying to stick to your region.

3

4 I just wanted to quickly try to get us  
5 back to the original closure review because this is an  
6 action item for the Council, so you guys need to make a  
7 motion to do one of the three options that I mentioned,  
8 either maintain the closure or, as has been mentioned  
9 before, modify it or rescind it. Since this is an  
10 action item, this is something that the Council will  
11 need to vote on.

12

13 Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thanks.

16

17 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

20

21 MR. BALLOT: I move to modify the  
22 closure for the Cape Krusenstern muskox to include --  
23 to recommend to OSM to maintain the closure with  
24 modifications to expand to Noatak area.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Do you want to add  
27 anything to that, Mike.

28

29 MR. KRAMER: Percy, were you making a  
30 motion or do you want me to?

31

32 MS. BURKE: Percy, if I may, from my  
33 notes that I just typed out, it sounded like Percy made  
34 a motion to modify the closure to expand to the Noatak  
35 area was what I had typed out.

36

37 MR. KRAMER: I second that motion with  
38 a question that it be added to it, also that it be  
39 modified and the closure continued until we have a  
40 viable harvestable population to sustain a subsistence  
41 resource.

42

43 MR. MCKEE: Right. All we're talking  
44 about is modifying it, not rescinding the closure, so  
45 excellent point and good to put on the record.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Did you get that,  
48 Percy?

49

50 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: So I second the motion  
2 and the motion.  
3  
4 MR. MOTO: Call for question.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The motion was  
7 seconded. The question has been called for, anyone?  
8  
9 MR. STONEY: The question has been  
10 called for.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: All in favor signify  
13 by saying aye.  
14  
15 IN UNISON: Aye.  
16  
17 (No opposing votes)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Is there  
20 anything we need to do?  
21  
22 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Just a  
23 reminder. If you really want to do that other thing  
24 that we talked about with muskoxen, you're really going  
25 to need to get a new proposal in that would basically  
26 be something like provide for a Federally managed hunt  
27 in the Noatak drainage in the area currently defined  
28 under the State and the justification for that is  
29 there's a State harvest opportunity in that area while  
30 there is no similar Federal opportunity.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, you heard that  
33 Melinda.  
34  
35 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Ken, thank  
36 you. That is a perfect segue into, I believe, the last  
37 item. I think we're getting close to the end of the  
38 day and we still have our public meeting this evening.  
39 The next item on the agenda is B under 11, the call for  
40 Federal hunting and trapping regulatory proposals.  
41  
42 Mr. Chair.  
43  
44 MR. MCKEE: That's me. Thank you, Ken,  
45 for the perfect lead-in for that. Okay, the Federal  
46 process for submitting proposals is a two-year process  
47 and we are currently in that time period. The time  
48 period for submitting proposals for changes to Federal  
49 subsistence regulations ends on March 25th. The time  
50 is now to do that. We've changed some of the

1 information. The Federal reg book you have in front of  
2 you, there's some information I believe on Page 15 of  
3 the handy dandy that talks about what you need to  
4 include to submit a proposal, but we've actually  
5 simplified that, so that's no longer relevant, but it's  
6 a little bit more expanded. Similar but shorter, so we  
7 tried to simplify it.

8

9 First of all, anybody -- we like to  
10 talk about the Federal subsistence process as being a  
11 bottom-up program. It's run by the users, it's run by  
12 the individuals, it's run especially in some cases by  
13 the Regional Advisory Councils. So anybody can submit a  
14 proposal to the Federal side of things. When preparing  
15 a proposal, it's important that you include some  
16 particular information.

17

18 MS. BURKE: Council members, if you  
19 turn to Page 21, there's that overview Chris was  
20 talking about.

21

22 MR. MCKEE: Thanks, Melinda. So the  
23 following information is critical when submitting a  
24 proposal and I just wanted to go over that really  
25 quickly. First of all, your name if it's an  
26 individual, the organization, in this case the Regional  
27 Advisory Council, contact information, address, phone  
28 number, email, that kind of thing.

29

30 Finally, the proposal must include  
31 following information: What regulations do you wish to  
32 change. Include management unit number and species.  
33 Quote the current regulation if known, that is the  
34 Federal regulation. If you are proposing a new  
35 regulation, please state it as new regulation. Number  
36 2, how should the new regulation read. Write the  
37 regulation the way you would like to see it written in  
38 the regulations. Number 3, why should this regulation  
39 change be made. You should also provide any additional  
40 information that you think will help the Board in  
41 evaluating the proposed change.

42

43 There are several ways to submit a  
44 proposal. You can either submit them hand-delivered to  
45 our office in Anchorage. Most people don't do that.  
46 Or you can mail it to our office in Anchorage and the  
47 address is there on Page 21. Anybody can submit it in  
48 person at a Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory  
49 Council meeting like this one and we have had people do  
50 that already. Finally, you can submit it on the web at

1 the Federal eRulemaking Portal, which is  
2 www.regulations.gov. So there are multiple ways to do  
3 that.

4  
5 Just a very brief overview about this.  
6 This all starts off with the proposal submission  
7 period, which goes from January until, this year, March  
8 25th. So that's when we get all the proposals in.  
9 When the time period ends, OSM gathers all the  
10 proposals and we get together and decide -- we vet the  
11 proposals, that is we decide which proposals are under  
12 the purview of the Federal Board to evaluate. I  
13 mentioned that a little bit earlier. Then the  
14 proposals go out and OSM Staff analyzes it and OSM has  
15 wildlife biologists, fish biologists, anthropologists  
16 and they all often are involved in writing the analyses  
17 for each proposal. So rewrite the analyses.

18  
19 It goes through multiple levels of  
20 internal review and then comes back to each of the  
21 relevant Regional Advisory Councils. Some proposals  
22 are specific to one Regional Advisory Council,  
23 sometimes we have crossover proposals that might  
24 include more than one Regional Advisory Council. In  
25 that case, they're taken up at every Regional Advisory  
26 Council that would be affected by that proposal. After  
27 that we take those back. If they need to be modified,  
28 we do those modifications. It's only then after the  
29 Regional Advisory Councils have had an opportunity to  
30 fully review the proposals that it goes to the Federal  
31 Subsistence Board.

32  
33 The Federal Subsistence Board will be  
34 meeting in April of 2016 to come to their decision on  
35 all of the Federal wildlife proposals that are  
36 submitted by either the Councils or individuals. I  
37 should note that the Regional Advisory Councils are the  
38 most important part of the entire Federal subsistence  
39 process. I say that because even though the Federal  
40 Subsistence Board is the body that actually says yea or  
41 nay to making a proposal part of Federal regulations,  
42 they are required under ANILCA to defer to the Regional  
43 Advisory Councils on Federal proposals with very few  
44 exceptions and it's usually if it's not supported by  
45 recognized principals of fish and wildlife management,  
46 if there's a safety concern, something like that.  
47 There are very few criteria that the Board can overturn  
48 a RAC's recommendation on a proposal.

49  
50 As a matter of fact, I think the

1 statistic on it is that the Board has deferred to the  
2 Regional Advisory Councils about 95 percent of the  
3 time, so it's very, very rare. I've been with the  
4 program -- this will be my third cycle. I have never  
5 seen in any of the regions that I was before I became  
6 the chief of the division, I'd never seen a single  
7 Council overruled by the Federal Board, so that gives  
8 you an indication of just how important the Regional  
9 Advisory Councils are. So even if an individual  
10 submits a proposal it comes before the RAC. If the RAC  
11 supports that proposal, it has an excellent chance of  
12 becoming part of the Federal regulation.

13

14 So that's just kind of a quick  
15 overview, but I really wanted to emphasize just how  
16 vital the Councils are to this process.

17

18 So that's all I have, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone  
21 have a question. Go ahead, Mike.

22

23 MR. KRAMER: I was just wondering was  
24 any proposals ever drawn up on the ones we requested in  
25 the fall or are those being drafted still?

26

27 MS. BURKE: You know, Mike, we chatted  
28 about that a little bit this morning. Go ahead, Chris.

29

30 MR. MCKEE: No, go ahead.

31

32 MS. BURKE: I sent this out in an email  
33 and in the mail and I've drawn up -- I bulleted some of  
34 the proposal ideas. This morning we talked about a few  
35 of them and maybe what avenue we should take and I  
36 think that we're going to have much more time at this  
37 meeting. This is the avenue for the Councils to  
38 discuss these in person and to have them worked out  
39 here with Staff in the room. So I have those proposal  
40 ideas that you all came up with in Kiana and we'll be  
41 working through some of those as the discussions go on  
42 at this meeting.

43

44 MR. MCKEE: I'm sorry, Mike. I forgot  
45 that you weren't here this morning when I was going  
46 over them. There were seven proposals that the Council  
47 discussed in Kiana in the fall. I just kind of briefly  
48 mentioned a few of them that the Federal Subsistence  
49 Board does not have authority over and I just mentioned  
50 quickly two of them are predator control and issues of

1 access. So, if those proposals are submitted, they  
2 probably wouldn't go through the vetting process, but  
3 that does not mean that you shouldn't go ahead and  
4 submit them.

5  
6 I'm just giving you -- my presentation  
7 this morning was more just a point of information for  
8 the Council to be made aware of. I was in no way  
9 discouraging the Council from submitting that. Member  
10 Loon mentioned my use of the term wasting your time and  
11 that was a poor choice of words from me. I wasn't  
12 meaning to imply that it was a waste of time. You are  
13 absolutely more than welcome to submit any proposal  
14 that you wish to submit. If nothing else, it will make  
15 those issues, if they're not already on our radar  
16 screen, it will certainly come to our radar screen if  
17 you submit those kind of proposals. That's just  
18 something that I went over this morning, but we do have  
19 those.

20  
21 This would be the time to come up with  
22 those proposals. As soon as we're fully staffed, which  
23 I'll talk about a little bit later in the meeting, my  
24 Staff will work on those proposals, the ones that make  
25 it through the vetting process, but even before that I  
26 will work with Melinda to make sure that we accurately  
27 record your wishes on each of the proposals and we'll  
28 get those submitted ahead of the March 25th deadline.

29  
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead.

33  
34 MR. MCKEE: Ken had a good suggestion  
35 that if you wanted to submit a proposal for that area  
36 of the Noatak that he was talking about earlier for  
37 muskox, it might be a good idea to take a short break  
38 and do that because it's a little bit more involved and  
39 so it might be easier to do that over a break rather  
40 than on the record, so that's just a suggestion but one  
41 that I would recommend.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I'll  
44 refer to Melinda. What's the plan for that dinner and  
45 the evening meeting?

46  
47 MS. BURKE: Sure. We have all of the  
48 soup now is done and finished cooking. So the evening  
49 meeting starts at 7:00 and you will not be sitting up  
50 here as Council members, you'll be sitting in the

1 audience. We're going to have the room set up just a  
2 little bit differently, but that's going to start at  
3 7:00. I'm going to be around during the whole two-hour  
4 break. If everybody wants to grab some soup and sit  
5 down and chat a little bit more it might be a good time  
6 to throw out some of the ideas like Chris suggested and  
7 kind of work through some of these things.

8

9 So, as far as I'm concerned, Mr. Chair,  
10 I think that would be a good place to end as far as  
11 presentations go and then have a little bit of time  
12 before the evening meeting begins, would be my  
13 suggestion.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
16 Are you done?

17

18 MR. MCKEE: I'm done, but I'm not going  
19 anywhere.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I didn't want to  
22 leave you short. I wanted to make sure.....

23

24 MR. MCKEE: No, I'm done on this, but,  
25 for better or worse, you haven't heard the last of me.  
26 I'll be back here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
29 Enoch.

30

31 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32 Could I, as a RAC member, could we do proposals  
33 concerning the.....

34

35 MR. MCKEE: Absolutely.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

38

39 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. Can we do one  
40 concerning the overpopulation of -- stop the increase  
41 of accessibility to the rivers of Noatak.

42

43 MR. MCKEE: Overpopulation of who? The  
44 users or.....

45

46 MR. MITCHELL: The sport.

47

48 MR. MCKEE: In terms of access, again,  
49 like I said, I don't want to discourage anybody. You  
50 can certainly submit any proposal you want to submit,

1 but issues of access are not under the purview of the  
2 Federal Subsistence Board. No proposal could be  
3 analyzed regarding access. That's something that would  
4 have to be taken up by the individual land management  
5 unit. So if it's an issue that you see occurring in  
6 the Noatak National Preserve, that's an issue that  
7 would have to be taken up with the Park Service.

8

9 MR. MITCHELL: Or stop terrorizing our  
10 Western Arctic Caribou Herd on the migratory route  
11 within NPS on the Squirrel River and Agi River.

12

13 MR. MCKEE: Well, without getting more  
14 into the details of the proposal, I couldn't tell you  
15 how it would go, but that's certainly a proposal that  
16 you could submit. Absolutely.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The way I understand  
19 Enoch, I had to ask him first, what he's saying is like  
20 I'm saying, outside, like in the Squirrel River, Noatak  
21 area, the numbers of muskoxen is being seen more and  
22 more. They're increasing somewhere. That's why I  
23 stated earlier that some areas, like toward Point Hope,  
24 it might be declining in numbers, but different areas,  
25 especially just below Kelly we're seeing more and more  
26 right in the sandbar, more muskoxen. That's what we're  
27 trying to say. The numbers might be down in one area  
28 due to they're just moving somewhere.

29

30 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That  
31 clarifies it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's what he's  
34 trying to say.

35

36 MR. MCKEE: So that would certainly be  
37 a proposal you could submit.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Ken.

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: What I was going to say  
42 was that don't expect the allowable harvest to change  
43 much. As Chris said, the allowable harvest right now  
44 in that area is eight animals and until we get better  
45 population data on the expanded area I don't see that  
46 increasing, but it's possible it will sometime in the  
47 future.

48

49 But basically what we're talking about  
50 I think at this point for a regulation is -- I'll just

1 read to you what the current State regulation for that  
2 area is and it is muskoxen, that portion north and west  
3 of the Kobuk River drainage, one bull by permit August  
4 1 to March 15. Here is what the Federal regulation is  
5 for that corresponding area. Unit 23 remainder, no  
6 Federal open season.

7

8 So what you need to do is submit a  
9 proposal that would redescribe that hunt area to  
10 parallel that language in the State and provide for a  
11 Federal season and harvest limit.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think we understand  
14 what you're saying Ken.

15

16 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That under  
19 regulations in place there's no open hunting for  
20 Noatak.

21

22 MR. ADKISSON: Unless you have a State  
23 Tier II permit. See, that's part of the area.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, under  
26 Federal.....

27

28 MR. ADKISSON: You can hunt on Federal  
29 lands with a State Tier II permit, but you can't hunt  
30 under Federal regulations on Federal land.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

33

34 MR. BALLOT: I was just going to come  
35 up with -- can Ken and Enoch and you or whoever come up  
36 with the language by morning for that proposal?

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I didn't hear  
39 Attamuk, so it's got to be Enoch Mitchell.

40

41 MR. MCKEE: Absolutely. That's  
42 something we can do.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,  
45 Calvin.

46

47 MR. MOTO: I was wondering -- the  
48 Muskox Commission, we had Wales, Shishmaref, Deering  
49 and Buckland, do they still exist? I know we had  
50 several meeting with the rest of the Muskox Commission

1 in Nome a couple of times. We've never heard anything  
2 more about it. Are they low funds for travel or what?

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair, Mr.  
5 Moto. Yeah, the Seward Peninsula Cooperative Muskox  
6 group is sort of an ad hoc group that's funded entirely  
7 out of Park base and ADF&G-based funding and we're  
8 short of funds. No, the group hasn't met in several  
9 years. There's discussions about trying to revitalize  
10 it, but the trend in the population of the muskox on  
11 the Seward Pen has been dropping and they face severe  
12 cuts. I'm not sure what we'd really accomplish by  
13 trying to pull the full group together. It's possible  
14 if we have funding we may try to put together another  
15 cooperative group meeting maybe in the fall or early  
16 winter of next year. It sort of still exists, but it's  
17 kind of out there in limbo. It doesn't receive the  
18 support of some formal group like the Western Arctic  
19 Caribou Herd group.

20

21 MR. MOTO: I know it formed because the  
22 Southern Seward Peninsula were trying to ram through  
23 different types of commercial hunting of muskox and  
24 bypass some of our subsistence hunting. I happened to  
25 be in Nome one day, they were talking about it and I  
26 told them at that time how come I don't see anybody  
27 from the Northern Seward Peninsula making decisions on  
28 how we should harvest these muskox, you know, and  
29 that's how come we formed the Northern Seward Peninsula  
30 or the State did anyway or was it Federal, I don't  
31 remember.

32

33 MR. ADKISSON: Council Member Moto  
34 through the Chair. I guess my best advice at this  
35 point in time would be if the community that you're  
36 affiliated with, like for Deering, has a muskoxen thing  
37 or issue or concern, bring it right to the Federal  
38 managers at this stage and begin talking with them  
39 about it. I think that's probably the most effective  
40 way of getting anything done.

41

42 MR. MOTO: Does the Tier I and Tier II  
43 still exist or is it just mostly State now?

44

45 MR. ADKISSON: No. For example, Unit  
46 23 Southwest is currently under dual management.  
47 There's only an allowable harvest which is shared  
48 Federally and State. It's four bulls. The State has  
49 issued four Tier II permits. We've issued four Federal  
50 permits. I think there may only be a limited amount of

1 harvest that we've had reported.

2

3 MR. MOTO: Thank you.

4

5 MR. ADKISSON: Probably the allowable  
6 harvest will stay the same for 2015 and probably the  
7 hunt structure. The State hunt is a Tier II.  
8 Everybody applies in the State. The applications are  
9 scored. The top scorers get the permits. The Federal  
10 hunt is limited to Buckland and Deering residents. You  
11 simply apply to the Park Service in Nome. We put your  
12 name on a list if you're  
13 Federally eligible and then we draw a random selection  
14 for who gets the permits.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. As  
17 a Chairman, I think we should call for lunch break  
18 until 7:00 o'clock tonight. Everybody is getting  
19 tired. So on the first day enough is enough until  
20 tonight. I think we will call this meeting until  
21 tomorrow. Resume tomorrow.

22

23 MR. BALLOT: Is it going to be 9:00  
24 o'clock in the morning?

25

26 MS. BURKE: Yeah, we're going to be  
27 starting at 9:00 in the morning and if you want to  
28 listen tonight, the teleconference line is going to be  
29 open for the rural meeting and that starts at 7:00. I  
30 put the PowerPoint in your yellow packet.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, we'll break and  
33 resume tomorrow.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
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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:

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Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/18