

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME II

7  
8  
9 Kiana, Alaska  
10 October 9, 2014  
11 9:05 a.m.

12  
13  
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kiana, Alaska - 10/9/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Good morning. We'll reopen the session today at Kiana at 9:05 a.m. I would like to identify who is all on the phone, please.

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

MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee with Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

MR. ADKISSON: This is Ken Adkisson with the Park Service in Nome.

MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is Marcy Okada with the National Park Service in Fairbanks.

MS. SWEENEY: Good morning. This is Brittany Sweeney with Fish and Wildlife Service in Kotzebue.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Good morning, all. We'll all smiling at you right through the radio. You miss out one good thing. You should have come to Kiana. Nice, beautiful place, clear weather and nice company. And I would say thank you to Kiana again for hosting us. Hopefully we do this in another village sometime in the future. This is a good session.

Back to the agenda this morning. We're at.....

MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Next up we have Carl Johnson. He's our Council Coordination Division Chief. He's going to be discussing recommended changes to the nominations and appointment process, an issue we've been discussing for the last couple years now.

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Carl, you have the floor.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning and members of the Council. I too would

1 like to thank the people of Kiana and the Native  
2 Village of Kiana for hosting this year and for their  
3 incredible hospitality. I've run into a lot of very  
4 friendly people here, so it's very welcoming.

5  
6 I'm here to talk to you about our  
7 nominations and appointment process. Right now, as you  
8 know, we have 10 Councils, some with 10, some with 13  
9 members, so we have 109 seats on all of our Councils.  
10 The way things work currently is approximately one-  
11 third of those seats are up for reappointment or  
12 appointment every year, so we have an annual cycle.

13  
14 We start by inviting people to apply or  
15 inviting people to nominate someone to the Council in  
16 the fall. So right now that nomination and appointment  
17 period is open, but it's for appointments that aren't  
18 made until December of 2015, so it's a long cycle.  
19 Over the last couple years, as this Council has noted  
20 in its annual report, there have been some problems  
21 with our appointments being completed by December.

22  
23 In fact, the last two years the last  
24 appointment letters have not issued until some five  
25 months after that December 3 date when they should have  
26 been issued and that's created some problems. As you  
27 all recall, it forced you to change your winter meeting  
28 date from February to March this year because you were  
29 waiting for five appointments to be issued by the  
30 Secretary of the Interior.

31  
32 MS. BURKE: If everybody on the line  
33 could remember to push \*6 to mute yourself unless  
34 you're speaking. We hear some paper shuffling.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Good  
39 reminder. So that's one of the problems. That's kind  
40 of been a really big up-front problem with how our  
41 appointment process works with a couple of other  
42 problems that have also been lingering too.

43  
44 This long appointment cycle that I  
45 described to you sometimes creates confusion because we  
46 -- our Subsistence Outreach Coordinator just issued a  
47 press release earlier this week announcing -- inviting  
48 people to apply or to nominate someone for the  
49 Councils, but if you're someone who applied for this  
50 year's appointments, you're still waiting. You may

1 have submitted your application last November or  
2 December. You're still waiting to hear whether or not  
3 you were appointed.

4  
5           Seeing this news release might confuse  
6 you and make you think, well, I guess I didn't make it  
7 on the Council, they're already seeking more  
8 applications. So sometimes that creates some confusion  
9 and I know it has even with Council members who are  
10 submitting Council applications two years in a row  
11 because they didn't hear from the previous appointment  
12 cycle whether or not they had been accepted.

13  
14           Another problem we run into is we also  
15 don't currently appoint alternates. What we do is we  
16 identify people who would make good alternates and they  
17 are cleared and vetted by Washington D.C. for  
18 appointment if needed, but they're not notified that  
19 they've been identified as alternates and there's no  
20 communication with them unless there's an unexpected  
21 vacancy. So they may go off and go, well, I guess I  
22 wasn't appointed to the Council and they may find  
23 something else to dedicate their time to.

24  
25           If there's an unexpected vacancy, then  
26 we call them and say are you still interested in the  
27 Council and hopefully they say yes and then we ask for  
28 them to be appointed and that could take a couple of  
29 months and might leave the Council without a necessary  
30 person on the Council to help do their business.

31  
32           And then finally, one of the other  
33 things that's been a clear change in the last 10 years,  
34 there's been a significant decline in the number of  
35 applications being submitted. We've had about a 30  
36 percent drop in the last 10 years for the number of  
37 people who are applying to the Council or being  
38 nominated to the Council. In some cases, particularly  
39 with the northern Councils like yours, that leads to  
40 sometimes just barely enough applications just to fill  
41 the seats and that's if the people who are being  
42 nominated for appointment clear the vetting process in  
43 D.C. Sometimes that doesn't happen and Councils end up  
44 with vacant seats.

45  
46           So what I have before you is a series  
47 of recommendations that we have come up with at OSM and  
48 the reason why we're putting them out to the Councils  
49 is this really is an important process to determining  
50 who is on your Council and we wanted to have your input

1 on our recommendations rather than just moving ahead  
2 and making these changes.

3  
4           The first recommended change considers  
5 going from a three-year appointment to a four-year  
6 appointment. If you recall, actually you specifically  
7 suggested in your annual report previously, not this  
8 year's but last year's annual report, you suggested  
9 having longer appointment terms. So this is one of the  
10 suggestions we also think is a good idea.

11  
12           If we stay on the current annual cycle,  
13 there are two things that that can accomplish. One, it  
14 can allow the people -- it will have us sending fewer  
15 names to Washington, D.C. for them to approve every  
16 year, so less work for them because we're sending a  
17 whole bunch of names to them at once. So that might  
18 make it easier for them to get the vetting done in a  
19 more timely manner.

20  
21           Two, given that we have fewer  
22 applications every year, it then makes fewer seats for  
23 us to have to fill every year because instead of  
24 appointing a third of the Council members every year  
25 we'd only be doing 25 percent every year. So if we  
26 keep with the current trends of how many applications  
27 we receive, it might actually give us enough  
28 applications to have both Council members and suitable  
29 alternates identified.

30  
31           The other thing we're contemplating is  
32 -- to deal with the confusion of overlapping  
33 appointment cycles, contemplating instead of having an  
34 annual appointment cycle, a biennial appointment cycle.  
35 There are some pros and cons to both of them and  
36 they're outlined, fairly detailed, in your briefing.  
37 But just to highlight, I've already talked about a  
38 couple benefits of the four-year annual cycle.

39  
40           The biennial cycle, having it every two  
41 years, would avoid that overlap and confusion between  
42 the appointment cycles, but one of the disadvantages is  
43 that perhaps it might also not keep the appointment  
44 cycle up front in the public. It wouldn't give us a  
45 regular opportunity to be doing outreach to have people  
46 apply for or being nominated to the Council. So it  
47 could possibly lead to fewer applications if it isn't  
48 in the public eye as much. So that's the first idea,  
49 three or four-year terms and then do we keep the annual  
50 cycle or go to a biennial cycle.

1                   The second issue then is how could we  
2 make better use of and faster use of alternates.  
3 Instead of having them just identified as possibly  
4 being on-deck leader if needed, one suggestion is to  
5 actually have the Secretary of the Interior formally  
6 issue an appointment letter to somebody, letting them  
7 know that they have been appointed as an alternate to  
8 the Council. What the benefit of that is it lets them  
9 know, yes, you have been considered and, yes, you  
10 haven't been rejected, you have a potential place and a  
11 role in this Council.

12  
13                   Now there are a lot of different ways  
14 where that could manifest itself. They could either  
15 just be notified that they could be an alternate or  
16 they could have a more active role where they could  
17 come in and, for example, if your Council had a problem  
18 meeting quorum because several of you had conflicts  
19 with your schedules and couldn't make it, then the  
20 alternate could come in and attend the meeting so you  
21 would not have the problem of making quorum. Others  
22 have also suggested that perhaps they could receive the  
23 book materials and be informed of what the Council is  
24 doing and that way they're still in the loop of the  
25 Council's business.

26  
27                   The third issue that we are considering  
28 was originally suggested by the Western Interior  
29 Council and that is the concept of carryover terms.  
30 What a carryover term would be is, if your term expired  
31 on December 2nd and you did not receive a reappointment  
32 letter dated December 3rd or if a new person wasn't  
33 appointed to that seat by December 3rd, you, as the  
34 sitting Council member would remain in that seat until  
35 a new appointment letter is issued.

36  
37                   That way, like what happened with this  
38 Council earlier this year, if there was still a two,  
39 three, four-month delay in getting your appointment  
40 letters, you could still plan your winter meeting and  
41 make all your travel arrangements and attend that  
42 meeting and take care of business until an appointment  
43 letter is issued. So that's one advantage for that.

44  
45                   Yes, Raymond.

46  
47                   MR. STONEY: Mr. Johnson, in the last  
48 cycle when we went through the process last year and  
49 after we made the applications it comes to your office.  
50 Now since Melinda works so hard trying to get where

1 we're at because it takes six months after application  
2 is submitted, so at the time your time continues going  
3 forward and then I would have to attend another meeting  
4 six months later not officially being appointed. Is  
5 there some way to speed this up after they put in the  
6 application? Is there any way to make it any faster?  
7

8 MR. JOHNSON: I'll just give you a  
9 quick rundown on what it takes for our appointment  
10 process and it might answer part of your question.  
11 About half of the time is under our control and that is  
12 after the applications come in there are what we call  
13 regional nominations panels that are formed. They  
14 consist of agency staff and also your Council  
15 coordinator. They interview people and references and  
16 they come up with recommendations as to who should be  
17 approved for appointment. Then the InterAgency Staff  
18 Committee, which is a body of staff consisting of the  
19 five agencies, they advise the Federal Subsistence  
20 Board members. Based on the panel recommendations,  
21 they come up with a recommendation to the Board.  
22

23 Now this process, the way it's been  
24 going the last couple years, up to this point of the  
25 InterAgency Staff Committee meeting, that gets us to  
26 about early to mid-June. Then the Federal Subsistence  
27 Board meets typically July/August to review the  
28 reports, have a discussion and deliberate and come up  
29 with their recommendations to the Secretary of  
30 Interior. So by end of August that material is all now  
31 in D.C. That is where we lose control of what happens  
32 in this process and how long it takes.  
33

34 Essentially there's two tracks. One  
35 track is getting the paperwork through all the right  
36 offices and getting all the right signatures and all  
37 that. But the other track, and this is the part that  
38 creates the delays for this process, is there is one  
39 person in all of Washington, D.C. who is qualified to  
40 do the vetting, do the background checks and look into  
41 the history of every single Federal Advisory Committee  
42 in the United States in the Department of Interior. So  
43 not just the 10 Regional Advisory Councils, but every  
44 other type of Advisory Committee in the entire U.S.  
45 that operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act  
46 like you do.  
47

48 So this person can sometimes be a bit  
49 overwhelmed in doing all the background checks and  
50 that's where the delay happens. Since we can't control

1 that process, one of the ways we can at least have some  
2 control over delays on that end is with something like  
3 these carry-over terms. So like as you described, if  
4 your term expired based on your original appointment  
5 letter, this change to the charter would allow you to  
6 still continue officially as a Council member.....

7

8 MR. STONEY: Okay.

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: .....until a new  
11 appointment letter is issued.

12

13 MR. STONEY: Now if one of our members  
14 is the Chair of this group and then his term has  
15 expired, would he still be the Chair until the next  
16 meeting?

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Well, under the current  
19 process for all the Councils, you conduct your  
20 elections at your winter meeting. So the winter  
21 meeting is the next meeting after new appointments or  
22 after terms expire. So they would have been the Chair  
23 for the previous winter and fall and then, at the  
24 winter meeting, would be the time to elect new  
25 officers.

26

27 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Carl.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
30 Hannah.

31

32 MS. LOON: You said there is a Federal  
33 Advisory Act that is in place, but is it possible that  
34 we can -- because the Office of Subsistence Management  
35 are familiar with local villages and their  
36 characteristics and village population, don t you think  
37 we could skip the step of the Secretary of Interior's  
38 signature to authorize all these?

39

40 I ask that because things like that  
41 might slow down the process of submitting hunting and  
42 fishing regulations. Also not just ask the village  
43 people to sign up, but write a formal letter to the  
44 council because we don t have enough representation  
45 from your village for so many years. For instance,  
46 Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk and other villages. You need  
47 to submit a name who you think would best represent  
48 your community in protecting your subsistence way of  
49 life and submit those. You recommend them and upon  
50 their approval, the applicants, that they would do

1 that. Because if you just say put an application,  
2 nobody will. Nobody will.

3

4                   And why not let Anchorage OSM decide  
5 and cut this extra step that takes a long time to delay  
6 our appointments. When you send these appointments,  
7 the Secretary can just sign them because she don't know  
8 us, she never see us, she may never talk to us, she  
9 never smell our village. That way we have a very big  
10 gap right there.

11

12                   And its really good to have alternates  
13 that the tribal council can submit upon the agreement  
14 of the person who is subsistence user, harvester,  
15 hunter, processor, and send that to OSM and then OSM  
16 will keep a list and we all know who is the alternate  
17 because we always talk to each other real fast, village  
18 to village. Verne s been our good voice of concerns in  
19 Upper Kobuk and Lance is a good voice for the  
20 transporter.

21

22                   That is all I have to say.

23

24                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Is it open for  
27 discussion now?

28

29                   MR. JOHNSON: Well, first --  
30 absolutely. Well, I'll give kind of a quick summation  
31 and then I'll answer two of the things that Hannah  
32 talked about.

33

34                   So essentially what we're looking for  
35 from the Council is your recommendations on these three  
36 points, the four-year terms, the formal alternates and  
37 the carryover terms. I'm wanting you to look at all  
38 three of them and make recommendations rather than just  
39 on one.

40

41                   There's a last piece too that relates  
42 to an issue that this Council has raised before and  
43 that is a way to enhance youth involvement in the  
44 Councils. That's not something that can be done  
45 formally through the charter because the Federal  
46 Advisory Committee Act, which I mentioned previously,  
47 defines what types of membership there can be in the  
48 Council and none of them could really fit like a youth  
49 member of the Council, but there are a lot of different  
50 creative options we can explore and you can explore

1 them with your Council coordinator, Melinda, about how  
2 to enhance youth involvement, but that's not something  
3 we can formally do through a charter or this process.

4  
5 So, quickly, I'll answer Hannah's two  
6 questions through the Chair and then open up to  
7 questions. Your first point, Hannah, about bypassing  
8 D.C. and having the appointments approved at OSM has  
9 somewhat already been suggested by the Western Interior  
10 Council in its annual report for this last fiscal year  
11 and that was actually to have the Special Assistant for  
12 Alaska Affairs, Pat Pourchot, be delegated the  
13 authority to either conduct the vetting, which is  
14 really the holdup in our process, or the appointments  
15 directly.

16  
17 I've made some suggestions and we'll  
18 see how they pursue and what we can do about that, but  
19 that's something we're already starting to consider how  
20 we can probably get perhaps to having local people who  
21 understand Alaskans be the ones who make the decisions  
22 about who would be good for the Council because  
23 sometimes people in D.C. they see, oh, they've got a  
24 citation for an expired boat registration. Really?  
25 But that holds up. In D.C., in their minds, that's  
26 bad.

27  
28 So to the second issue you identified,  
29 Hannah, and that is how do we get more of those  
30 villages who have not seen members on the Council  
31 involved and applying or being nominated. That is one  
32 of the things that I encourage the Council coordinators  
33 to do directly. It's a great opportunity for them to  
34 regularly communicate with the villages and conduct  
35 outreach and do it in a targeted way where they can  
36 identify communities who haven't seen representation in  
37 some time and work on contacting with the local council  
38 or perhaps a non-profit organization. Like for the  
39 Bristol Bay Region BBNA or Tanana Chiefs or whoever  
40 would have good connections to help to outreach.

41  
42 So that is one of the things we do try  
43 to do. We do send out a mass mailing that gets to  
44 everybody so that that information is out there, but  
45 then I ask for the Council coordinators to do targeted  
46 outreach to help encourage applications or nominations  
47 too because that is a highly underutilized aspect of  
48 this process, is for you or your tribal council to  
49 nominate someone for a seat on the Council rather than  
50 having somebody apply.

1                   So hopefully that answers your  
2 questions.

3  
4                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Carl, I have a  
5 few. This process, you know, it's always been a  
6 headache and taken so long. You're right, it should be  
7 every four years with an automatic carryover until the  
8 alternate and then until they're picked, whether they  
9 are picked or not, to keep the meeting in process.  
10 When we first plan the meeting, we had -- I had a few  
11 call at the second meeting that had an issue of dates  
12 due to other conflicts. That's going to happen. That  
13 way this won't happen.

14  
15                   I would say when you have your  
16 carryover and you do it every four years, and you  
17 taking our application to speed up the process, I would  
18 say why can't you guys do the background check for  
19 D.C. so they don't have to go through the process. You  
20 give them names and say we went through the background  
21 check. Especially like Upper Kobuk. We need someone  
22 from Upper Kobuk.  
23 Write a letter to the three villages and say who do you  
24 think would be good for Upper Kobuk. Whether he  
25 applies or not, invite him to our winter meeting and  
26 when he's in there maybe he might apply.

27  
28                   I would like to see every village be  
29 covered, all the way to Kivalina, Buckland and Deering.  
30 We're covered except for Upper Kobuk. We need someone.  
31 And there's two seats going to open pretty quick I'm  
32 pretty sure, Victor and Walter. And if they carry  
33 over, just to speed up the process you do the  
34 background check for them to speed it up because it  
35 gets frustrating.

36  
37                   And when our term is up to reapply,  
38 it's the same questionnaire. They boggle it up a  
39 little bit. It's more like I call them trick  
40 questions. They say, hey, this is your last  
41 application and when they send me one, Melinda could  
42 send me a copy of my old form. I could just change the  
43 words a little bit and reapply instead of trying to go  
44 through and reapply. They don't like to fill it out  
45 completely, you know, and they could just change the  
46 dates whenever they reapply. It's a process sometimes  
47 because a couple of times people call me up and they  
48 say, Attamuk, we fill these out already. I said if you  
49 have your old copy, just practically -- you know what  
50 I'm saying.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The process and the  
4 questions are just about the same. Look at your  
5 application, restructure it. Maybe it will be so much  
6 easier for the Natives to apply. That way we'll be  
7 covered from all over. The way things are going, I'm  
8 not going to sit here -- a few of us are not going to  
9 sit here forever. We need alternate. If Raymond go  
10 from Kiana, who is going to be there? Who is going to  
11 be willing to travel just for per diem and nothing  
12 else? But it's very important that each village is  
13 represented or you could call it district if you want.

14

15 So that would be nice if you could do  
16 it every four years. That three-year process is not  
17 working completely for any of us. That's why every  
18 four or five years with automatic carryover if there  
19 was a delay. To go through the process it takes  
20 awhile. And they decide in D.C. What do they know  
21 about Alaska in D.C. except what they read and what  
22 they see.

23

24 Go ahead, Verne.

25

26 MR. CLEVELAND: If the Secretary is  
27 going to select for the Council, wouldn't that be a  
28 problem? I mean if that person they selected didn't  
29 come up with a background check, then they have to do a  
30 re-selection then and it would take longer.

31

32 But he's right, we don't have no Upper  
33 Kobuk representation here. I'm the chairman for the  
34 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and I'm  
35 having the same problem. I can't get no one. Right  
36 now I'm just going to call and say you're it. Call  
37 them and appoint someone, you know, because we need  
38 somebody from upriver badly. We don't know what's  
39 going on -- with that mine opening up up there, it's  
40 going to be a disaster for us on the river if something  
41 happened.

42

43 And this reappointment thing, boy, it's  
44 taking forever. For me anyway. I don't know how the  
45 process is, but the way it's going, that's how the  
46 government works. It takes forever. But it probably  
47 will work out the way it is. I won't have no problem  
48 with that.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.

2

3 Go ahead, Hannah.

4

5 MS. LOON: Thank you. In Northwest  
6 Alaska we're very, very high statistics in  
7 misdemeanors, felony, domestic, suicide, health issues.  
8 A lot of those things we're very high in those things  
9 and it's very hard to, but you must state in your  
10 letter that each applicant will be subject to  
11 background check. I just want to let you know that how  
12 our condition is in the village and encourage even  
13 women to apply. I'm sure rather than having nothing we  
14 should encourage them to apply because I know in Upper  
15 Kobuk some women are hunters and they're bosses of  
16 their seining crews so they have a say.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

21 Do you want to respond, Carl.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. I'll start in  
24 reverse. Through the Chair, Hannah. One of the things  
25 we have been doing lately is after all the applications  
26 are in a letter is sent out to each applicant kind of  
27 letting them know what the future process is going to  
28 be like. So I will check and see if that letter  
29 advises people that they are going to be subject to a  
30 background check at some point in time. I think it  
31 does, but I'll make sure that it does in the future  
32 just so people aren't surprised.

33

34 Then both Enoch and Verne brought up  
35 something. One of the things that the Federal Advisory  
36 Committee Act permits Councils to do in their charters  
37 is to identify a membership balance plan. Now there's  
38 only one region right now that actually specifies  
39 geographical balance in its charter and that's  
40 Kodiak/Aleutians where it says our goal is to have so  
41 many members from the Kodiak Archipelago, somebody from  
42 the Alaska Peninsula and somebody from the Aleutian  
43 Pribilof Islands.

44

45 This Council, your charters are up for  
46 renewal next year. So if you wanted to specify a  
47 geographic membership balance plan in your charter,  
48 then I encourage you to think about that and think  
49 about which regions -- you know, how many people would  
50 you like to have from this region, how many people from

1 this region, how many people from this area. Then that  
2 way it gives you a chance to state a preference when  
3 the selection is going on, what your goal is to have  
4 for how many members from each part of your region.  
5 That also helps us again to identify specific areas to  
6 do more targeted outreach in the future for  
7 applications.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go  
10 ahead, Percy. You'll be next, Calvin.

11

12 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I'm in support of  
13 the changes, but what you see here is a group of people  
14 who wants to be here and trying to stay here. It's  
15 pretty hard for other groups because of the per diem  
16 and the time and jobs and stuff for them to commit  
17 themselves to the travel and stuff. We're here because  
18 we want to be here. I'm on the caribou working group  
19 because I want to be there because of the decline. The  
20 resources are important to us. Some of us are told to  
21 be here. I was recommended and told to be here by  
22 James. I don't know if you guys remember him, but he  
23 told me to take his place someday. I've been here ever  
24 since he told me do. Another four years I'm going to  
25 be working on another young guy and hopefully he's  
26 already interested in hunting and stuff and he's really  
27 committed in doing things with kids, so I'm going to  
28 get him here.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

31

32 Go ahead, Calvin.

33

34 MR. MOTO: You know, when I first  
35 joined this I thought I sent my application in a timely  
36 manner, but the week before they had a meeting they had  
37 put me down for Galena. I had a hard time trying to  
38 get to Kotzebue to attend that Northwest Regional  
39 Advisory meeting. I called Galena and I said how come  
40 they put me down with you guys. They said they don't  
41 know. They said they didn't think I belong on there.  
42 I said I know I don't belong down there. I said I live  
43 way over here in Northwest Alaska, you know.

44

45 I think what happened is I got my  
46 application in on time and everything, but delay  
47 nomination. They finally sent me a letter saying I was  
48 supposed to go wherever Galena is. I had a hard time  
49 trying to explain where I lived. Consequently I did  
50 make it, but I was there a little late. I had to wait

1 a couple of months before I got my stipend, you know,  
2 but I didn't mind. I told them I don't mind. I  
3 attended the meeting anyway. I said as long as you put  
4 me up in a hotel, I'm okay.

5  
6 The point I'm trying to make is  
7 sometimes the process takes too long. Is it because  
8 they changes Secretaries of Interior or what. I know  
9 that it was Salazar and then all of a sudden it was  
10 just one lady that was on there. I was kind of  
11 frustrated. I tried to call the office and the  
12 receptionist said, oh, they've got you down for Galena.  
13 I guess you re going to Galena. So I just thought I'd  
14 bring that point up, you know, because it's kind of --  
15 one thing you've got to know is you don't need an elder  
16 rep, I'm here.

17  
18 (Laughter)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, Carl, for these  
21 changes to happen, do you have any idea when they're  
22 going to -- the final to say what recommendation  
23 they're going to take for the whole state of Alaska?  
24 You know what I'm saying? The process -- when we will  
25 know which process they take. The other idea I had is  
26 instead of putting the process four months early can  
27 you -- you know, to redo the applications earlier  
28 because sometimes the mail is so slow and some don't  
29 have email still.

30  
31 Email is nice, but not everyone has  
32 email. If they have generator, AVEC problems in the  
33 village, they'll be out of email for a day or two, you  
34 know, and time to respond. If they say I'm going to  
35 respond last minute, AVEC go out, they're going to  
36 lose. You know what I'm saying. I've seen it happen  
37 one time. I was in the process with an email with  
38 someone at Noatak and all of a sudden we got cut off  
39 and I knew AVEC went out. So I went to my VHF and I  
40 called him. He said, yeah, AVEC went out, but we  
41 couldn't talk what we were talking about on the radio.

42  
43  
44 You know what I'm saying? These do  
45 happen and these are the things you have to understand.  
46 I know you understand it, but will the guys in D.C.  
47 understand little things like this, you know.  
48 Something they don't worry about. Some things you guys  
49 live with and we live with. So the process needs to  
50 change and up the process because we want to serve, but

1 it gets frustrating once in a while and we just might  
2 say, oh, I give up. You know what I'm saying. And  
3 there will be another representative from the village  
4 like Percy say, you know.

5  
6 I'm happy to serve here, you know, and  
7 I'm glad to do it because I've got grandkids preserving  
8 for the future, whether it's caribou, others also,  
9 because we got so much resources here. Like I always  
10 say Northwest Alaska is gifted compared to the whole  
11 state. We could not only hunt and harvest in  
12 summertime, we could always get fresh fish wintertime.  
13 We're not like the others. We're gifted and we want to  
14 preserve for the -- very important to preserve for the  
15 future.

16  
17 You had something, Verne?

18  
19 MR. CLEVELAND: No.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Carl.

22  
23 MR. JOHNSON: So I hear two things.  
24 First relates to when people can get in their  
25 applications and the timing. We try to stagger out the  
26 outreach to kind of build up, so we start with a press  
27 release and then we do a big mailing and then we do a  
28 targeted outreach through the newspapers, radio, that  
29 lasts about six weeks and that stops about two weeks  
30 before the application deadline. Because, like you  
31 say, a lot of people like to wait until the last  
32 minute. If they do wait to the last minute, if they  
33 hear that radio spot on the last day of the radio  
34 advertising, then that still gives them two more weeks  
35 to get it in. I don't hold that deadline hard and  
36 fast. I know that it takes time. I actually add a  
37 week to that deadline. I know the applications still  
38 continue to roll in. Like you say, things are delayed,  
39 mail is delayed, problems with email. So that's a  
40 flexible deadline for me, but people need to see a  
41 deadline so they have a goal to get it in.

42  
43 As to how long it would take to make  
44 these changes, going to a four-year term would require  
45 both a change to your charter and a change to the  
46 Secretarial regulations, but it's a very minor  
47 administrative change. I'm told that it could be done  
48 very quickly. Your charters are up for renewal next  
49 year, so going to a four-year term and the charter  
50 could be changed as a part of that process.

1                   The alternate appointments, that is  
2 just something that we ask the Secretary to do.  
3 There's no regulation change, there's no charter  
4 change. We would just say for these names please issue  
5 this. We do all the work for them. We create the  
6 appointment letters. We create the appointment letters  
7 for the alternates too and we just ask them to sign  
8 those and issue them.

9  
10                   For the third issue, the carryover,  
11 yeah, that's a change to the charter, but I've already  
12 started the process of getting that pre-approved and my  
13 hope is that if it gets approved quickly, we can amend  
14 your charters now so if there are delays in this year's  
15 appointments, then the carryover term can go into  
16 effect immediately this year instead of waiting for the  
17 charter renewal next year. We'll keep you all advised  
18 as to how that's happening, but that's our goal right  
19 now. So we can make that change immediately if all the  
20 paperwork goes to the right places and gets the right  
21 signatures in D.C.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Carl.

24  
25                   Go ahead, Raymond.

26  
27                   MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 Carl, you said earlier that somebody could nominate  
29 somebody either from the IRA or from the city.  
30 Wouldn't it be faster if we nominate somebody and  
31 submit it immediately? Would it be faster than putting  
32 in an application?

33  
34                   MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. No.  
35 Anybody who is nominated goes through the same  
36 appointment process as somebody who applies. The idea  
37 though is you all see people who you know are  
38 knowledgeable and skilled in the resources of your  
39 region. So really you're the experts on who really  
40 could be some of the best people to contribute to your  
41 Council. So that's part of what the nomination process  
42 is for. Instead of applying you can nominate somebody  
43 who you know from your own experience could contribute  
44 to the Council.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Carl, thanks.  
47 Anyone else have questions for Carl on this  
48 reappointment for Council.

49  
50                   (No comments)

1 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

4

5 MS. BURKE: I just want to say as your  
6 coordinator I really appreciate everybody's patience.  
7 I know this Council and my other Western Interior  
8 Council right before meetings we've had really big  
9 issues. When we were going to Galena, our host there,  
10 she wasn't appointed until a day and a half before we  
11 went to her community. While she was working hard to  
12 get us hosted and taken care of, like Raymond has done  
13 here, I just, as your coordinator, want to say thank  
14 you for being patient and understanding that it goes  
15 beyond us and our staff. So thank you from me.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Greatly taken. You  
18 guys work hard for this to happen.

19

20 MR. BALLOT: You could be our appointer  
21 and vetter.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. Anymore  
26 questions on this here.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Now my question is  
31 just to Carl. So it's going to take a while till you  
32 hear from D.C. which one do they pick. So are you  
33 going to send someone or are you going to say this is  
34 the hot topic, this is the way we would like, you put  
35 your recommendation high. You could juggle the words  
36 and you could do your same recommendation and use it  
37 again second way. You know, layman terms are so  
38 important to some people. Because this process, you  
39 know, it's a headache for you guys and a headache for  
40 us. You know what I'm saying. We would like to keep  
41 serving.

42

43 So on your final decision you make, if  
44 someone is picked, who is the one that interviews that  
45 person to make a final decision, that says, yes, this  
46 person is okay. Because I know certain people will do  
47 it, but some of them got a conflict because they know  
48 us and do the background. Not that we're bad or  
49 anything like that, but the person that do a question  
50 on us, a questionnaire, you know, the process, will

1 have an issue with us because we're in the same  
2 community. Some of us work at Northwest Arctic  
3 Council, for the borough, Maniilaq or the IRA, and the  
4 guy that's picking will have a conflict due to where we  
5 serve in our villages.

6  
7                   What I'm saying is I would like to see  
8 someone that's doing the interview be somewhere from  
9 Anchorage, not from local area as Kotzebue and in the  
10 villages. Because whoever, if they have a conflict,  
11 they will just say this guy is not going to work  
12 whether he's going to work or not. That's his final  
13 decision and it will make a big effect and he say no,  
14 that's how it's going to go. I've seen it happen. And  
15 I will talk to you more on it in private away from  
16 this.

17  
18                   MR. JOHNSON: Actually you raise an  
19 interesting point and it's something that each  
20 nominations panel kind of determines on its own.  
21 First, whether or not it's a good idea to know somebody  
22 or to not know them to interview them. Sometimes the  
23 individual panelist will say I know this person, I'm  
24 not comfortable interviewing them, but then they just  
25 switch up.

26  
27                   But that's one of the advantages though  
28 and I know it's irritating because the questions on the  
29 application are the same as the questions they ask you  
30 in the interview process. They're required to ask only  
31 those questions and not other questions, which is, from  
32 my own experience, that's bad interviewing because when  
33 you're interviewing somebody you want to ask follow-up  
34 questions, but you can't.

35  
36                   Plus there are five categories and  
37 there's very strict scoring criteria. The reason for  
38 those is everybody gets treated equally and, in the  
39 case where they might know somebody and they might have  
40 perhaps a bias against them because they know them,  
41 they have to stick to those criteria and they can't  
42 leave them or deviate from them. So that actually  
43 helps to overcome that bias because they have to go by  
44 just the facts. How much they know about fish and  
45 wildlife in the region, how much they know about  
46 customary and traditional uses of fish or harvest  
47 methods. It's very objective.

48  
49                   One of the things that's part of my job  
50 in supervising these nominations panels is to make sure

1 that the reports that they submit to the InterAgency  
2 Staff Committee are fair and objective reports. Once  
3 in a while I'll have to sanitize something out that  
4 doesn't seem appropriate, but for the most part these  
5 panelists do I think a really great job of presenting  
6 fair and objective reports. At that level it's very  
7 important that we accomplish that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go  
10 ahead, Hannah.

11

12 MS. LOON: Yeah, I have a question  
13 about, you know, your misdemeanor. You said a while  
14 ago people can be denied because they had something  
15 breaking a law. Do you look into misdemeanor, felony  
16 or what? Because as people grow from their -- over  
17 time they become changed people and become more wiser.  
18 And if they love hunting and fishing, which most of us  
19 like to do and that is our passion and that is our  
20 breath and life, that sometimes unfortunately we run  
21 into -- all of us run into misdemeanors.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Carl.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: I completely agree with  
26 you, through the Chair, Hannah. One of the  
27 foundational principals of our criminal justice system  
28 is the belief that somebody can be rehabilitated and if  
29 you did something 15 or 20 years ago, I completely  
30 agree, it should not hold you back from contributing to  
31 your community today. Unfortunately, the process they  
32 use in D.C. is not known to us.

33

34 One of the things that I do on the back  
35 end of this after all the applications are all in D.C.  
36 and they're being vetted is I and the Special Assistant  
37 for Alaska Affairs, Pat Pourchot, do a lot of  
38 negotiating and arguing on behalf of Council  
39 applicants, that certain issues in the past are not  
40 relevant to their performance as Council members today.

41

42

43 But, unfortunately, whenever they do  
44 make a final decision to reject somebody on vetting, we  
45 are not told as to the reason why. We're told it's  
46 confidential, that even the Special Assistant to the  
47 Secretary himself is not allowed to know why. So it's  
48 just something we do work on, we do work on arguing on  
49 behalf of nominees that certain things are not really  
50 relevant to their current performance as Council

1 members.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
4 Percy.

5

6 MR. BALLOT: Do we need any action?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Do we need an action  
9 on this process we need to take?

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. It  
12 doesn't have to be a formal motion, but I would just  
13 like to hear -- I'm hearing, I think, what the  
14 Council's interest is and Melinda is taking notes as  
15 well, but from what I'm hearing you very much like  
16 four-year appointments, I'm hearing you like the idea  
17 of a formal alternate appointment and I'm definitely  
18 hearing that you like the idea of carry over terms to  
19 your charters.

20

21 (Council nods affirmatively)

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: I'm seeing a lot of  
24 nodding in agreement for the record. So, with that in  
25 mind, I think I have everything that this item for the  
26 agenda needs. I just want to thank the Council and the  
27 Chair for your questions and your thoughtful approach  
28 to this.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I have a question on  
31 your alternate. So if we're not going to go and we  
32 find out last minute, I know you have to go through the  
33 process of paying that person per diem and here you cut  
34 a check already and due to my health I had to cancel  
35 last minute. And some of these alternates, I've run  
36 into that before, don't have any money until they get  
37 their per diem, is there a way you could speed up the  
38 process for alternates to have, let's just say, within  
39 24 hours? That way you could cut a check. There's  
40 nothing you could do if I have health problems. We're  
41 all getting old. One of us will cancel due to  
42 something.

43

44 MR. CLEVELAND: Not me.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You hear what I'm  
49 saying. I've seen that where someone say I can't get  
50 my check until after I come back to go through the

1 process. Because they give us two, one now and one to  
2 cover for the rest. You know what I'm saying. That's  
3 the process I've run into before and they were worried  
4 that they have nothing, especially when we have our  
5 winter meeting in Anchorage. Most of them, when we have  
6 meetings, they're away from home. They can't just go  
7 home and eat. They have to go to a restaurant or some  
8 relative's in Kotzebue. You know what I m saying.

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, certainly. One of  
11 the advantages of having a formal alternate appointment  
12 is that we can enter a new traveler into our travel  
13 system and that's actually one of the things that takes  
14 the longest. So once they're in the system things can  
15 happen a lot faster.

16

17 Unfortunately, there is no way to get  
18 an advanced travel per diem as quickly as the  
19 turnaround you suggested, 24 hours. I've been told the  
20 fastest we could expect would be probably about a week.  
21 But at least we would be able to provide for their  
22 travel. If they weren't in our system and we had to do  
23 some appointment, ask for a last-minute appointment,  
24 then there would be no way to have somebody to go in  
25 your place at all.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
28 Anyone else have a question.

29

30 MR. BALLOT: So we need about a week to  
31 say we're going to come or not. That will be a good  
32 enough time or two weeks?

33

34 MR. JOHNSON: I'm sure Melinda would  
35 prefer a much more advanced notice than that. Given  
36 all the hard work she has to do to get you guys a place  
37 to stay and get your advanced per diem checks ready and  
38 all that good stuff.

39

40 MS. BURKE: But for an alternate, I  
41 think you're right, Percy, and I think that those  
42 particular circumstances can be worked out. Even if  
43 something is not anticipated, that's the whole intent  
44 of having that alternate is so they're prepared to  
45 attend at the last minute. They'll have the materials  
46 and I would include them on any correspondence, mailing  
47 and information just like I would you. So that way if  
48 you're not there, that young man who you were speaking  
49 of, if he were appointed an alternate, he would be  
50 prepared to step in for you at the last minute if

1 necessary.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I think that could  
4 work. I had my packet for like two or three weeks  
5 before I came.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you  
8 Carl. You're hearing us. We want that four-year and  
9 keep on serving until your process is completed. That  
10 way we won't cancel our meeting. We had a scare last  
11 year with our meeting. We picked dates and we were  
12 juggling dates and I had made other appointments  
13 already, you know, but they were willing for me to  
14 cancel. Even though I retired from Maniilaq I still go  
15 to all the meetings. Other meetings I attend too. We  
16 still have to play with the calendar. It's very  
17 important. That way we won't have delay. In the  
18 process, Melinda will take care of everything and, oh,  
19 we can't have this meeting, we have to cancel. It's  
20 sometimes hard for us to come up with a second date.  
21 So, you know, you hear what we're saying.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: I do.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You all agree to  
26 four-year term, but keep serving whether the guys in  
27 D.C. decide to keep us, you know, to renew our  
28 application. That way we can keep going and we won't  
29 have a delay. If we have a delay, other Councils in  
30 other regions, if we have a conflict, our coordinator  
31 can't be in all those meetings. I'd rather have the  
32 same coordinator for all our meetings instead of a  
33 different one different times.

34

35 Like Melinda and the other guy when  
36 they were changing, you know, and he never hear  
37 everything what we say. When we talk about something,  
38 oh, you guys said that. Yeah, we said it at the last  
39 meeting. Melinda hear it, but he never hear it. She  
40 didn't inform him everything little one. She tries,  
41 but you can't do everything in the process.

42

43 You hear what I'm saying and we need to  
44 know. That's what I run into, you know, and I had to  
45 explain to him we did this when we requested last time  
46 or where is your stuff, where is it, because there's  
47 things we need to do. She'll make a list of what we  
48 want done before this meeting and he will not hear them  
49 all sometimes.

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: That definitely can be a  
2 challenge. We're going to be in the process of hiring  
3 two new Council coordinators  
4 in the next few weeks, so we'll actually have a fully  
5 staffed Council coordination staff for the first time  
6 in over three years. You'll hear a report later on,  
7 the OSM report, updating all our staffing, which will  
8 include that. Hopefully, if we can avoid changing  
9 meetings and interfering with our Council coordinator's  
10 other schedules, then we can avoid that problem in the  
11 future as much as possible.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If you guys want to  
14 keep having Melinda, be nice to her and she'll keep  
15 serving for us. We won't have a changeover.

16  
17 MR. KRAMER: We'll keep Melinda. The  
18 others can have the new ones.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Everyone like  
21 the process and you hear what.....

22  
23 (Council nods affirmatively)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think they're all  
26 nodding. Eskimo process of talking again, yes or no,  
27 very simple, heads. So on to the next one. It's back  
28 to Carl again on the all-Council meeting in the winter  
29 of 2016.

30  
31 Oh, go ahead, Verne.

32  
33 MR. CLEVELAND: Do you need a motion  
34 for that or was it okay?

35  
36 MR. JOHNSON: No, we have a good  
37 understanding of the Council's desire. This isn't the  
38 kind of thing our procedures require a motion from you.  
39 I think we have everything we need.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Carl, you have  
44 the floor.

45  
46 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. So the next agenda  
47 item, all-Council meeting winter of 2016. Why this is  
48 before you is in the past, over the last decade or so,  
49 different Councils have at different times expressed a  
50 desire to have an all-Council meeting. After we had a

1 joint meeting of the Southeast and Southcentral Council  
2 earlier this year, I started thinking about how we  
3 could do an all-Council meeting. I spoke to our  
4 Assistant Regional Director, Gene Peltola, and asked  
5 him.....

6

(Laughter)

7

8

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Who is just arriving, for  
11 the record. Asked him if this is something he would  
12 support and would like for us to explore and to bring  
13 to the Councils and he said yes. So we started doing  
14 some kind of preliminary logistical thinking about how  
15 it would work, what it would entail. Before we spent a  
16 lot of time actually planning one, we wanted to ask  
17 you, the Councils, if this was something you would  
18 desire to do.

19

20

21 Kind of the big picture idea, this  
22 would take place in the winter cycle of 2016 because  
23 that would be the beginning of a fisheries cycle, which  
24 usually these are not as busy meetings as other times,  
25 and it would involve a combination of joint sessions  
26 and concurrent sessions. So the joint session where  
27 you have all 10 Councils in the same room at the same  
28 time and then concurrent sessions where you have three  
29 Councils meeting on their own at the same time to  
30 conduct their own business.

31

32

33 But then, when you're not meeting,  
34 those other seven Councils we'd have a series of  
35 different rooms set up with training and reports. So  
36 we'd have training on Robert's Rules, training on  
37 ANILCA. We could have agency reports. So the types of  
38 reports that all the Councils want to hear or  
39 informational sessions with different organizations and  
40 that's kind of how it would look and it would take  
41 place over one week probably in Anchorage, maybe in  
42 Fairbanks.

43

44

45 We haven't done a lot of planning, like  
46 I said, because we just didn't want to invest the time  
47 until we knew this is something the Councils would be  
48 interested in doing. But that's kind of the big  
49 picture vision. Then, if all the Councils think this  
50 is a great idea, we would start planning it. We'd form  
51 a committee consisting of Staff and also Council  
52 members to adopt to create an agenda for the joint  
53 session and then you would all still work on creating  
54 your own individual agendas for your individual

1 sessions.

2

3                   So this is really informational and  
4 just to get a sense of whether or not this is something  
5 the Council feels would be beneficial for them to do.

6

7                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Carl.  
10 That winter meeting I think it's much needed. I feel  
11 strongly that we should meet with Nome and North Slope  
12 because we're basically the same, yet we're -- Alaska  
13 is so large that we harvest the same animals. Like the  
14 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, you know, from North Slope  
15 all the way to Nome. All oogruks are the same, but our  
16 oogruks even go further, up to Dillingham. The reason  
17 why I use that as an example, we have proof. In  
18 Kotzebue, our oogruks go all the way to Dillingham.  
19 Our seals go all the way to Wainwright and we harvest  
20 the same resources.

21

22                   That's why it's good to meet with them  
23 every so many years to see. That way we could support  
24 each other if they need help to get something passed if  
25 you could support together, you know. And that's why  
26 I'm a great believer this Council should be all the way  
27 from Kobuk to Deering. It's the same thing. When they  
28 were having oogruk problems at St. Lawrence they called  
29 me and they said, Attamuk, how are you guys doing in  
30 your hunting season. That's an example. The same  
31 thing with caribou when Unalakleet and Koyuk is calling  
32 me. So I give them Cyrus's new number, talk to him or  
33 Jim Dau. They said, no, they'd rather hear it from  
34 Natives because we'll tell them exactly what we see.

35

36                   That's why it's important to us to have  
37 a meeting with them once in a while and they will back  
38 us up or we'll support them in return because we  
39 understand what's going on and it's hard. Our  
40 regulations are pretty close, but they differ a little  
41 bit due to the season.

42

43                   Thank you.

44

45                   Anyone else on this winter meeting.

46

47                   Go ahead, Mike.

48

49                   MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I've been pushing  
50 for this for quite a few years, for all the Councils to

1 meet at one time, at one time of the year. I mean  
2 whether it be an odd year or an even year. The one  
3 thing we need to make sure is that it doesn't interfere  
4 with March Madness. Make sure it's during a time of  
5 the year where it's very peaceful and we don't have to  
6 worry about finding hotel rooms. Scheduling it during  
7 a good time of the year, like February, you know,  
8 somewhere in there where you don't have nothing major  
9 scheduled in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

10

11 It would be also a good thing to be  
12 able to hear what other RACs are experiencing, what  
13 kind of problems they're experiencing and then all of  
14 us as a state can put our heads together to try and see  
15 if we can help each other get through these items and  
16 through these problems.

17

18 Anyway, it would be good to meet other  
19 people from other RACs and other places and that way we  
20 get a general idea as to what we all consist of. The  
21 other good thing about that is the main Federal  
22 Subsistence Board can be there too. They could sit up  
23 there and just listen to us, listen to our  
24 recommendations, our concerns, our conflicts. It will  
25 really help us out and I guarantee you that we will get  
26 a lot of business done.

27

28 But I think it would be a great idea  
29 whether it be an odd year or an even year, but we just  
30 need to make sure we schedule it during a time where  
31 there's no conflict with the rest of the state, things  
32 like March Madness where we've got state basketball.  
33 I'm pretty sure some of these guys would rather be at  
34 the gym than at the meeting.

35

36 That's all I have to say.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.  
39 Anything else. Go ahead, Percy.

40

41 MR. BALLOT: I agree with everything  
42 you say except for the March Madness. I'd rather be  
43 there because I could be there when there were no  
44 meetings. Take time and do it way ahead we could get  
45 our rooms and still do the business in the day.

46

47 I sure would like to see that  
48 collaborative meeting with the other groups because  
49 we've talked about that. Henry Schaeffer's comments  
50 yesterday have gotten me thinking about that and I'm

1 glad that something like this is coming up.

2

3 March Madness, no problem.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anything

6 else, Carl.

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, no. I just  
9 wanted to get a sense of whether or not this is  
10 something the Council would support and I am hearing  
11 that it would. So that's definitely some very good  
12 suggestions that Mike had about the timing. That's one  
13 of the reasons why we're starting this far out, because  
14 we want to be able to start approaching conference  
15 centers and hotels at least a year in advance and  
16 they'll know their schedule that far ahead as to what  
17 other things are going on at the time so we would be  
18 better able to plan.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Carl. I  
23 would like to welcome Gene Peltola to Kiana. I'm not  
24 from Kiana, but you're welcome. There's some people  
25 here from Kiana. But let me tell you one thing. We  
26 could butter you up and take you down to the beach.  
27 You'll see the caribou.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That way you could  
32 always support us and say, hey, the village, at least I  
33 see the caribou. Yesterday, while we were having a  
34 meeting there was caribou right at the beach. You  
35 could go down with a truck and up the hill a little  
36 bit. So somebody could rent a four-wheeler and he  
37 could take off and see what we're talking about and  
38 understand. That way he could see where we're coming  
39 from and that way we'll get a lot of good support. I'm  
40 buttering him up.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That way we will have  
45 no problem because we need to work together as a team.  
46 You guys are just important as we are because we are  
47 all trying to do the same thing. We want to preserve  
48 for the future our livelihood and our health because we  
49 can't live any other way. I don't know how to live if  
50 caribou keep declining. I could eat moose, but moose

1 is not caribou. I'd rather eat caribou. I grew up  
2 eating caribou and I probably would die if I got no  
3 more caribou because my body will crave for it. We are  
4 people in season. When geese are coming, I start  
5 craving. Just before they come I start -- same thing  
6 with salmon and berries. We are people in season. Our  
7 body knows it probably better than our brain. That's  
8 why you start craving for it.

9

10 Thank you. Go ahead, Hannah.

11

12 MS. LOON: Yeah, thank you. I was  
13 pretty alarmed when Henry Schaeffer spoke yesterday  
14 because he work in North Slope for a long time. I  
15 think it would be real good if somebody from Noatak  
16 that always amigaq or skunk, for him to go listen in to  
17 their RAC meetings. He can tell them exactly from his  
18 own voice so they could hear him what he is  
19 experiencing and what the families are experiencing.  
20 In communities like Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, the other  
21 previous years was Upper Kobuk where we skunk. So it  
22 would be really meaningful for someone from here to  
23 always go attend their RAC meetings. Someone who is  
24 willing to go and listen to their concerns and them to  
25 go to our meetings.

26

27 Taikuu.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Are you done,  
30 Carl?

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: I am for that agenda  
33 item, but you're not done with me yet, Mr. Chair.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
38 How about you, Melinda, are you ready for a break?

39

40 MS. BURKE: Let's get one more item  
41 done.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. One more  
44 item she says. She might be a coordinator, but she's  
45 our boss yet.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We can't go without  
50 her.

1 MR. JOHNSON: The reason why your  
2 Council coordinator said one more item is because this  
3 is a short informational item, Mr. Chair. It was  
4 raised earlier at Council meetings earlier this year  
5 that some of the Chairs may desire, in connection with  
6 the regulatory Federal Subsistence Board meeting, the  
7 next one will be the fisheries meeting in late January,  
8 to get together and have their own separate meeting in  
9 connection with the Board meeting.

10  
11 That could be possible, but there would  
12 have to be some limitations. If the meeting were to  
13 happen before the Board meeting, they couldn't discuss  
14 anything that's actually on the agenda for the Board  
15 meeting because the procedural law that governs what we  
16 do, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, requires any  
17 meetings that would discuss something substantive to be  
18 a public meeting, notice in advance and all that. You  
19 wouldn't actually be able to have a private meeting,  
20 but you could discuss other things that we're  
21 substantive, weren't regulatory, that were of joint  
22 concern.

23  
24 The other possibility would be if you  
25 wanted to have a free discussion and avoid the  
26 regulatory problem, have the meeting after the Board  
27 meeting and that way you couldn't be planning and  
28 discussing stuff for the Board meeting because it would  
29 be done. Either way we would provide guidance and we  
30 would just need to know through your Council  
31 coordinators if this is something that you as the Chair  
32 with the other Chairs would like to do.

33  
34 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So something clicked  
37 on my mind. I'll get to you in a minute, Mike. I like  
38 the idea of having a meeting after I hear what they  
39 say. That way we could discuss and we could decide for  
40 our region to see what's better. That way -- we might  
41 have a meeting early and we might not here, but what  
42 you're telling me is if we have a meeting before, we  
43 can't talk about the subjects that's on the agenda, but  
44 we could do it after.

45  
46 So I'm going to push -- this Council  
47 will hear what I'm saying. I'm going to push -- our  
48 meeting will be right after because I have great  
49 interest in fisheries. For your information, I'm part  
50 of the new board for Kotzebue Sound Fishermen. I'm

1 part of it and they asked me if I was willing to attend  
2 this winter meeting to see what's going on. Maybe I  
3 will, maybe I won't. I've got to see what's going, the  
4 process in the interest of Kotzebue.

5  
6 But I like the idea completely. Right  
7 after. That way you don't have to pay two different  
8 things. The only trouble is if they have their meeting  
9 close to weekend we might have to stay, you know, a  
10 weekend. I don't like to stay weekends in Anchorage.  
11 I'll tell you that right now, but you can't afford to  
12 pay my fare and come back Sunday for a meeting.

13  
14 So you have to look at the schedule the  
15 same time. You know what I'm saying. We have families  
16 too we have to take care of. That's what I always say.  
17 Some people don't mind a week, you know. I'll go a  
18 weekend if you pay my wife's fare. I've got no problem  
19 with, you know.

20  
21 (Laughter)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: But the other half we  
24 have to live with. You have to live with your family.  
25 You know, I've got grandkids that are going to school.  
26 You hear what I'm saying. But weekends I always have a  
27 problem with the weekend. I don't like to stay in  
28 Anchorage weekends because sometimes it will usually be  
29 my day off and I usually try to harvest for my family,  
30 whatever. Not every weekend we go hunt. Depends on  
31 the year and the season.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 Mike, go ahead.

36  
37 MR. KRAMER: I think it would be a wise  
38 idea to have the all-Chair meeting just prior to having  
39 the statewide meeting. That way they could all decide  
40 on agendas and what kind of training that we need and  
41 all the appropriate other things that could be put into  
42 place. I mean just for logistics, you know, the hotels  
43 that will be available and how many possibly would be  
44 coming for each Regional Advisory Council. It would be  
45 a great idea for them to meet prior to our all-state  
46 meeting, you know, several weeks before. That way the  
47 whole statewide agenda is all set and then we could  
48 come back to our communities and then do our Regional  
49 Advisory Council agenda. That way everything would be  
50 put into place.

1                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:  Anyone else on the  
2 subject here.  
3  
4                   MR. BALLOT:  You're talking about the  
5 all-Chairs meeting, right?  
6  
7                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:  Yes.  
8  
9                   MR. BALLOT:  And you're talking about  
10 our meeting?  
11  
12                  MR. KRAMER:  I'm talking about having  
13 the all-Chairs meeting prior to the all-state,  
14 statewide meeting.  
15  
16                  MR. BALLOT:  Didn't we just get done  
17 saying that might not be a good idea in regards to what  
18 we might -- Enoch recommended meeting after.  I think I  
19 would go with our Chair's recommendation with meeting  
20 after because you would have already seen what's been  
21 happening during that meeting and then the chance to  
22 discuss with the other groups ideas or issues that  
23 might come up.  
24  
25                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:  Go ahead, Carl,  
26 you're up.  
27  
28                  MR. JOHNSON:  Through the Chair and for  
29 Mike.  We contemplate a committee that would consist of  
30 Chairs, Council members and Staff that would kind of do  
31 that big picture planning and then, if things are  
32 moving along as they go, then the whole Council would  
33 get a chance to kind of look at the finalized agenda  
34 and plan actually at their fall 2015 meeting.  But  
35 definitely the Chairs would be kept in the loop every  
36 step of the way as to what the planning progress was.  
37 Then, of course, each Council would still plan its own  
38 individualized agenda for the all-Council meeting as  
39 well.  
40  
41                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:  Okay.  Thank you.  
42 Anyone else on this subject.  
43  
44                               (No comments)  
45  
46                               (Laughter - Hannah cell phone)  
47  
48                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:  Okay.  I think  
49 everybody is ready for a break.  We'll take one.  
50 Navy's point of view of 15 minutes.  We'll probably run

1 over a little bit, but that leaves us at least a 15-  
2 minute break.

3

4 MR. JOHNSON: Taikuu.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (On record)

9

10 MS. BURKE: I just wanted to check in  
11 on the phone and to see if we've had any additional  
12 Staff or public join us since we started this morning.  
13 Anybody new on the phone? We heard a couple beeps.

14

15 MS. RATTENBURY: This is Kumi  
16 Rattenbury with the Park Service, Arctic Network,  
17 Inventory and Monitoring Program.

18

19 MS. BURKE: Wonderful. Hi, Kumi.  
20 Anyone else new joining us on the call this morning?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. BURKE: Okay. We're going to go  
25 ahead and get started. We are revisiting an item from  
26 yesterday that some of our Staff worked on in the  
27 evening time, which is the Draft Northern Alaska Region  
28 Priority Information Needs. There's a new handout in  
29 front of the Council.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. You two  
32 have the floor.

33

34 MS. HYER: Good morning, Council  
35 members and Chairman. For the record, I'm Karen Hyer  
36 and this is Jeff Brooks with me. Yesterday we talked  
37 about the priority information needs and you gave me  
38 some input, so I included it into this draft document.  
39 I just want to make sure that what I heard was  
40 interpreted correctly. So I'm just going to go over  
41 the bullet points again.

42

43 So the first one is understanding  
44 differences in cultural knowledge, beliefs and  
45 attitudes about subsistence resources between fisheries  
46 managers and subsistence users in Northwest Alaska.

47

48 The second one we added because of that  
49 discussion yesterday, document rural residents beliefs,  
50 attitudes and knowledge about beavers and perceptions

1 of change to fish habitat related to beavers.

2

3                   Then the next one, local and cultural  
4 knowledge about locations of, perceptions of abundance  
5 and harvest monitoring for coastal lagoon and lake  
6 whitefish because there was talk about coastal lake  
7 whitefish.

8

9                   The next one, spawning locations for  
10 broad whitefish in the Northwest Arctic Region. We had  
11 that as Selawik and there was discussion about  
12 expanding that.

13

14                   The next one, traditional local  
15 knowledge of subsistence fish, including application to  
16 Federal subsistence management, such as identifying  
17 critical habitat, refining range maps and shedding  
18 light on ecological relationships. We had talked about  
19 whitefish, so I just wanted to point out that Buckland  
20 and Deering are in there because those were points of  
21 discussion in Kivalina.

22

23                   Then the next bullet, Dolly Varden in  
24 communities of Noatak and we added Kobuk from  
25 yesterday's discussion in Kivalina.

26

27                   Then finally, the last one, Hannah had  
28 approached me after the discussion about Selawik River  
29 clams and that's freshwater mussels, it's not fresh  
30 mussels for lunch. But freshwater mussels and  
31 traditional harvest information of use and abundance  
32 and life history of those as a possible subsistence  
33 resource.

34

35                   So that's what I have, so I will take  
36 any other suggestions or comments.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I thought someone  
39 mentioned yesterday that they wanted to know where  
40 certain fish, where did the whitefish spawn. It was  
41 never identified as something. They know they spawn at  
42 certain times, but they didn't know where. The reason  
43 why I brought that up last night when I was going to  
44 bed I thought of something because that's one of the  
45 issues in Kotzebue. They're thinking of now maybe they  
46 should expand commercial fishing into whitefish and I  
47 tell them I will not go there unless I talk to Kiana,  
48 Noorvik, Selawik and Upper Kobuk, Ambler, Shungnak,  
49 because if we go into their commercial, we're digging  
50 into part of their food and I don't want to make them

1 decline in the name of commercial. As a commercial  
2 fisherman, I try to get as much as I could to line my  
3 pocket. You know what I'm saying?

4

5 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And if we get there,  
8 we don't even know the process of how much numbers  
9 there are. How much could we take to hurt the stock.  
10 We're not even there yet. That's why I thought of it  
11 and it was my fault yesterday for not bringing it up.  
12 I thought of it later. So you've got to keep that in  
13 mind.

14

15 Go ahead, Calvin.

16

17 MR. MOTO: This past summer -- should  
18 we talk about seafood in the ocean? We've been  
19 catching crab, some people have been catching crab, and  
20 we're wondering if they're coming back or not. Also we  
21 used to get a lot of mussel, but it's changed. We  
22 don't get as much kelp on shore as we used to where the  
23 mussels usually cling to, you know. Also they did a  
24 test on shrimp and we never found out anything about  
25 that.

26

27 We used to have a lagoon right in front  
28 of Deering on the west side of Deering. It got washed  
29 away in the big flood in '70, '72. Deering's shoreline  
30 shrunk. Consequently, where we used to stand and jump  
31 in the water used to be six feet, now it's only -- when  
32 you get low tide, you've got sandbars all over. We  
33 stopped most of the erosion by building a seawall, but  
34 still we were surprised when they came to me and said,  
35 hey, where's that crab. They were small, but at least  
36 they -- I wonder if they're coming back or not. I'd  
37 like to see some kind of study on that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

40

41 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
42 members. You also talked about herring yesterday too  
43 and I just want to be clear about this. I did hear  
44 you, but this money is for research to help Federal  
45 subsistence managers from our program and unfortunately  
46 we don't have jurisdiction over issues of animals that  
47 are in the ocean. So our jurisdiction is just  
48 freshwater. That would be another agency that would be  
49 responsible for funding those kinds of studies.

50

1 MR. MOTO: We're wondering why -- maybe  
2 that s the reason we re starting to get walrus in our  
3 area because of the shellfish, you know. We never had  
4 walrus in front of Deering for 30 years or more.  
5 Oogruks we get all the time, harbor seals. We don t  
6 have problem with beavers, but once in a while. Three  
7 years ago we had an otter come to Deering and everybody  
8 was looking at it, what is that thing. A sea otter.

9  
10 Okay. On the Federal lands we have  
11 abundance of all kinds of animals now, you know.  
12 Consequently we get a lot of predators. Our bear  
13 population increased. In fact, this past winter they  
14 went to hibernate late because it was so warm. In  
15 fact, one of my grandsons hunted caribou and he  
16 stopped. From here to that corner there was a bear.  
17 He said they stared at each other for a while and he  
18 took off.

19  
20 We had a bear run through our village  
21 one day. A whole bunch of people come running. What's  
22 going on? There s a bear going by. I said he s  
23 probably more scared of us than we are of him.

24  
25 Our harvest of muskox, we haven t had  
26 any Tier II permits lately. People, when they got  
27 them, we don't eat much of those muskox when we get  
28 them, you know. So now we got muskox, caribou, we  
29 started to get rabbits. Consequently maybe we'll start  
30 get lynx again. When you get a big population of  
31 rabbits, usually you get a lot lynx. When you have a  
32 lot of ptarmigan and rabbit, we get a lot of fox. In  
33 fact, they've been killing wolves right in town the  
34 last couple of years. They come bother our dogs, you  
35 know.

36  
37 I remember one day I got up and my dog  
38 was barking. I checked into his doghouse and there was  
39 a little red fox in there. But predators are really  
40 coming around our village. We're kind of wondering.  
41 You know, our Federal land is the Land Bridge, which is  
42 not too far, and most of the other land is State and  
43 NANA. We have very little of our own land.

44  
45 Okay, fish. We get a lot of fish. We  
46 get trout. Next month we'll be ice fishing for trout  
47 on the river. We get burbot up by the old mining  
48 company. We get grayling. We get some other kind of  
49 fish. I don't know what they call it. They're kind of  
50 gray fish. We have no name for them, but we call it

1 iqaluk, which means fish.

2

3                   We had some study done on some of that,  
4 but we never heard from them again. We found out the  
5 people that were doing the study was Greenpeace, so we  
6 never did hear anything from them. Some people go to  
7 Kilwalik River because a lot of us used to live in  
8 Candle. We know where the herring is, other fish that  
9 are there. Some people go to Candle in the summer and  
10 harvest herring and some fish, other fisheries.

11

12                   I just thought I'd bring that up in  
13 passing because we're limited. We're subsistence  
14 people, always have been, and we rely on a lot of our  
15 river for a lot of our food, you know.

16

17                   So that's it.

18

19                   Thank you.

20

21                   MR. BROOKS: Thank you.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin,  
24 for your information. I hate to say this because -- I  
25 hate to say something, but we're trying to keep on the  
26 topic of fisheries right now of things that we'd like  
27 to study. So I'd like to keep the meeting in order  
28 and try to talk on what's on the agenda.

29

30                   MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. His hearing  
31 aid is not working.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,  
34 Percy, you have the floor.

35

36                   MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I was  
37 looking at your thing there and I heard Mr. Mitchell  
38 talk yesterday, I think documenting your rural  
39 residence, stuff about knowledge of beavers as  
40 pertaining to the fish.

41

42                   Also I thought what might be good is  
43 there's a question about scientific stuff about whether  
44 the habitat itself gets funded for spawning or fish. I  
45 think I heard that from Selawik also. So I think  
46 that's what we need to include in there is that beaver  
47 stuff. Beaver fever?

48

49                   MR. MITCHELL: Yeah.

50

1 MR. BALLOT: Well, whatever that stuff  
2 is and how it works with these humans regarding where  
3 the fish are at something like that.

4  
5 I was just wondering too also is your  
6 -- you said you only deal with it as long as it  
7 pertains to Federal waters. Our Federal water, then we  
8 got State waters. Isn't that something --if they're  
9 all Federal waters, does it matter -- some of the  
10 studies can pertain a little bit on the State lands or  
11 waters too? Because they all got to bypass and they  
12 all hit the same tributaries. Is that possible to  
13 confirm a study or a project like that?

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

16  
17 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
18 members. When we put this call out, the investigators  
19 are responsible for tying whatever research they do to  
20 Federal subsistence management. We right now have a  
21 project on the Unalakleet River and it's kind of a  
22 great example because there's a State fishery, there's  
23 Federal lands, the Native Village of Unalakleet was  
24 interested in it and so was NSEDC there. They're a  
25 quota group there. So they all came together and we  
26 have -- it's a jointly-funded project, but we like  
27 projects like that because they have a broad interest  
28 to many groups. So, yes, it has to be somehow tied to  
29 Federal subsistence management, but we often tie  
30 projects -- because the fish swim through State waters  
31 to Federal waters, so they're often projects that are  
32 joint like that.

33  
34 MR. BALLOT: Also Mr. Chair, Mr. Moto's  
35 comment a while ago got me thinking when he said  
36 there's a fish that we don't even know what to call  
37 them, I asked yesterday or mentioned yesterday -- there  
38 was a question about where spawning is being done by  
39 whatever types of fish they are, but a lot of us know  
40 that a lot of different little fish come out of the  
41 lakes in certain parts of the rivers.

42  
43 So a study seeing what's coming out of  
44 there, what types of fish. We've seen fish that have  
45 barbs or needles on them in Buckland and we don't even  
46 know what they are. So I think it would be good to see  
47 what's coming or what's spawned in those lakes and when  
48 they come out in the spring, that's when they come out,  
49 spring or fall, when the water gets higher. It's two  
50 times a year you see different types of stuff coming

1 out of the lakes, wherever they are, into the rivers.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.

4 Percy, I hear you. You're thinking about another study  
5 like they did in Kotzebue at that lake there by Noatak  
6 Preserve to see what's all in there. They're finding a  
7 lot of different fish that are not identified. Due to  
8 global warming, I'll tell you one thing. We've seen a  
9 lot of different kind of fish in Kotzebue now. Not  
10 only fish, it s birds too you don t see due to global  
11 warming. They re migrating north due to weather  
12 conditions. I think this is going to keep up. I've  
13 got a strong feeling.

14

15 Last summer we've seen different kind  
16 of fish we haven't seen and we're seeing birds. We  
17 know they re in Southeast, but we re seeing them here  
18 now. So it is happening and I understand your concern  
19 that we need to see what's all the fish we have in our  
20 lakes, their migration and they go to the ocean and  
21 they're different. These are things we know they are  
22 there, but we don't really know what they are. You  
23 could call them no name fish, I guess. I don't know.  
24 Some scientist will discover it and they'll name it  
25 after themselves.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.  
30 You'll be next, Hannah.

31

32 MR. MOTO: Also with this climate  
33 change we've been getting a lot of high water.  
34 Consequently, when we put out our nets, we get a lot of  
35 sunik or what you call debris. Therefore, when the  
36 debris gets out of the net and wind blow, usually it  
37 blows the nets on the shore, you know. We always have  
38 -- like July was a rough time for us to try to get --  
39 that's when we get most of our dog salmon. August also  
40 was the time when we started getting our silvers, but  
41 the pinks or humpies we hardly got any because of the  
42 high wind and the current. We tried to seine one time  
43 for two hours. Our net just kept going down, so we had  
44 to quit.

45

46 We have what you call Inupiaq Days to  
47 go seining for elders to get them salmon or fish. The  
48 last couple of years we haven't been very successful in  
49 getting fish for our elders. So, consequently, they've  
50 been trading with other people, you know. This climate

1 change is really hurting us on our land stuff and our  
2 fisheries especially.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
7 Hannah.

8

9 MR. LOON: Yeah, I just wanted to let  
10 Percy know those fish what he is referring to are  
11 called (in Inupiaq), little fish that are about that  
12 high, and we don't do anything about them. They're  
13 just part of the food cycle. We don't know what eat  
14 them, but they're a part of what we sometimes see on  
15 the river.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, it's good to know  
20 this stuff, you know. We've got freshwater eels and we  
21 don't even know what they are, but they're freshwater  
22 eels and they're only this time of year. They're good  
23 for dog food. We eat them. I think it's kind of good  
24 to know what kind of species we've got out there, if  
25 they're on Federal lands or what. You haven't solved  
26 the issue of where they're spawning. Maybe they're  
27 spawning in the lakes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
30 Raymond.

31

32 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
33 I have a very simple question to you about those clams  
34 in Selawik River. This is a new thing I heard. Are  
35 they in the river and are they eatable? Because I know  
36 some of the locations down in Southeastern they're not  
37 eatable unless they are checked by somebody in the  
38 State. So my question is, it's very interesting about  
39 these clams, are they useable?

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

42

43 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
44 members. I had just learned about them yesterday from  
45 Hannah and she was talking about subsistence harvest  
46 and possibly their community harvesting more of them,  
47 so I'm going to refer you right back to Hannah because  
48 she is the expert in the room.

49

50 MR. STONEY: Okay. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

2

3 MS. LOON: Yeah, some time ago they  
4 were searching for three people that drowned by Selawik  
5 and they set up tents and whatever they hook they bring  
6 them out and let everybody see it. It could be an old  
7 something, an old wire and chicken wire. And Helen  
8 Wells happened to be there or in town and they find a  
9 bunch of mussels, the one that you eat in fancy  
10 restaurants, and those are black mussels. We see them  
11 all the time. We see those kinds too and clams on the  
12 tundra. We know that seagulls know how to get them and  
13 we see big shells, big mussels on the tundra that the  
14 seagulls eat. That's part of their food. And Helen  
15 likes to eat those mussels and apparently a long time  
16 ago our people may have eaten those too because there  
17 was no caribou, no moose, no beaver around the 1930s.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
20 And I will concur with her. My mom is originally from  
21 Noorvik and she would -- in her talk during bedtime she  
22 would tell a lot of things and that's one of the  
23 stories she had. They get even butter clams, those  
24 seashell type, and she said you'll see them out on the  
25 tundra because the seagulls will take them out. But  
26 there is more than what the Natives say today because  
27 we're not as watchful as the elders are. We live  
28 faster pace than the elders. Long ago they were slower  
29 and they see a lot of things more.

30

31 For your information, I do have a lot  
32 of respect for ladies. Us men hunt, but the ladies  
33 work on them and they see more things than we do.  
34 We're just there for the glory of saying I harvest the  
35 animal.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: But the woman is the  
40 one that see the disease or something happening to the  
41 caribou because they actually are the ones that work on  
42 them. So when we have a meeting and you have a  
43 question on certain animals, don't look at the men,  
44 look at the woman because they do -- you know they do a  
45 lot of work, they do see a lot of things.

46

47 Okay. Thank you. You can respond.

48

49 If not, go ahead, Raymond.

50

1 MR. STONEY: My final comment would be,  
2 Mr. Chairman, to Mr. Moto. That's kind of very  
3 interesting that you said you haven't named the fish  
4 yet. We would like to know what it is.

5  
6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.  
9 Short and sweet.

10  
11 MR. MOTO: Okay. Also five miles east  
12 of Deering there's a river called Kugruk River where it  
13 spills into this lagoon near Kugruk. That's where we  
14 get our tomcods, you know. Sometimes we find a chinook  
15 in that river. This last couple years we haven't been  
16 able to get as much tomcod because of the poor ice  
17 conditions for one thing. In fact, a lot of us,  
18 myself, would get as much tomcod as I could get, you  
19 know, but I haven't been able to do that. I like fish,  
20 you know.

21  
22 We're fortunate to have so many streams  
23 around our village. We also have a stream called Smith  
24 Creek. It goes way back about 40 miles kind of west of  
25 Deering, south-southwest, you know, where we used to  
26 get sturgeon a long time ago. We haven't seen any  
27 sturgeons for a long time. These are things, like  
28 myself, I grew up on that kind of fisheries, you know,  
29 and it's hard when you can't get them. We have to get  
30 store-bought sometimes.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Calvin. Go  
33 ahead, Raymond.

34  
35 MR. STONEY: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. My  
36 final question would have to be to Hannah. You said  
37 that these clams were located right there in Selawik  
38 River, Hannah, right in town someplace?

39  
40 MS. LOON: (In Inupiaq). It will catch  
41 or mussels will go into them or whatever. I understand  
42 Peachy likes to eat those too, Peachy Savuk (ph), but I  
43 don't know how he harvest them. They're on the banks  
44 all over Selawik River, I believe. I don't know how  
45 far, but right there where they were looking for bodies  
46 across from that big plane that sank how many years ago  
47 around there just below Selawik River and in the  
48 village of Selawik.

49  
50 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Enoch.

1                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: For the record, for  
2 the quick translation of what Hannah said, long ago  
3 they used to get them with chicken wire. They just  
4 throw it on and they used to get it. That's how they  
5 know about it and the process to find out how to get  
6 them, I don't know. She did not say.

7

8                   Go ahead, Calvin.

9

10                  MR. MOTO: I'll tell you a little bit  
11 about the fish we have with no name. They're about  
12 maybe six to eight inches long and we are reluctant to  
13 harvest them at eat them because they usually hang  
14 around and settle in where the miners used to dump  
15 their tailings, you know. But they're easy to catch.  
16 You could go out and pull them right out of the water  
17 with your hands. We tried to find out the name of  
18 them. I've looked at the different fisheries charts  
19 that come out. Maybe we should have somebody study and  
20 see what kind of fish they are, you know. They might  
21 be edible, but we're afraid because of the tailings,  
22 you know.

23

24                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

25

26                  Go ahead, Mike.

27

28                  MR. KRAMER: Speaking about freshwater  
29 clams, I've known about freshwater clams for quite a  
30 few years. Ugrivik Channel, down there by Camp Sivu,  
31 quite a few years ago I threw out my rear anchor and  
32 the next morning we were getting ready to go back to  
33 Kotzebue and I pulled in my rear anchor and got a bunch  
34 of those freshwater clams. So every so often when I go  
35 up there I try to take a small dipnet and I just find a  
36 good spot and I just set it all the way down and then  
37 sink it into the mud and shake it a few times and I  
38 pull up about 20 of them.

39

40                  So they're here in the rivers and, man,  
41 they're good eating. You put those buggers on a  
42 woodstove and let them cook for a little while. Oh,  
43 man. But they're in the rivers. People just don't  
44 know, you know. I mean I just happened to stumble upon  
45 them and then I spoke to my dad and my dad said, yeah,  
46 that Ugrivik River it's got them in there, the one that  
47 goes right into the Melvin. So every so often I try to  
48 bring my small dipnet and score on a few before we run  
49 upriver.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What he's talking  
2 about, there's a lot of it in that river, freshwater,  
3 tasty. I'll tell you one thing, when we go there on a  
4 nice day, I'll go down and get some. You just go and  
5 pick them right off the top. It's plentiful and  
6 they're fresh and tasty. They hardly mention them, but  
7 we do get them because we used to camp down. Like I  
8 said, my mom was from Noorvik, when we hunt muskrat. A  
9 different diet. She said go down. I said I don't want  
10 to. There was still snow on the engine. But she'd let  
11 me go down and we'd have fresh ones. I tell you, it's  
12 worth it.

13  
14                   Okay. Are we done on this subject? So  
15 we could keep going. We have another one from  
16 yesterday, that's one more topic. Go ahead, Melinda.

17  
18                   MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. We have  
19 one housekeeping item to take care of. Yesterday I had  
20 mentioned we wanted to wait for our Assistant Regional  
21 Director Gene Peltola, who has joined us today. We  
22 really appreciate him being here. We have a length of  
23 service award to present to one of our Council members  
24 and I just wanted to let the group know the original  
25 will be signed by our Chairman Tim Towarak of the  
26 Federal Subsistence Board and it will be mailed off and  
27 I'll let Gene make his presentation.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Gene, you have  
30 the floor.

31  
32                   MR. PELTOLA: This is a Certificate of  
33 Service Award presented to Enoch in recognition of his  
34 years of service to the Federal Subsistence Management  
35 Program as a member of the Northwest Arctic Subsistence  
36 Regional Advisory Council for the years 1999 to 2014.  
37 Appreciate the effort put forth and being a RAC member  
38 and the Chair. Also it takes individuals such as  
39 yourself that get the resource and have the local  
40 knowledge to help convey the program needs.

41  
42                   Thank you. Appreciate it.

43  
44                   (Applause)

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I didn't  
47 expect this, but it is an honor serving the people from  
48 Northwest Alaska. It shall be hanged and I'll show this  
49 off to my wife. We got her approval.

50

1 MS. BURKE: We'll have a nice framed  
2 one signed by the Chairman of the Board mailed to  
3 Enoch. I will put it in the mail right away. This is  
4 the traveling, easy version.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's a surprising  
7 honor. Thank you, guys. Thank you so much. Okay. Go  
8 ahead.

9  
10 MS. BURKE: Okay. We're going to --  
11 Chris, are you on the line?

12  
13 MR. MCKEE: I'm here.

14  
15 MS. BURKE: All right. We have Chris  
16 McKee, who is our Wildlife Division Chief, the Office  
17 of Subsistence Management. You folks have become  
18 familiar with him the last couple years. He's the  
19 biologist who works with our area. He's going to give  
20 you a rundown of the sheep closure special action that  
21 took place this year. Now would be the appropriate  
22 time. Chris has been listening for the last day and a  
23 half and he has heard your concerns about the  
24 transporters and some of the ideas you folks have had  
25 regarding possible wildlife proposals for the next open  
26 cycle.

27  
28 I'll hand the floor over to Chris under  
29 agency reports, first topic.

30  
31 MR. MCKEE: Thanks, Melinda. I'm sure  
32 you're all aware of the sheep closure, so I'm not going  
33 to go into great detail about it. I'll give you a  
34 brief overview on the analysis itself. I was the  
35 person that wrote the analysis. The Temporary Special  
36 Action WSA14-03 was submitted by the National Park  
37 Service and they requested that the 2014/2015 season  
38 for sheep be closed in Unit 23 and a portion of Unit  
39 26A.

40  
41 The proponent states that preliminary  
42 results from recent surveys showed large declines in  
43 the sheep population in the Western Arctic National  
44 Parklands and the proponent felt like immediate action  
45 was needed to close these hunts because of these  
46 declines and especially given the short period of time.  
47 The request for the closure came in I believe on August  
48 the 8th and the hunt was scheduled to open on August  
49 the 10th, so we were on a pretty tight timeframe.

50

1                   The National Park Service, in  
2 coordination with Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
3 completed surveys of the sheep population in the  
4 affected area in July of 2014. These preliminary  
5 estimates indicated a 70 percent decline in the sheep  
6 population across the Western Arctic Parklands from the  
7 previous surveys in 2011. These survey results also  
8 indicated very low low lamb to ewe-like ratios and  
9 very low recruitment rates in 2014 as well. The  
10 estimates for lambs per 100 ewe-like sheep were down 90  
11 percent in 2014 from the last survey period in 2011.

12  
13                   Additionally large rams had also  
14 declined between 2011 and 2014, down 75 percent across  
15 the Western Arctic Parklands and specifically down 60  
16 percent in the DeLong Mountains and 65 percent in the  
17 western Baird Mountains. This decline indicated that  
18 there were very few to possibly no large rams available  
19 for harvest in the area of interest.

20  
21                   Now the request that came in from the  
22 Park Service, as I said, was a request to close the  
23 entire season down. Because of that, it was an action  
24 that was for greater than 60 days. So this is  
25 considered what we refer to as a Temporary Special  
26 Action. When we have a Temporary Special Action  
27 request like this, we're required to hold a public  
28 hearing so that we can kind of make people aware about  
29 what's going on and get their input for possible  
30 incorporation into the analysis.

31  
32                   With that in mind, we had a public  
33 hearing that was held in Kotzebue on August 14th to  
34 provide opportunity for members of the public to  
35 comment on the analysis. Everybody that either came to  
36 the meeting or called in seemed to be pretty aware of  
37 some of these declines. I know a lot of the people  
38 that were actually out on the ground said they were  
39 seeing very, very few sheep. So I don't think anybody  
40 was really surprised by these numbers, but I don't  
41 think anybody was really expecting the level of the  
42 decline that we saw in some of these surveys.

43  
44                   As a result of that hearing, after that  
45 hearing and because of all the population concerns and  
46 some of the items that I just mentioned, the Federal  
47 Subsistence Board voted unanimously on the 19th of  
48 August to close the hunt. So the request came in on  
49 the 8th of August, the hunt actually started on the  
50 10th of August, the Federal hunt, and the hunt was

1 closed down on the 19th. So it did take 10 days for us  
2 to go through the process of review and analysis and  
3 get it to the Board for their action. This process  
4 that we have is required under regulation, so it was  
5 kind of a necessary step to go through.

6

7 I kind of went through this fairly  
8 quickly, some of the biology. If you have any  
9 questions about the actual process that we have to go  
10 through this, I can answer those questions as well. So  
11 that's kind of a brief overview and I can answer any  
12 questions you might have.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Attamuk here.  
17 I've got a question. Did the State also close their  
18 hunt on the sheep in DeLong?

19

20 MR. MCKEE: They did. The State  
21 actually closed the hunt down on the 8th of August, the  
22 same day we got the Special Action Request from the  
23 Park Service.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

26

27 Go ahead, Raymond.

28

29 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 This is Raymond Stoney. We know that just like you  
31 said in August there was the closure on sheep. Now  
32 that's for commercially, people that go hunt sheep  
33 during the hunting season. My question is since the  
34 sheep hunting was closed and there's a few people who  
35 do hunt sheep for subsistence, that also includes the  
36 closure for subsistence users?

37

38 MR. MCKEE: Yes. The closure request  
39 that we got -- and I know this can be confusing. The  
40 State closed down the State hunt on the 8th of August.  
41 The request that we got was the closure for the Federal  
42 hunt, so that would affect Federally qualified  
43 subsistence users. So when that came down from the  
44 Federal Subsistence Board, that also shut down the  
45 Federal subsistence hunt.

46

47 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Chris.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.

50

1                   Go ahead, Michael.

2

3                   MR. KRAMER: This is Mike Kramer. I've  
4 been mentioning for the last several years to do an  
5 emergency count. You know, I can't believe it took  
6 this long to get it done. I think when a population of  
7 a species that we hunt for subsistence, if there's a  
8 concern in a drop of the population, I think there  
9 should be an emergency count done to prevent this much  
10 loss.

11

12                   I've been out in the country. I go up  
13 the Agi, the Eli and up into the Squirrel. I talk to  
14 pilots. A lot of the pilots are good friends of mine.  
15 I ask them what the sheep look like just to keep tabs  
16 on them and they said there ain't a darn sheep out  
17 there. I've been making recommendations to the Park  
18 Service for them to do an emergency count. That way  
19 they can try and get an estimate and do a -- if we  
20 would have done a shut down two years ago -- and I know  
21 that climate change has a serious effect on them. I've  
22 gone out there in the country and I've looked at some  
23 of the mountains up there in the lower Western Bairds  
24 and they look like sheets of glass. And there's no  
25 snow, so the wolves can take those buggers down so  
26 easy.

27

28                   What's the purpose of a board for us to  
29 make decisions on subsistence wildlife when agencies  
30 don't listen to what we have to say. We're the ones  
31 that are out there. We're out there looking and  
32 watching our animals that we subsist on. I think that  
33 if we mention something that we notice a decline, then  
34 I think an immediate action should occur. Not let's  
35 wait until they drop 70-75 percent.

36

37                   Now that our caribou herd is dropping,  
38 they're going to start falling upon something else.  
39 The only other thing is moose. We can't hunt muskox  
40 anymore. We're going to start looking at other means  
41 of filling our freezers. Now with sheep gone and  
42 caribou dropping, you know, moose are going to start  
43 declining. Eventually we're going to end up with  
44 nothing.

45

46                   So I think having preventive measures  
47 to protect subsistence species early before the severe  
48 decline occurs, it prevents hardships amongst the  
49 subsistence users. From now on my suggestion is that  
50 when we, the people, the board, the people who are out

1 there make suggestions, I think there should be an  
2 immediate action.

3

4 I see a lot of wolves. Nine wolves  
5 were taken right behind Kotzebue and there's still a  
6 black one running around. There's so many wolves. I  
7 went up hunting just two weeks ago up to Kobuk and seen  
8 about 11 wolves and that s the most I've ever seen  
9 along the river. We re having a bear problem, we're  
10 having a wolf problem. We're having a lot of predation  
11 problem and it s time to take care of those issues.  
12 I'd expect us to try and take care of those issues  
13 during this meeting.

14

15 I'd like to see a proposal for the lift  
16 of non-resident hunters where they can be -- because  
17 the requirement is that they be guided. That they lift  
18 the same day airborne issue regarding grizzly bears.  
19 That way if they land there and they get there and they  
20 get settled and they happen to see a bear, they can  
21 immediately take it. And the number of bears, you  
22 know, make it one spring and one fall bear for non-  
23 resident hunters to encourage them to come up more.

24

25 And for the wolves, I'd like to see a  
26 proposal come up to bring back the land and shoot. I  
27 mean I don't have an airplane. Some of these other  
28 gentlemen don't have an airplane, but every little bit  
29 to prevent further predation of caribou calves, Dall  
30 sheep, moose calves, will help and it will benefit  
31 those species in the long run.

32

33 So I think if we start making a step to  
34 start preventing the decline of these subsistence  
35 species now and we make an effort to make a balance  
36 amongst these species, I think that will help us in the  
37 long run.

38

39 I think that transporters need to be  
40 restricted immediately for caribou, but I think guides  
41 should be allowed to operate because transporters don't  
42 really get to see what their hunters take. You know,  
43 they don t see what they take from the field. They  
44 could leave a lot of meat out there in the field and  
45 they don't know it. But when you re one on one with a  
46 guide, the guide is the one who decides what that  
47 person can and cannot take.

48

49 At least guides, you know -- and that's  
50 a good thing. That will push some of these

1 transporters into hiring registered guides to work for  
2 them. Some of the transporters can hire local people  
3 as their assistant guides because these assistant  
4 guides know the country. Hire local people. It will  
5 help the economy. It will employ some people who know  
6 the country. Every little bit is going to help. I'd  
7 like to see that from now on when we say something and  
8 we notice a decline in a subsistence species, that an  
9 immediate action occurs.

10

11 That's all I have for right now.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike. I  
14 hear you completely. I'll get to you in a minute,  
15 Hannah. I have a question on the sheep decline. If  
16 you really look at it as a Native, it has to be  
17 predator because we don't have much snow and snow  
18 slides don't make a reduction in the sheep. We don't  
19 have the weather to impact the sheep. So my question  
20 would be why did they decline. I know they never  
21 declined because of the snow conditions and the weather  
22 except the rain was so slick and there's no snow,  
23 wolves would get them.

24

25 I completely feel the way Mike feels  
26 and I think everybody will agree we are the eyes of the  
27 north, of our resources, and when we see something  
28 reduce and when we try to say something need to be  
29 done, due to the process it takes forever and ever  
30 and by the time the ever comes it's too late. There's  
31 a crash. We need to stop that crashing. We need to  
32 save and preserve for the future. When we see it, we  
33 try to tell the authorities and sometimes they don't  
34 even listen to it. We as Natives are scientists and  
35 biologists our own way.

36

37 With that said, go ahead, Hannah. You  
38 have the floor.

39

40 MS. LOON: Thank you. It seems like it  
41 would be fair with us, Noatak, and waiting for the  
42 caribou and looking forward to the sight of caribou on  
43 the tundra and fulfilling our spirits inside, how nice  
44 it would be to harvest again. We can't compete against  
45 the outside where the migratory pattern starts and that  
46 is in Atigun.

47

48 I'm going to ask you will there be in  
49 the future to limit the number of vehicles and size of  
50 the vehicle and the number of people going into some

1 kind of a lottery to only get those people to sign up  
2 for lottery to be in Atigun, not for 100 trucks. I ask  
3 you that question. I know it's off the subject of  
4 sheep, but caribou are important to us.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

9

10 MR. MCKEE: Are you speaking about the  
11 vehicle use and access along the Dalton Highway? Is  
12 that what your question is pertaining to?

13

14 MS. LOON: There was information  
15 yesterday by a North Slope worker used to be that there  
16 was 200 to 400 18-wheelers in Atigun Pass harvesting  
17 sheep, bear and caribou. That's a source of the  
18 migration where they start coming down towards  
19 Anaktuvuk Pass and perhaps down here.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. MCKEE: Well, I don't have any  
24 information on numbers of vehicles for hunters in that  
25 area. All I can tell you is the way the Dalton Highway  
26 Corridor Management Area is set up is that for five  
27 miles on either side of the Dalton Highway you're not  
28 allowed to hunt with a firearm, so people that want to  
29 hunt with firearms for any animals have to go farther  
30 than five miles off the road to hunt.

31

32 Now the exception of that is people  
33 from a few resident-zoned communities near the Park, so  
34 that includes Alatna, Allakaket, Anaktuvuk, Bettles,  
35 Stevens Village and residents within the corridor, so  
36 people like in Wiseman and Coldfoot are allowed to use  
37 firearms. The use of firearms to hunt within that  
38 corridor is pretty much limited to a small subset of  
39 people that are actually living in the area.

40

41 In terms of the number of people  
42 driving along there in vehicles and going out and  
43 hunting and harvesting animals, I don't have access to  
44 that information with me right now. All I can tell you  
45 is how the management area is set up along the corridor  
46 itself.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
49 Barb.

50

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank You, Mr. Chair.  
2 Councilman Mike brought out good suggestions here.  
3 Usually for those proposals to happen you would have to  
4 go through your coordinator and then the coordinator  
5 goes to the anthropologist or biologist on however the  
6 proposals need to be written and then that's when the  
7 proposal should come out, is from this Council. It's  
8 easier, it's got a backbone and it will usually work.  
9

10 Then with the Atigun part, that's not  
11 really in your region. You have to deal with that with  
12 the North Slope and then that's also your biologist's  
13 job is to go to the -- if he's working with the North  
14 Slope area also, if he's within this region, then he  
15 would give you that information. But that Atigun part  
16 is within the North Slope and then you guys can make a  
17 suggestion or write a letter to them and let them know  
18 your concern and you can go from there.  
19

20 But those proposals on what Mr. Kramer  
21 mentioned are good and they can be worked on by your  
22 staff and then OSM is your Staff and whatever you  
23 suggest and want to do as a whole and as a Council they  
24 should be able to help you and put those proposals in  
25 for you.  
26

27 Thank you.  
28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Barb.  
30 You're right. I'm trying to stay away from North  
31 Slope's district. When it's out of our region, it's  
32 theirs unless they ask for our help to help them. I  
33 hate to say it, but that -- Barbara, you're right.  
34 It's up to North Slope. We really have nothing -- we  
35 couldn't say anything because -- but he's right. I've  
36 seen the regulation. I looked it up and it is so many  
37 miles from the road system. That's what they always  
38 say, but it do happen. They harvest below if they  
39 could get away with it. They're human beings too  
40 trying to get their -- but they're doing it. It's not  
41 stopping them.  
42

43 Go ahead, Percy.  
44

45 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. If  
46 you look at the regulatory history, there's been  
47 concern about the sheep since 1982. There's been an  
48 issue. So there should have been something done at  
49 some point in time. If you see here, they were having  
50 drawings up until they closed it even. I don't know.

1 Somebody isn't managing it. I thought we were doing  
2 some co-management stuff with the State and the Federal  
3 Subsistence Board. So whoever skipped -- missed the  
4 Board or something. ANILCA should have kicked in  
5 sooner at some point in time like Mike said earlier.

6  
7 I know if this keeps up, it's not good  
8 for whoever is managing it. You need to pay a little  
9 more attention to people that are exactly down on the  
10 ground like they say.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.  
13 That brought up the time -- remember when they first  
14 said they decline and they did a study and did a count,  
15 yet at the time the Federal just funded only three  
16 years and when the three years was up, it stopped for a  
17 while and they redo it again.

18  
19 But you're right. If there's an issue  
20 and concern, until the numbers are safe I think they  
21 should keep doing the study instead of just stop. Then  
22 once they stop, they decline. Even I get a call from  
23 Noatak. I even go see them. I said, hey, people are  
24 seeing this. Nothing is being done about it. I hear  
25 completely what Mike is saying. We are the eyes of the  
26 north because we go out there to get it.

27  
28 When we don't see it -- because we  
29 actually go out there with snowmachine. I used to see  
30 sheep right at Agi in my camp. This summer -- well, I  
31 hardly spend, not like -- I didn't spend freeze-up  
32 there, but for a few years 9, 11 and 13. That's all I  
33 got was -- when they were increasing, they were  
34 increasing only by two. Me and my wife and my boys  
35 count nine, two years later there was 11, a year later  
36 there were 13. We didn't see any this year. So that's  
37 what I'm saying, what we've seen just from my camp.

38  
39 I've been to Mamelaks all the way even  
40 to Kivalina trying to hunt sheep because I grew up  
41 hunting sheep and I never get any and I just wanted to  
42 see and I didn't see any completely. It's completely  
43 different. Enoch will tell you that because he's from  
44 Noatak. He will tell you that there's a big reduction.

45  
46 Like Mike say, it's too late and we  
47 worry about it too late. For you agencies, this has to  
48 stop of waiting too late until they crash. Who get  
49 punished on it? I do. You guys do. We get hurt  
50 because we can't harvest it any more and we will crave

1 for it. That's the problem right there. We, Natives,  
2 that live off it, is stopped first. They don't worry  
3 about the others. They always target us because we're  
4 not scared to say we go out and we harvest it. The  
5 guys that get permits and harvest it, they don't say  
6 much because they want to keep hunting it.

7

8                   Yeah, go ahead.

9

10                   DR. LAWLER: I'm Jim Lawler with the  
11 Park Service. There's people actually on the phone,  
12 Kumi Rattenbury, who know more about this than I do. I  
13 guess I would point out a couple things. One is the  
14 1980 estimate the sheep population was a certain level  
15 at that point and recovered until about the early 1990s  
16 and then it dipped and crashed. That was Brooks Range  
17 wide. And then the population recovered and was  
18 recovering and growing until about 2011, which is when  
19 it started to drop again.

20

21                   So there was one survey done in 2011 in  
22 Western Arctic Parklands that showed a little bit of a  
23 decline in the sheep. Then there was another survey  
24 done last summer that showed a substantial decline in  
25 sheep.

26

27                   One point to make is in terms of  
28 reaction time and reaction time of the agencies, you  
29 know, I agree with the person who said that this group  
30 has a lot of power in terms of suggesting to an agency  
31 this is what we're seeing and this is what we'd like  
32 for a survey. So that's one point.

33

34                   I guess the other point though is that  
35 part of the decline this past go around and the rapid  
36 decline, I think Chris McKee mentioned the lamb crop  
37 this past year and a winter decline. So in the past  
38 two years there's been severe winter weather and so the  
39 sheep population has dropped substantially. So I think  
40 in this particular case when the survey was done and it  
41 was noted that there was a big decline in the sheep, I  
42 think the Federal Board did a very good job being very  
43 nimble and actually enacting a regulation, as did the  
44 State. The State was even faster in terms of enacting  
45 regulations to address that situation.

46

47                   The survey had to get done before there  
48 was an actual number or estimate on how big of a  
49 decline the sheep were. Sheep in particular are  
50 interesting and I guess I'm going on a tangent here,

1 but it seems like the decline in the sheep hasn't been  
2 a steady decline where it's slowly dropping. It seems  
3 like it more was attributed to a couple climatic  
4 conditions where there was icing events and there was a  
5 big drop in sheep all of a sudden. So, yeah,  
6 bureaucracies, like Federal agencies, are cumbersome in  
7 their ability to react to all-of-a-sudden biological  
8 emergencies is limited, but in this situation I think  
9 they did as rapid of a reaction as may be possible.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

14

15 MR. MITCHELL: I kind of mentioned  
16 yesterday about the Dalton Highway and all the trucks  
17 going over there. Are they enforcing this five-mile  
18 thing from the road and do they know how many trucks  
19 got sheep? I'd say there's 500 trucks went on that  
20 road. Maybe all of them got sheep. Maybe that's why  
21 we're getting a decline. Is that being monitored or  
22 anything like that over there on the Dalton Highway?

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll briefly answer  
25 that I don't know because it's out of our district and  
26 I can't say. They probably do have enforcers. It's an  
27 open road for everybody and I can't really say I know.  
28 There might be enforcement out there that I know of  
29 because I've been there also and I've seen enforcers  
30 out there when I was working at Prudhoe.

31

32 Melinda, do you have a better answer  
33 than that?

34

35 MS. BURKE: I was just going to  
36 mention, Mr. Chair, as Chris said, we can do a little  
37 bit of information finding and I'm happy to. It's not  
38 something we're completely prepared to speak on today,  
39 but I'm happy to do some research and follow up with  
40 these specific questions. I'm noting them down in my  
41 computer.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Raymond,  
44 you had your hand up. You'll be next, Verne.

45

46 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
47 Probably a comment because I'm very concerned about the  
48 closure of the sheep. Previously, in all these years,  
49 when there's sheep declining on Game Unit 23, that the  
50 Alaska Department of Fish and Game always calls me 10

1 days before they close it because they're declining and  
2 ask for permission to put in the closure. Recently on  
3 this closure, just a few weeks ago, I didn't know  
4 nothing about it until I turned my radio on, that sheep  
5 hunting was closed today. We weren't notified, the AC  
6 or the RAC. There's something about that that concerns  
7 me because we are the advisors. If they ask us, sure,  
8 I'd be happy. I was in favor of the closure. But when  
9 they close it immediately, you know, we should know.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.  
14 I'll respond to yours. They did contact me as Chair  
15 and I did not notify anyone or I did not call Melinda  
16 to notify her or email her. I could say I'm at fault  
17 for that part and I'll gladly take it because they did  
18 call me and inform me. I said you actually have the  
19 number, they decline, and they said, yes, they had a  
20 decline.

21

22 Go ahead, Verne. You'll be next, Mike.

23

24 MR. CLEVELAND: I don't know about  
25 regulations about hunting on the road. I didn't know  
26 it was five miles. All you have to do is just step off  
27 the road. That's how the regulation is right now.  
28 Just got to get off the road and you can hunt. It's  
29 not five miles. I know the regulations. You have to  
30 get off the road to shoot. You can't shoot from the  
31 road or hunt from the road, but you've got to step off  
32 the road. That's the regulation for the hunting.

33

34 I've been flying up here in the  
35 Squirrel. Boy, is there a bunch of sheep up there.  
36 Are they counting sheep? Oh, many, there's quite a few  
37 sheep in here when we saw some this fall. I thought it  
38 was snow, but it wasn't, it was sheep. So we flew over  
39 them. We tried not to startle or anything, but there's  
40 a lot of sheep.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.  
45 Sorry to say this, but we have someone on the phone  
46 that wanted to speak. They texted Melinda. So Mike  
47 you will be right after Kim.

48

49 MS. BURKE: Kumi.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Kumi. That's an  
2 Eskimo name, ain't it?

3

4 MS. BURKE: Let's ask her.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You have the  
7 floor. Sorry about that.

8

9 MS. RATTENBURY: Hi, Mr. Chairman.  
10 Thank you for giving me time to speak. It's actually a  
11 Japanese name. So I just wanted to let you all know I  
12 was on both surveys. Marci Johnson was also an  
13 observer on both surveys that we did. The one with  
14 Fish and Game across Noatak National Preserve,  
15 including the DeLong and Baird Mountains, and then we  
16 also did northeastern Gates of the Arctic, which -- and  
17 both sides actually of the Dalton Highway from  
18 Galbraith Lake down to Wiseman. It seems like the  
19 decline in the western part is more substantial than  
20 what we saw in the central Brooks Range.

21

22 A couple things I wanted to tell you is  
23 that we tried to do a survey in 2013 and did not get  
24 the weather to pull it off for your area just north of  
25 Kotzebue and Kiana and the western Baird Mountains. We  
26 have surveyed what's called Itkillik Preserve,  
27 northeastern Gates of the Arctic, between Anaktuvuk  
28 Pass and Galbraith Lake the last six years in a row  
29 doing the same methods and we saw pretty stable numbers  
30 from 2009 to 2012 and then a 50 percent drop in 2013,  
31 which was mostly because there were no lambs and a big  
32 decline in the number of ewes, yearlings and very young  
33 ewes and rams, but not a big change for the ram  
34 classes. That's kind of what we've seen in some other  
35 places.

36

37 In 2013, May was incredibly cold,  
38 record cold across the state, and in parts of the Yukon  
39 Territory and the Northwest Territories in Canada.  
40 They had a very, very low lamb productivity, lower than  
41 what most places had seen. The Brooks Range, Alaska  
42 Range, parts of the Chugach, Kenai and Alaska Range  
43 extending down into Lake Clark a little bit and then  
44 also places in Northwest Territories and Yukon  
45 Territories as well. I think that record cold also  
46 affected moose calves and caribou calves as well.

47

48 Last winter there were icing events and  
49 that resulted in the continued decline in the Itkillik  
50 area between Anaktuvuk and Galbraith Lake. So I just

1 wanted to say that it is very much because of two bad  
2 winters in a row. There are other factors in there  
3 too, but I just wanted to let you know that that  
4 decline in 2013 for lamb productivity at least was  
5 pretty widespread across the range of Dall sheep. We  
6 have actually surveyed sheep in the western Baird  
7 Mountains every year from 1986 to 2014 except for 2003,  
8 2008, 2012 and 2013. Only 2012 we didn't survey that  
9 year. The rest of them we tried, but the weather  
10 didn't allow for it.

11

12 I just wanted to let you know that.

13

14 Thank you for letting me speak.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you.

17

18 Go ahead, Mike, you have the floor.

19

20 MR. KRAMER: Thank you, Chairman. I've  
21 known for quite some time that the sheep population has  
22 been dropping. I get a hold of a transporter because  
23 sometimes for subsistence hunting I take my boys out  
24 and teach them how to hunt sheep. They're going to  
25 miss it due to a mistake that was beyond our control.  
26 You know, we're the ones that's going to have suffer.  
27 My kids love sheep meat, they love hunting sheep, they  
28 love the country, they love the experience. I'm hoping  
29 that our next few winters are pretty calm upon them.

30

31 I know I've gone out into the upper Eli  
32 and the lower Eli and up into the Agi. The last  
33 several years I've been seeing a lot of sheep mingling  
34 in the trees due to the fact that the high mountain  
35 areas where there main source of food is is like sheets  
36 of glass. Sheep doesn't have very good hooves for  
37 busting through that ice and it's pretty difficult on  
38 them.

39

40 The ones I ran into one day -- I was  
41 going after a wolf that had made me mad several times  
42 trying to get him. I finally came up on the ridge and  
43 as I was passing through the trees, probably about 10  
44 sheep flew right on by me. I thought I was going to  
45 get run over by them. But they were heading downhill  
46 into the trees to where there's deep snow and I think  
47 that's where a majority of the wolves are picking them  
48 off because I did run into two carcasses in those  
49 trees. I ran into a three-quarter curl and then there  
50 was a half-curl ram that was down in the trees that was

1 partially eaten.

2

3 I'm beginning to see that they're  
4 beginning to get picked off and the wolves are starting  
5 to pick up on how easy they are actually to kill. I  
6 think, you know, we need to start stepping up on these  
7 wolves and the communities need to start stepping up on  
8 these wolves. Yeah, gas is hard to come by, but a good  
9 \$450-\$500 pelt is worth a lot of good gas money.

10

11 I also see the concern from Enoch  
12 regarding the caribou herd. The Noatak Controlled Use  
13 Area I think we need to make a proposal and see if it's  
14 allowed to where the Controlled Use Area could  
15 fluctuate with the migration. If the migration occurs  
16 more north and it is noticed, well the Controlled Use  
17 Area moves north. That way you're protecting the  
18 migration and the ease of travel of these caribou and  
19 then the ability to allow subsistence users to be  
20 able to harvest these animals in a calm sense and not  
21 have to worry about airplanes scaring them off.

22

23 I think a serious action needs to be  
24 taken for predator control for bears and wolves as  
25 suggested proposals that I made earlier and I think  
26 that we need to be taken seriously on transporters, you  
27 know, to where they'd be restricted and guides allowed  
28 only. That way we have that sense of mind knowing that  
29 our subsistence resources are being taken care of and  
30 we're trying to keep a balance.

31

32 I think if we're allowed to do some  
33 sort of predator control or increase the ability for  
34 non-residents to be able to take more bears and make it  
35 easier for local area people to take more wolves,  
36 that's one less thing that Dall sheep, moose, caribou  
37 have to tend with on a daily basis. If the caribou  
38 population drops, wolves and bears are going to really  
39 hit the moose real hard and it's going to continue.

40

41 So we either need to take the necessary  
42 steps to be able to make that balance occur and to  
43 make our ability to be able to harvest subsistence  
44 species in the future and I think that's a good,  
45 necessary action to be taken care of. I'll get with  
46 Melinda for the possible proposals to come up.

47

48 That's all I have.

49

50 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I think this is  
4 a good segue into getting this discussion wrapped up.  
5 I think it would be really good for Enoch and the  
6 public's benefit as well to kind of round this off with  
7 talking about the upcoming open period call for  
8 proposals that will be this winter that Chris and I  
9 will ensure that any proposals that the Council would  
10 like to submit this winter we get a little bit of a  
11 head start. I think you folks have put some really  
12 good discussion on the record and maybe we could turn  
13 it back over to Chris for just a second to talk about  
14 how that will work if that's okay with the Council.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Chris, you  
17 have the floor. Oh, Barbara, you want to -- Chris,  
18 hang on a minute. We have someone from the public.  
19  
20 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, this is Barb Atoruk  
21 again. Mr. Chair, if you want to do the proposals now  
22 and set that up right now, you can do an action item.  
23 You can make a motion and second it and then that way  
24 it will go. That way you guys will know. Mention what  
25 kind of proposal you want to make on which species and  
26 that will set it right now.  
27  
28 They'll have to do it.  
29  
30 Thank you.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Barbara.  
33 Go ahead, you have the floor.  
34  
35 MR. MCKEE: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks,  
36 Melinda. Just to go over real quick, starting in  
37 January we will be (cutting out).  
38  
39 MS. BURKE: Just one sec, Chris.  
40 You're cutting out just a little bit.  
41  
42 MR. MCKEE: Okay. Can you hear me  
43 better now?  
44  
45 MS. BURKE: Try again.  
46  
47 MR. MCKEE: How about now?  
48  
49 MS. BURKE: It's a little better.  
50

1                   MR. MCKEE: I'm hearing quite an echo  
2 there.

3  
4                   MS. BURKE: Oh, Enoch, turn your mic  
5 off. Okay, try again, Chris.

6  
7                   MR. MCKEE: Okay. That sounds quite a  
8 bit better. Just to go over real quickly, any member  
9 of the public and certainly the Council can submit a  
10 proposal and starting in January of this coming year we  
11 will be having a call for proposals to make changes to  
12 hunting and trapping regulations. The period during  
13 which proposals are accepted is generally about 45  
14 days. Like I said, any member of the public or the  
15 Council can submit a proposal and I can work with  
16 Melinda, if you guys want to work with her to formulate  
17 any particular proposals you want.

18  
19                   Basically, included in your submission  
20 should be the name, organization, the address, phone  
21 and email address, the regulation you want to change,  
22 including the management unit number and the species  
23 and then you also want to quote the current regulation  
24 if known.

25  
26                   If you're proposing a new regulation,  
27 please state it as such. Then you write the way you'd  
28 like to see the regulation be written, then a brief  
29 explanation of why the regulatory change should be  
30 made, a description of the impact that the change might  
31 have on the wildlife populations and a description of  
32 how the change might affect subsistence uses and then a  
33 description on any effects it might have on other uses,  
34 such as sport, recreational hunting or commercial  
35 endeavors.

36  
37                   You can submit those. You can submit  
38 proposals directly to us at OSM at our 1011 E. Tudor  
39 Road address. Certainly you can submit them directly  
40 to Melinda as well and Melinda and I would be happy to  
41 work with you guys on coming up with any proposals, but  
42 I did want to give you guys a heads-up that we are  
43 going to be issuing that call for proposals in January,  
44 so now would be a good time to start thinking about  
45 what you might want to submit to us. So that's just a  
46 brief overview on the proposal process and we can get  
47 moving on those when you guys want to start working on  
48 them.

49  
50                   That's all I have.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. For your  
2 information, for now, we are going to have an action  
3 item proposal now. So, Mike, can you put your  
4 proposal. That way we can do it under action item and  
5 we could vote on it to work on it now instead of later  
6 because if we keep waiting later, it's going to hurt  
7 us. So we need something now, today.

8  
9 Go ahead, Mike.

10  
11 MR. KRAMER: Can I make a motion for a  
12 short recess to further talk about it with other  
13 members of the Council.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, you have it.  
16 We'll take a short recess.

17  
18 (Off record)

19  
20 (On record)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, let's wrap this  
23 up. Melinda, you hear -- we'll call the meeting back  
24 to order. We'll wrap this up. Melinda, you hear what  
25 they're saying. You started working on the proposal  
26 and get with Mike and me and the rest of the Council  
27 members that have interest on it and we'll try to speed  
28 up the process. I heard we have to go through that  
29 winter process that goes with the proposal, but we'll  
30 work on this, Mike, as soon as we could. So you and  
31 Melinda, I'll leave you in charge and you guys will  
32 take care of it. I'm hearing.....

33  
34 Go ahead, Percy.

35  
36 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I want to  
37 hear the guts and glory of it on the record for me, for  
38 my report when I go home, on what's going to be the  
39 content or whatever in regards to the proposal itself  
40 on the record.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

43  
44 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, Percy. Right  
45 during lunch and right after this meeting is adjourned,  
46 what I'll do is I will type up all the -- kind of like  
47 we did with the fisheries projects. I'll type up the  
48 draft of the proposals, ideas that you folks have  
49 thrown out today. I'll provide a copy to each of you  
50 and then that way you can communicate with your

1 villages and if there's any other additional proposals,  
2 let Chris and I know. You folks have built a great  
3 discussion on the record. We'll start doing our  
4 homework and that way when the winter meeting comes up,  
5 whatever assistance the Council, villages, individuals  
6 need on developing those proposals, we'll be ready to  
7 go. So I'll give you that draft and it's something we  
8 can keep working on in between now and then. That's my  
9 job.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: With this proposal that  
14 we're going to put forth, I also hold a seat on the  
15 Fish and Game Advisory Council and I'm going to try and  
16 push for that on the Fish and Game side. The State  
17 side also. And base it on the same proposal for the  
18 Federal subsistence. I think these actions need to be  
19 taken because there's -- with this new Ambler Road  
20 project coming in, do you think it's bad now? Wait  
21 until they come in. Man, this place is going to be  
22 upside-down. You know, the villages think there's  
23 controversy now with the caribou herd. Oh, it's going  
24 to be even worse when that Ambler Road Project come in.  
25 I would like to see that completely diminished.

26

27 At our last Federal subsistence meeting  
28 we had someone from Fairbanks area. I don't know which  
29 corporation they're from, but they said they wanted in  
30 on some of the money too. I'm like wait a second.  
31 Those minerals are on our land and what gives you the  
32 right to say you want some of our money. We're the  
33 ones having a tougher time out here than you guys. But  
34 anything to be able to create jobs in a safe manner and  
35 provide safe migration for our subsistence resources  
36 and provide less stress on the species that are having  
37 a hard time already.

38

39 I think that wolf thing -- you know,  
40 that's got to happen. There's starting to be more  
41 wolves. I've trapped in this Kiana area and Upper  
42 Kobuk. I've seen wolves like right around the bend  
43 from Kiana. I've shot a couple wolves right by the  
44 airport quite a few years ago. They're right around  
45 town and at night time people just don't really see  
46 them. I've shot a wolf right around the bend in  
47 Noorvik, right upriver, when they detoured the trail  
48 from the portage to around that one bend. After I shot  
49 that wolf, as I'm sitting there gutting it, here comes  
50 a bunch of kids on cross-country skis right around the

1 corner. There's got to be some kind of control for  
2 these animals.

3

4 I hope that -- you know, I see these  
5 two proposals, the one on the bears and then the one on  
6 the wolves, I see these two proposals as a temporary  
7 fix. Let's try to see how much of an impact we make on  
8 the population to be able to balance them and then  
9 let's go ahead and see whether we need to pull it or  
10 continue it. I mean make it on a yearly basis, bi-  
11 yearly basis, whatever we need to do to be able to make  
12 that balance and make it easier on those subsistence  
13 species. You know, to be able to baby the subsistence  
14 species of animals that we eat and we survive on,  
15 especially the caribou, the moose, the sheep and  
16 muskox.

17

18 We've got to try and make it a little  
19 easier on them. I know the climate is harsh on them,  
20 but if we make it that much easier for them to be able  
21 to produce safely and to be able to bring their  
22 populations back up to a good population to where we  
23 could begin to start harvesting them again, I think we  
24 will really open our eyes to see how much easier, when  
25 we work together, we can make life so much easier for  
26 the people in the region.

27

28 That's all I have to say, Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

31

32 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

35

36 MR. BALLOT: I just want to say I'm  
37 going to support this proposal. The only thing I will  
38 not support in this proposal is open up aerial hunting  
39 of wolves in our area. If it's adjusted to where the  
40 sheep is, it's fine with me. Just for the record.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hear you, Percy.

43 Go ahead, Verne.

44

45 MR. CLEVELAND: What about Red Dog?  
46 You guys didn't mention anything about Red Dog. I  
47 brought this up and the president was there. During  
48 caribou migration not to have drilling or blasting  
49 during caribou migration and I have yet to hear from  
50 him. During the migration of caribou not to drill or

1 blast when caribou are migrating by Red Dog.

2

3                   Maybe that's why they're not going near  
4 Noatak because we had a lot of problems from Noatak  
5 complaining about it. That should be part of the  
6 proposal, the drilling and blasting and the caribou are  
7 being pushed the other way up north. We'll see what  
8 comes out on this.

9

10                   Thank you.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.

13

14                   Hannah, you had your hand up?

15

16                   MS. LOON: No.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No. Okay. Go ahead,  
19 Mike. Back to Mike.

20

21                   MR. KRAMER: Just to clear it up for  
22 Percy, you know, it would just be a land and shoot, not  
23 aerial wolf hunting. The land and shoot for local area  
24 residents only. Pilots within this Game Management  
25 Unit only, not outside aircraft. You know, that don't  
26 mean some transporter from down south in Southeast can  
27 come up here and say he's a resident just because he's  
28 got a P.O. Box in Kotzebue. That don't mean jack. But  
29 for the people who reside within the Game Management  
30 Unit 23 and who has an aircraft can land and shoot  
31 these animals.

32

33                   The reason why I'm saying that is that  
34 way we at least have somewhat -- if the local people  
35 within the community aren't taking enough wolves, then  
36 maybe this will balance a little more. Let's just say  
37 we have 200 in the Kobuk and 200 in the Noatak. That's  
38 400 wolves that could possibly help the balance of our  
39 subsistence species. Either we could all get together  
40 and create limits or just do a bi-yearly thing to where  
41 we see if we're making a fluctuation within the wolf  
42 population.

43

44                   As for the bears, I know a lot of  
45 communities are having problems with bears. You  
46 community members have hunters within your community.  
47 I've mentioned this many times. If you have problems  
48 with bears, if you've got 20 guys within your community  
49 that's got a hunting license, shoot that bear. That  
50 way you don't have to fill out 500 pages and you don't

1 have to have a Fish and Wildlife or a Park Service  
2 ranger come and visit you and interrogate you for six  
3 hours as to why you shot that bear. Instead you could  
4 just skin it, bring the skull and hide over, have it  
5 sealed.

6  
7 You could do whatever you want with the  
8 skull. You could use it for your net anchor, a rug,  
9 you could put it in front of your porch door and use it  
10 for whatever you want. You could use it as a doormat  
11 if you want to. At least that way if you're using it  
12 under a sport ticket then that way you don't have to  
13 necessarily fill out all that unnecessary paperwork and  
14 then have a Fish and Wildlife officer come out and  
15 visit you as to why you shot that bear within the  
16 community or at your camp. At least that way you're  
17 doing some control and you're doing it legally.

18  
19 That's all I have.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.

22  
23 Go ahead, Percy.

24  
25 MR. BALLOT: Thank you, Mike. I'm glad  
26 you clarified land and shoot, which is fine. As long  
27 as -- like I say, we have a lot of hunters in Buckland  
28 and we have a lot of good hunters in Buckland and  
29 they're out every day. So I just don't want to see  
30 the land and shoot in the Buckland area. As long as  
31 it's by where the affected sheep or whatever the unit  
32 is, it's around there.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
35 Anyone else on this subject.

36  
37 MS. BURKE: One more.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

40  
41 MR. MITCHELL: A few proposals. We all  
42 know that the caribou is declining pretty quick. I  
43 believe we've got to start doing something now before  
44 they really deplete. One proposal I wanted to try is  
45 space the sport hunters at least 10 miles apart to  
46 where the caribou could move and cross and freedom of  
47 movement to where they can cross closer to the village.

48  
49 Number two is limit or eliminate the  
50 transporters and go with the guided hunts. I used to

1 be a guide back in the '80s and we always watched what  
2 they shoot and watched their meat and see that  
3 everything is fine. But with transporters nobody is  
4 watching them, nobody telling them what to get.  
5 They're not watching their meat, they're leaving their  
6 trash in camp. They're bunching up the corridors too  
7 much to where caribou have to divert to different  
8 migration nowadays and it's making it hard for the  
9 village of Noatak because they have to go way up river  
10 nowadays to get caribou.

11  
12 Another proposal is to let at least  
13 1,000 caribou pass before any sport hunters come into  
14 our villages. That way our local hunters could have a  
15 chance to get their winter catch before any sport  
16 hunters come in and that will work pretty good. I mean  
17 sport hunters just want the horns and we want the meat.  
18 We want to get the meat while it's good. They can get  
19 the horns any time they want them.

20  
21 Another thing is no camping on the  
22 migration route or the corridors to where the migration  
23 route goes to. There's a corridor up the Agi where a  
24 lot of caribou cross and that corridor is not too wide  
25 and a lot of transporters transport hunters in there  
26 and it's too shallow to go with boats to go up hunt  
27 that way, but it's on the migration route to where the  
28 caribou is coming from Kiana to Noatak. When the  
29 caribou goes way up, cross way upriver, it's cost  
30 effective for the village. Not everybody goes way up  
31 because you need about 70 gallons of gas, something  
32 like that, two drums of gas to go up there and that's  
33 very cost-effective for a lot of people at home, so I  
34 believe that should be considered.

35  
36 That's about it for that.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch. I  
39 think we'll wrap this up and break for lunch. Before  
40 we break for lunch, what you're going to eat is donated  
41 by Wilbur ad Barbara, the turkey, the stuffing and  
42 stuff. So she done a good job plucking it.

43  
44 (Laughter)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I never seen a Native  
47 pluck it that clean before. Did a good job. No wonder  
48 Wilbur is happy. I would say thank you, Barbara and  
49 Wilbur, for the donation of the turkey. They thought  
50 maybe we get tired of caribou, so they donated the

1 turkey, so thank you. I'll thank the cook for now.  
2 I'm going to ask Hannah to bless the food so we could  
3 eat.

4  
5 (Off record)

6  
7 (On record)

8  
9 MS. BURKE: Folks, if we could take our  
10 seats here in the room. We're going to get started in  
11 just about 30 seconds, but first I'd like to check in  
12 on the telephone line. I also just wanted to remind  
13 folks if you have something to say on the telephone,  
14 we'd like to treat you as if you're here in the room,  
15 so don't be afraid to speak up. If you've got some  
16 information to provide or anything like that.

17  
18 Do we have anybody brand new who has  
19 joined us this afternoon?

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 MS. BURKE: Is anyone there? Chris,  
24 Ken, Dan.

25  
26 MR. MCKEE: This is Chris. I'm here.

27  
28 MS. BURKE: Okay, you guys are there.  
29 Good, good. I just wanted to make sure we were still  
30 connected. So we're still following the agenda. We're  
31 under agency reports. Next up we've got Mr. Gene  
32 Peltola from OSM with some staffing and office updates.  
33 After that we're going to proceed as you see the  
34 agenda.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Gene, you have  
39 the floor.

40  
41 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, members of  
42 Regional Advisory Council. Thank you for your time.  
43 My name is Gene Peltola, Jr. I'm the Assistant Regional  
44 Director for the Office of Subsistence Management.  
45 I've been in the position about 14 months. Prior to  
46 that I was the Refuge Manager of Yukon Delta and way  
47 before that I was a biologist/pilot at the Selawik  
48 Refuge. I think I moved up to Kotzebue the winter of  
49 '90-'91. I was supposed to be up here for one to three  
50 months. I think I stayed almost 9 years the first time

1 in Kotzebue and then I came up a couple years later.  
2 My first Refuge Manager job was Selawik Refuge. I was  
3 there about two and a half years before I moved into  
4 the Fairbanks office years ago.

5  
6 I appreciate all your time. There's a  
7 couple things I wanted to talk about. One, I want to  
8 talk about staffing at OSM and that's kind of related  
9 to the budget. In the last couple years within the  
10 Federal government it's been very challenging with  
11 regard to sequestration and budget cuts. One of the  
12 effects it had on the Subsistence Program is that we've  
13 had anywhere from 10 to 14 vacancies throughout the  
14 last couple years. Hopefully the worst is behind us.  
15 The year before last was the strongest hit to the  
16 Federal program where we took over a half a million  
17 dollar hit to the budget.

18  
19 We've been slowly filling some  
20 positions. One thing that I would like to say is at  
21 OSM you have a very dedicated, loyal Staff that have  
22 been doing an exceptional job for the last year.  
23 They're very passionate about what they do and very  
24 professional about it. It shows when I came in and  
25 observed the program.

26  
27 So far in the last year or so we hired  
28 Deborah Coble as our subsistence outreach coordinator.  
29 That position is responsible for putting the reg books  
30 together, the handbooks for the RAC meetings and also  
31 helps with the web page. She came to us from the  
32 Department of Defense where she worked for them in  
33 Delta Junction.

34  
35 We had Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle, the former  
36 Deputy Assistant Regional Director. She retired this  
37 past winter. I think it was early January of this  
38 year. And then we chose Chuck Ardizzone, our former  
39 supervisory wildlife biologist, to fill her position as  
40 the deputy. Pamela Raygor was hired as our lead admin  
41 person with regard to the program. That position  
42 assists myself and the deputy.

43  
44 Glenn Westdahl transitioned from being  
45 in a general admin position into Council Coordination  
46 Division, so we have someone specifically dedicated to  
47 travel and administrative duties for the Council  
48 Coordination Division. He really was key and  
49 instrumental in catching us up with regards to the  
50 backlog of travel vouchers and such, so we make sure

1 that everybody's travel checks are on time for the  
2 meetings and everything is caught up.

3

4 In addition, we hired Stewart Cogswell  
5 as our new supervisory fisheries biologist. That  
6 position was held vacant for almost two years. Stewart  
7 comes to us from the midwest, specifically Wisconsin,  
8 where he worked extensively with a lot of tribes in  
9 that area. He was involved in the Great Lakes Tribal  
10 Commission and also the Lake Michigan Tribal Commission  
11 as the technical committee lead. He is a 20-year Fish  
12 and Wildlife Service employee and happens to be  
13 Menominee Indian.

14

15 Chris McKee, who is online now, we  
16 selected as our Wildlife Division Chief when Chuck  
17 moved on up to the deputy position. Prior to that  
18 Chris was with OSM for three years as the staff  
19 biologist. Also, some of you may have known Alex Nick,  
20 he's the coordinator for the Y-K Delta. He retired this  
21 past July after a 21-year career with the Fish and  
22 Wildlife Service, of which 13 were with OSM.

23

24 I was talking to Carl earlier and we  
25 finally received the last certificate, which we'll be  
26 hiring two new Council coordinators from. One will be  
27 just doing Council coordination and another will take  
28 care of one Regional Advisory Council in addition to  
29 FACA, Federal Advisory Committee Act, requirements for  
30 the coordinators. We hired an additional staff  
31 anthropologist, that's Robbin LaVine, who came to us  
32 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Subsistence  
33 Division.

34

35 When I came to the program a little  
36 over a year ago we only had one social scientist and  
37 one anthropologist. A lot of what we do, we really  
38 don't manage fish or wildlife, we manage people and  
39 allocation and you can't really do that without the  
40 human element to it. Because we recognize that, we've  
41 been really working on building up that program to what  
42 it was years ago. Along those lines we're in the  
43 process of recruiting for a new anthropology chief. We  
44 should have a certificate for that to fill that  
45 position when we get back.

46

47 One recent departure, David Jenkins,  
48 who was the subsistence policy coordinator. He  
49 recently accepted a position as a district supervisor  
50 with the U.S. Forest Service in Wisconsin, so we've

1 applied for a waiver to fill behind him.

2

3                   Earlier I mentioned sequestration. One  
4 of the products of that budget-cutting exercise that  
5 any time we had vacancies within the Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service we had to put in a waiver request to fill a  
7 position, which means in Alaska we had to have the  
8 request signed off by our Regional Director and then  
9 from there it went down to D.C. where the Deputy  
10 Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service had to give  
11 us approval to fill positions. At times there were  
12 positions where the Fish and Wildlife Service couldn't  
13 backfill. Other times they approved it. It's been a  
14 challenging process the last couple years. But, like I  
15 said, there's been a lot more support to fill vacancies  
16 lately.

17

18                   Now this is general discussion about  
19 the budget. As I mentioned, sequestration hit the  
20 program very hard over the last couple years. We're  
21 probably at the level hopefully where it's bottomed  
22 out. One of the things we've seen is that we had --  
23 like I mentioned, we carried 10 to 14 vacancies over  
24 the last year or two. One of those reasons, as far as  
25 I could tell, is that because the Program, I believe,  
26 did not want to minimize the amount of outflow or the  
27 money we provide to support to the various programs  
28 within the Federal subsistence realm, so we left a lot  
29 of those positions vacant.

30

31                   Because when I came in and observed  
32 Staff, they were basically overworked. We didn't have  
33 enough people on board to accomplish the task. I think  
34 some of you may have noticed the effects. Not by the  
35 lack of effort by the people working, but because they  
36 were overworked. We didn't have enough people. So  
37 somewhere along the line we had to make a decision.  
38 Keep the staffing levels low, continue to give out the  
39 same amount of money outside the program to support the  
40 surveys and projects. As the ARD, I made the decision  
41 that the course round was not sustainable.

42

43                   Like I said, we had a very dedicated  
44 Staff. They worked their hineys off and did a great  
45 job, but also some people were doing the job of -- not  
46 only their own job, but sometimes two or three  
47 positions. So we're backfilling behind those trying  
48 to alleviate some of the pressure. And we're not  
49 getting any new money. One of the consequences is that  
50 in the future we may be divvying out less program money

1 in support, whether it be a fisheries project or a  
2 wildlife project, somewhere along the line in order to  
3 maintain the level of quality that the Federal  
4 Subsistence Program, the Regional Advisory Councils  
5 demand.

6

7                   So where does the majority of OSM  
8 budget come from. Basically we're funded, about 80  
9 percent of our money, through a fisheries fund out of  
10 our headquarters office. A large portion of that comes  
11 through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,  
12 where we divvy out over almost \$5 million per year.  
13 That's probably where we'll see some reduction in the  
14 future. Significant? Probably not, but probably some  
15 in order to fund some positions.

16

17                   In addition to -- one of the things I  
18 experienced as being a Refuge Manager is that I saw  
19 some areas with regard to that program where there  
20 could be some improvement. As the new ARD for OSM, I  
21 didn't want to come in and automatically change things.  
22 So we did a little reshuffling within the program and  
23 one of the things I've asked our Fisheries Division is  
24 take a look at the FRMP project and see if we can tweak  
25 it a little bit, change it a little bit, restructure it  
26 a little bit such that it's more transparent and  
27 there's more equity in regard to how we rank the  
28 proposals and how we divvy out the funding. So that's  
29 something we'll probably look into the next three to  
30 six months.

31

32                   In addition to that, at our last  
33 regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Federal  
34 Subsistence Board asked OSM to do a strategic plan with  
35 regard to the program. So we'll be going down the road  
36 on that also.

37

38                   So that's just a quick rundown of the  
39 budget. No specifics. Just general trends on how  
40 we're going to go and I wanted to give you an idea of  
41 the positions that we had vacant that we're trying to  
42 fill and I could try to address any general questions  
43 if you had them.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thanks, Gene.  
46 Anyone have a question for Gene on the report he just  
47 gave. Go ahead, Percy.

48

49                   MR. BALLOT: When you say you're going  
50 to look at how you're going to do the FRMP, what are

1 you looking at, downsizing? And coordinators, we don't  
2 want anybody brand new. We want to keep her.

3

4 MR. PELTOLA: Well, I'll answer the  
5 last comment first. I've heard that quite a bit. With  
6 regard to FRMP, there have been some concerns on the  
7 Technical Review Committee, the composition of it. We  
8 want to make it more fair and equitable. Right now we  
9 have numerous people on there. We have a  
10 representative from the Fish and Wildlife Service, the  
11 Park Service, BLM, Forest Service and all the Federal  
12 programs and we have someone from Alaska Department of  
13 Fish and Game, Comm Fish, Subsistence Division and then  
14 Sport Fish Division. They rank out the proposals. So  
15 we're going to look and see if that's a proper mix.

16

17 We've had some concerns expressed by  
18 people that the majority of the funding coming out of  
19 that program go to either State or Federal agencies and  
20 not anywhere else. An example, two cycles ago so to  
21 speak, when we gave out funding through that program a  
22 lot of the money went to the Department, a lot of the  
23 money went to the Federal programs and the lesser to  
24 say natural resources department like within TCC,  
25 Maniilaq or AVCP, so to speak. Last year we're closer  
26 to kind of a third, third, third split.

27

28 Is that a specific goal? One of the  
29 goals is to help build capacity and we have another  
30 program for that, also the Partners. We're also  
31 renewing a strategic plan with regard to that. As the  
32 projects have come into play, there has been a natural  
33 tendency to get a more equitable split across the  
34 board. We don't necessarily have in writing that a  
35 third will go to the Department, a third will go to  
36 Federal programs and such, but it's kind of turned out  
37 that way. That's one of the concerns we've heard  
38 especially from Alaska Native organizations.

39

40 So there's several factors along those  
41 lines. Right now the TRC makes the recommendation to  
42 fund or not fund a position. There's been an opinion  
43 that suggested the TRC should rank a proposal high/low,  
44 give it a numerical score or such. So those are  
45 several factors and areas we're looking at.

46

47 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair, can I follow  
48 up?

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

1 MR. BALLOT: The Borough has one point  
2 something or \$2 million to do research now. We were  
3 talking about partnerships yesterday. I think it would  
4 be good to kind of get a feel or know what they're  
5 doing because I think they do research or can do  
6 research on State land, Federal lands. There's a  
7 chance of getting more bang for the buck or a  
8 partnership somewhere in some of those activities that  
9 we track.

10

11 MR. PELTOLA: And that's been a key --  
12 Karen mentioned earlier when she was talking about we  
13 like to be able to leverage our money, we like to have  
14 partnerships and new proposals that bring the  
15 Department and the Federal agency and non-Fed agency  
16 together for a common goal. Those are looked favorably  
17 upon.

18

19 MR. BALLOT: (Nods affirmatively)

20

21 MR. PELTOLA: We're just trying to make sure that --  
22 and, honestly, there's probably been projects that the  
23 FRMP has funded over the years that have been very well  
24 written proposals, very well executed project, but may  
25 not necessarily have happened to address a specific  
26 subsistence management need at the time. So we want to  
27 review the program and make sure that potentially if we  
28 go through another round of reduced budgets within the  
29 Federal program that we are making sure we get the most  
30 bang for our buck, that we are addressing subsistence  
31 concerns.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Gene.  
34 Thanks, Percy. Anyone else have a question for Gene.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, if I may.  
39 There's one other topic I'd like to approach. It's  
40 kind of related to the budget and that's meeting  
41 locations for the RACs. Right now the only  
42 pre-approved meeting locations are the regional hubs.  
43 That is based on economics. What we've done in the  
44 last year or so we've compared the cost/benefit  
45 analysis, for example meeting in Kiana versus Kotzebue.  
46 If we could show that we could meet somewhere else  
47 along the same lines or a similar cost, not  
48 significantly more, then we'll meet in the smaller  
49 locations. That has been the common theme that I've  
50 heard over the years.

1                   Within the last year or so the RACs  
2 want to meet outside the hubs in more rural locations,  
3 which we are very sensitive to and we'll try to  
4 accommodate, but we may not be able to do it for every  
5 meeting or every year because of the budgetary concern.  
6 You know, some RACs are more expensive for us to pull  
7 off meetings, somewhere around the \$30-40,000 range.  
8 Some are more inexpensive where it may be \$10-15,000 to  
9 pull off a meeting.

10  
11                   The process we have in place right now,  
12 like I mentioned, we only have our hubs as pre-approved  
13 locations. If there's a request from the RAC to meet  
14 in an alternate location or a different setting, then  
15 the coordinators write up a proposal and do a cost  
16 analysis. So if it comes out to be fairly close to  
17 what it would be meeting in the hub or maybe just a  
18 tiny bit more, then usually we approve those.

19  
20                   We're trying to be sensitive to the  
21 desire to meet in a more isolated or rural locations,  
22 but I just want to tell you that we re aware of it, but  
23 we may not be able to accommodate all requests for  
24 every meeting every year.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
27 Hannah.

28  
29                   MS. LOON: Thank you. I would like to  
30 thank the Fish and Wildlife for sponsoring the Selawik  
31 Science Camp over the years and we've been very  
32 fortunate to partner with you and the school district  
33 and the IRA of Selawik. This summer we feel the pinch  
34 of the Federal sequestration. Although it could be  
35 positive so that we could start working with school and  
36 IRA and the community working together to bring the  
37 teachers and students out into the field.

38  
39                   Are you going to continue funding the  
40 education part of Selawik Fish and Wildlife? Because  
41 we've been also enjoying berry picking times with  
42 elders and mothers with their children and some bird  
43 watching because Selawik has lots of birds close by.

44  
45                   Thank you.

46  
47                   MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. I think the  
48 Selawik Refuge staff are planning on continuing the  
49 effort for the science camp. There are a couple  
50 members here from the Refuge. When I was here years

1 ago with the Refuge it was something the Refuge  
2 participated in then also and it's been continuing on  
3 for years. Those particular types of projects within  
4 the Fish and Wildlife Service have been funded through  
5 different types of funding sources over the years.

6  
7                   Years ago we used to have the Challenge  
8 Cost Share Program, which, like when I was the manager,  
9 we utilized to help fund the science camps. Then, you  
10 know, part of the funding that we receive at OSM we try  
11 to get TEK, traditional ecological knowledge. A lot of  
12 the money we receive we have to spend in a certain  
13 capacity. If we have the funding, we could try to  
14 continue to fund projects such as the science camp here  
15 on Selawik Refuge.

16  
17                   Like I mentioned, the majority of the  
18 funding we receive for the Federal Program is from the  
19 fisheries realm, so that's the majority of the money we  
20 will divvy out in this coming year and the years to  
21 come. We have a lesser amount of money that comes in  
22 towards the wildlife end. So we have to look at our  
23 funding every given year. Usually we have a good idea  
24 about nine, ten months out, a general idea of what we  
25 get, then we look at our priorities.

26  
27                   Can I make a specific commitment that  
28 we'll continue to fund the Selawik Science Camp through  
29 subsistence funding? I'm sorry, but I can't do that.  
30 What I can tell you is that we will take it very  
31 seriously and if we can accommodate projects such as  
32 that and also meet our management needs elsewhere is  
33 something we'll consider in the future.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Well  
36 explained, Gene. We really appreciate it because we  
37 know everybody getting pinched by the budget cuts.  
38 You're not the only one, but we still feel it. We  
39 still would like to see studies done for our area when  
40 they reduce -- like you hear us talking about the  
41 sheep, when it happened too late and we don't like to  
42 see it happen. We like to see it well ahead when we  
43 have issues and concerns. We would like you guys to  
44 try to address it earlier.

45  
46                   I will support again if we have another  
47 meeting in one of the villages because we are the eyes  
48 and ears of our resources and we know because we live  
49 here and we live off it. When there's a reduction,  
50 we'll know. Well explained.

1                   Anyone else. Go ahead, Percy.

2

3                   MR. BALLOT: I just wanted to follow up  
4 on his comments and encourage our board here, the  
5 committee advisory group here, that Buckland is a good  
6 place to go to next time. We're the wintering grounds  
7 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and there's going to  
8 be conflicts pretty soon. You all know that we're  
9 declining, so we're going to see a lot of activity in  
10 Buckland. It's a good time and a good place to discuss  
11 in the future hopefully that you're invited.

12

13                   MR PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. One thing I'd  
14 like to point out is that OSM, through the various  
15 programs, we usually fund projects that are normally  
16 not able to be funded by the conservation unit, but, on  
17 the other hand, is that each of the conservation units  
18 within the Federal Program usually have as part of  
19 their base budget to address biological issues. I know  
20 that in the Northwest RAC here and elsewhere throughout  
21 the state there's been communication and dialogue, but  
22 I just wanted to point out that like the Park Service,  
23 the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuges, the Parks,  
24 the Monuments, the BLM, they have a portion of their  
25 budget to address biological issues.

26

27                   That's one area that can be utilized  
28 outside of the larger research projects funded by OSM,  
29 which can be utilized to conduct and have been utilized  
30 over the years to conduct those surveys on a regular  
31 basis to get you the information that you need to help  
32 make decisions.

33

34                   There's one other thing. We have a  
35 Draft Tribal Consultation Implementation Guideline that  
36 we've been utilizing and working with a working group  
37 in order to present to the Federal Subsistence Board.  
38 We've made a lot of leeway in that in the last year.  
39 We're continuing to work with this working group in  
40 making a final recommendation to the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board. We're probably about a month or two  
42 away before finalizing something and presenting it to  
43 the Board for their winter meeting.

44

45                   Thank you.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. If  
48 there's no more questions, I'll turn it over to  
49 Melinda.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think you had  
4 someone else. You're done, Gene?

5

6 MR. PELTOLA: Yes. Thank you.  
7 Appreciate the time.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yep.

10

11 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think  
12 we're going to try to squeeze in just a couple more of  
13 these agency reports before we get to Jim's  
14 presentation. I think there might be a few more  
15 community members joining us as well, so let's go ahead  
16 and move on down the agenda with the Selawik Refuge  
17 update and then we'll fit in the Park Service as well  
18 if that's okay with the Council.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. You have  
21 the floor.

22

23 MS. MORAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 Council members. My name is Tina Moran. I'm the  
25 deputy manager of the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge  
26 based in Kotzebue. Susan and I will give our report  
27 for this year. First I'll talk about and kind of  
28 address some of the transporter and guide issues on the  
29 Refuge this year. By the winter meeting we'll give you  
30 the numbers, the harvested numbers and the transporter  
31 reports then.

32

33 For now, for this fall, we had one  
34 guide, Joe Schuster with Sportsman's Air Service, and  
35 then we had four transporters. Three of them are based  
36 in Kotzebue and as far as I know right now only two or  
37 three of them did work on the Refuge this hunting  
38 season. But, like I said, I'll give you numbers in the  
39 winter.

40

41 We didn't have any major complaints  
42 this year. We were able to address a couple issues  
43 that were reported to us pretty quick. We had Rob Barto  
44 detailed from the Kenai Refuge as our law enforcement  
45 officer for about a week. So he did some boat patrols  
46 and some air patrols and didn't see anything of major  
47 issue. He contacted some folks and checked licenses  
48 and things like that and talked to people on the river.

49

50 Susan was able to get a report from

1 Selawik of a possible violation, but we were able to  
2 get good pictures and everything really quick to Justin  
3 McGinnis with the State Troopers and so we were able to  
4 determine that there wasn't a major issue, but we were  
5 able to follow up on that so we could confirm that.

6  
7 I also got a couple calls from Kiana,  
8 kind of the issues that were brought up earlier  
9 yesterday about some of the boating issues and going  
10 after caribou before they crossed the river and I also  
11 passed that on to Justin as quickly as I could. We're  
12 strapped with so little law enforcement effort with so  
13 few people up here, but it's really important for  
14 people to contact us as quickly as possible. It's been  
15 very helpful for folks to give detailed information on  
16 boats and planes. It's really helped us to try to  
17 address some of these concerns pretty quickly. So I  
18 appreciate everybody's help in getting that information  
19 to us as quickly as possible.

20  
21 So far, as I said, it's been a pretty  
22 good year on the Refuge. Again, the caribou have been  
23 late, so I'm not sure if any of the outside hunters  
24 have actually gotten caribou on the Refuge. I'll pass  
25 it on to Susan to give a little bit of our projects  
26 that have been done.

27  
28 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you. My name is  
29 Susan Georgette and I just had a few things I wanted to  
30 mention. First of all, as Hannah said, I think this is  
31 the 12th consecutive year we've done the Selawik  
32 Science Culture Camp and it's really the village's  
33 credit to pull it off year after year like that. It's  
34 a lot of work. There's been a lot of community members  
35 involved as organizers, boat driver, cooks and we take  
36 out the whole school over a two week period. It's  
37 really a wonderful experience and I really appreciate  
38 what the village and the school do to help that.

39  
40 We also have done some outdoor  
41 activities with youth in the summer and we help fund  
42 the gas mainly and then we have volunteer drivers and  
43 we take kids fishing or berry picking. We had a picnic  
44 one day in July and honestly there were 150 people from  
45 the village that went to that and it was a great time.  
46 People had a wonderful time.

47  
48 Noorvik Council invited us to  
49 participate in one of their salmon seining outings with  
50 the youth and my co-worker Brittany and I went on that

1 and that was really wonderful too. So it's really cool  
2 to see the communities doing activities with the youth.  
3 We help out with gas and whatever else we can do.

4

5 I want to say quickly that there's a  
6 sheefish project, our continuing sheefish project on  
7 the Selawik River. They have a sonar up on the river  
8 where the river is fairly narrow and they do it until  
9 there's too much ice. Last year, because it got cold  
10 and then it warmed up again, they were able to be out  
11 there doing the whole sheefish run back downriver.  
12 They counted 25,000 spawning sheefish that were going  
13 back downriver. This is just on the Selawik. Like  
14 elders say, the sheefish go down really fast. They  
15 travel almost always at night. They almost all went by  
16 at night. And I think 16,000 of them went by in three  
17 days. So you can just kind of picture that on the  
18 Selawik River. It's kind of impressive.

19

20 How many more years is that project?

21

22 MS. MORAN: It's going to go, I think,  
23 two or three more.

24

25 MS. GEORGETTE: A couple more years.  
26 So it's in relationship to that mudslide that was on  
27 the Selawik. Finally, I want to talk quickly about a  
28 new proposed rule that Fish and Wildlife Service is  
29 considering. This is really new to us, so I'm not sure  
30 we can answer all the questions. It's controversial  
31 with a lot of people.

32

33 The Selawik Refuge is part of a network  
34 of 500 refuges across the country and the mission of  
35 the wildlife refuges is to conserve wildlife in its  
36 natural diversity. The Fish and Wildlife Service feels  
37 that predator reduction activities are in conflict with  
38 the mission of letting nature be in its natural state,  
39 I guess, or natural diversity or going as nature goes.

40

41 So the proposal is to prohibit predator  
42 reduction activities on Refuge lands in Alaska.  
43 There's a few other specific things. These are for the  
44 non-subsistence hunting. There's things like  
45 prohibiting taking brown bears over bait, prohibiting  
46 taking of wolves during the denning season, prohibiting  
47 taking bear cubs or sows with cubs. So this is in the  
48 very early stages and we've sent out letters to tribes  
49 in our region asking if anyone would like government-  
50 to-government consultations about this.

1                   So this is in the very early stage.  
2 It's not public comment yet. There's not even  
3 specifics about exactly what the language would be, but  
4 I encourage any of you that are involved with your  
5 tribal councils or have concerns about this that this  
6 is the time to speak up about it. You can either meet  
7 with our staff or there's going to be two  
8 teleconferences with our Regional Director in November  
9 that you're welcome to participate in.

10

11                   I have a little fact sheet here I can  
12 pass around. I just wanted to make sure everyone knew  
13 and for those of you on the Council you may have seen  
14 this letter.

15

16                   That's all I have.

17

18                   Thank you.

19

20                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Susan.

21

22                   Go ahead, Tina.

23

24                   MS. MORAN: And then also for the  
25 government-to-government I think November 21st is kind  
26 of the deadline that they've kind of set forth for  
27 that. So if anybody wants, you know, the Refuge folks  
28 to come and talk to you, just let us know before then.  
29 Then like she said, there are going to be two  
30 teleconferences. There's going to be that public  
31 comment period, which will be January through March.  
32 So there will be a couple opportunities to comment on  
33 this.

34

35                   Is there any questions on this for now.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

38

39                   MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. So  
40 really just these certain methods that you're talking  
41 about, there's no other methods, just these ones you're  
42 talking about?

43

44                   MS. GEORGETTE: That's right.

45

46                   MR. BALLOT: So I don't see we have any  
47 problems We don't do this anyway, I don't think. I've  
48 never seen anyone do what I see in here.

49

50                   MS. GEORGETTE: Well, that was -- I

1 thought that a little bit. Right now those are all not  
2 legal in our unit anyway. It's not as if it's changing  
3 anything that is currently the situation as far as I  
4 know.

5

6 MR. BALLOT: So our concern now -- I  
7 mentioned earlier the last few days that we're  
8 considering, our tribe, is to offer a bounty on wolf.  
9 Is that kind of a method that might be of concern?

10

11 MS. MORAN: That could possibly, but  
12 these are based on the Federal land, so this would be  
13 just on the Refuge land. This is basically telling how  
14 we're going to be managing our Refuge lands and Park  
15 Service will be talking about theirs. But this is  
16 specific to the Refuge lands.

17

18 MR. BALLOT: Now the wolves will all be  
19 on Federal lands.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think you should  
24 just mention you're talking about Selawik Wildlife  
25 Refuge instead of just.....

26

27 MS. MORAN: This will be Selawik and  
28 also the other Refuges in Alaska.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,  
31 Hannah.

32

33 MS. LOON: Thank you. I didn't hear  
34 you. Did you say we are prohibited from taking  
35 sleeping bear?

36

37 MS. GEORGETTE: No, it's female bears  
38 with cubs or cubs or taking grizzly bears with bait or  
39 using traps or snares for bears.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Verne.

42

43 MR. CLEVELAND: And you're saying we  
44 can't hunt bear like bear bating? Is that what you're  
45 saying? Like put bait and hunt bears?

46

47 MS. GEORGETTE: As far as I understand  
48 it and Jim might -- we don't have bear baiting right  
49 now, meaning that you actually.....

50

1 MR. CLEVELAND: I think you're wrong.  
2 It's happening, bear baiting. I mean bait and hunt  
3 bears. It's happening.

4  
5 MS. GEORGETTE: Jim, do you want --  
6 yeah, I guess -- I mean I think -- well, I don't know  
7 all the details about bear baiting. As I understood it,  
8 it's not -- I mean I don't think it's legal right now  
9 for grizzly bears to put out bait stations.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I hear you,  
12 Jim. We know it's illegal to have bear baiting, you  
13 know. You see it happening. I don't know where Verne  
14 is going. I would like to stay away from that bear  
15 baiting right now because we've got so many bears.  
16 Like I always say, we've got so many bears, just shoot  
17 them and don't say nothing. There's so much now, I  
18 don't want to see students get hurt, especially around  
19 the school and around the villages, you know.

20  
21 I know where you're coming from, Verne.  
22 And I know where you're coming from, Jim. I see you  
23 nodding. I was trying to just look at you and -- you  
24 know, these are sport hunting.....

25  
26 MS. GEORGETTE: That's right.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: .....regulation.  
29 It's not us subsistence. I know where you're coming  
30 from, Verne, but that's the way it's written right now.

31  
32 Go ahead, Tina.

33  
34 MS. MORAN: Yeah, basically it's not  
35 discouraging bear hunting and wolf hunting. It's just  
36 under our Federal mandate we're supposed to manage for  
37 diversity. What they're saying is we're not going to  
38 manage predators to the point that we're going to pick  
39 one over the other. We're not going to reduce  
40 predators to increase another species for human  
41 consumption, but that is not saying that you can't hunt  
42 bears and hunt wolves. We are not saying that at all  
43 and it doesn't touch the subsistence regulations. This  
44 is only for the sport hunting.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You should have  
47 mentioned for layman's terms that this is being done in  
48 other areas for sport hunting that were using baiting.  
49 If you mentioned that, it would ease our minds a little  
50 bit because, you know, being Native, I m trying to

1 translate it for the people and that's just the way I  
2 hear you and I know other areas do use baiting. We  
3 have our regulation and if you see it in our books how  
4 we do things, you know, don't confuse us by adding or  
5 mentioning.

6

7 I'm just trying to be careful too.  
8 Just to say -- because I don't want to see my people  
9 get cited for anything like that. Most of the times  
10 when we get bear now it's just to protect, except for  
11 black bear now. We really like to eat because they  
12 live on mostly plants and berries because bears are  
13 bears. What they eat is what they are, especially at  
14 the coastal.

15

16 Okay. Anyone else. Go ahead, Verne.

17

18 MR. CLEVELAND: So what you're saying  
19 is we should all be arrested for bear baiting because  
20 we've hauled the caribou heads up there and then hunt  
21 bear at night, right? Is that what it's all about? I  
22 mean we get caribou out there and we just leave the  
23 head and come back at night with a spotlight. Is that  
24 bear bait hunting?

25

26 MS. GEORGETTE: No. I think bear  
27 baiting means putting out  
28 doughnuts for them and things.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MS. GEORGETTE: I don't know the answer  
33 really, Verne, but there's very specific things, like  
34 Attamuk is saying, about what bear baiting is in other  
35 parts of Alaska. And this, like Tina said, pertains to  
36 sport hunting on Refuge lands, so it doesn't relate to  
37 subsistence hunting.

38

39 MS. MORAN: For the non-local.

40

41 MS. GEORGETTE: Yes, for non-local  
42 hunting on the Refuge.

43

44 MR. CLEVELAND: Okay. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Raymond, make  
47 it short and sweet. I don't want to get into that  
48 subject. I'm kind of scared for other people because  
49 really it pertains to people out of our region. Go  
50 ahead, Raymond.

1 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 I have a very simple question. I suppose you have law  
3 enforcement and wildlife officers, right?

4  
5 MS. MORAN: We have a law enforcement  
6 program. The Selawik Refuge itself does not have a law  
7 enforcement officer, however we have a zone officer  
8 that helps us out and we also have an officer that  
9 comes during hunting season, usually in the fall. Like  
10 I said, Rob Barto came up this fall. But the Selawik  
11 Refuge doesn't have a specific officer stationed at our  
12 Refuge, no.

13  
14 MR. STONEY: Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

17  
18 MR. MOTO: Out on Selawik Refuge I  
19 noticed that you have pike and whitefish there. Do you  
20 ever do a survey how many pike because they very  
21 aggressively go after whitefish, you know, and I was  
22 wondering whether they're taking a lot of whitefish. I  
23 noticed people I talk to say that they don't get as  
24 many whitefish sometimes as they used to. Is the  
25 population of pike big or do you have any survey on it?  
26

27 MS. MORAN: No, I am not aware that  
28 we've done any population studies on pike, but that's a  
29 good segue. My next topic was that we just hired a new  
30 fish biologist for the Refuge. So this will be the  
31 first time the Refuge has had a biologist specifically  
32 for fish. It will be nice to have a fish biologist  
33 actually here in Kotzebue. So he's going to be on  
34 permanently. He's actually already in the field working  
35 on that sheefish project that Susan just talked about.  
36 So he'll be permanently in Kotzebue as of November.

37  
38 So all these issues he'll be happy to  
39 start looking and working on proposals. That's what  
40 I'm hoping for. So I just wanted to mention that. So  
41 right now he's our lone biologist, but we're hoping in  
42 the next year or two to hire another entry level  
43 wildlife biologist, so we'll be back to having two  
44 biologists on staff.

45  
46 Then the other personnel issue is that  
47 I'm going to be moving on to the Kanuti Refuge based  
48 out of Fairbanks, so I'll be leaving the Refuge, but  
49 I'll be leaving it in great hands, I think. We should  
50 know in the next week or so if not sooner our new

1 manager for the Selawik Refuge, so hopefully we can let  
2 you guys know that as soon as possible. Shortly  
3 thereafter then we'll be advertising for the deputy  
4 position to fill my position. So there will be some  
5 turnover, but there's a lot of similar faces.

6  
7 Bill Carter, who is the fish biologist  
8 I just mentioned, he's actually been working on the  
9 Refuge for many years with Ray Hander and Randy Brown  
10 that some of you may know that have done whitefish and  
11 sheefish projects over the years. So he's been working  
12 with them for almost 20 years, so he's been on the  
13 Refuge quite a bit and probably knows the river better  
14 -- I know better than I do. So I'm very happy to have  
15 him on board. I'm hoping that you all can work with  
16 him as well.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Tina.  
19 I'll mention short and sweet that I'm going to miss --  
20 when I was with Maniilaq, I used you and Susan and the  
21 others a lot. Like when we had sick fish and caribou  
22 and we needed a sample, and you guys taught me a lot  
23 and I learned from you guys. I'm going to miss you  
24 being there because I know you and I know I could talk  
25 to you. Now the new person I have to get to know him,  
26 get a feel of him before I can really talk to him, you  
27 know. You've been here for so long. I'm going to miss  
28 you. You're welcome to come back. You said they're  
29 going to apply for another person. You could apply for  
30 that one and stay.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: But I'm going to miss  
35 you. I'll tell you right now, Selawik Wildlife Refuge,  
36 I think Hannah is going to miss you too. I will say  
37 thanks for working with us and the door is always open  
38 in Northwest Alaska.

39  
40 MS. MORAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's  
41 been a real pleasure working with all of you and I'm  
42 not going too far and I'll be working on some of the  
43 same issues hopefully with Kanuti, so hopefully I'll be  
44 working with you guys still.

45  
46 So I appreciate that.

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

1                               Go ahead, Mike.

2

3                               MR. KRAMER: I remember you did say  
4 something about, you know, we'd have conflicts over the  
5 proposals that we're possibly going to -- you know,  
6 that we're going to put forth protecting the population  
7 or caribou herd and moose. The only thing that I see  
8 that would -- you know, taking wildlife from an  
9 aircraft. That land and shoot thing, you're not taking  
10 an animal from an aircraft. You're actually landing  
11 and getting out of the aircraft to shoot the animal.  
12 That would only be on wolves. But the same day  
13 airborne thing, I don't know what specific species you  
14 guys -- or is it all species or is it just specifically  
15 targeting big game?

16

17                               MS. GEORGETTE: I think those are open  
18 for discussion, is what I would say. It's at the very  
19 initial stages they're putting this out and this would  
20 be the time to provide feedback to the Regional  
21 Director about your concerns.

22

23                               CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Susan. Maybe  
24 through Natives, like Mike said, is taking wildlife,  
25 for instance wolves, on an aircraft would be nice. The  
26 other places they won't like us taking wolves, but yet,  
27 like you say, they need to be taken. If you explain in  
28 layman terms a little bit better, it would ease us and  
29 we would have less conflict.

30

31                               You hear what I'm saying, Mike? And  
32 you guys hear what I'm saying. So just add a little  
33 thing like that makes a big difference. The way we  
34 talk as Natives, you know, and sometimes our yes is no  
35 and no is yes. Depends on how you want to take it.

36

37                               (Laughter)

38

39                               CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: But that's us.  
40 That's who we are. You were starting to understand us  
41 and now it's bye-bye.

42

43                               MR. KRAMER: The only other thing, you  
44 said that was going to be in November, right? Do you  
45 happen to know the dates of that meeting so that way I  
46 could gain some pow-wow before then and a couple  
47 notebooks.

48

49                               MS. GEORGETTE: Sure. I believe it's  
50 November 7th and November 12th and it's 1:00-3:00

1 o'clock is what it's set up for right now and that's  
2 with our Regional Director and head of Refuges. We're  
3 happy to talk with people too, but I would encourage  
4 you to attend one of those because that's where a lot  
5 of it's coming from.

6

7 MR. KRAMER: Okay. Yeah, because you  
8 guys are on the subsistence harvest thing too or Fish  
9 and Wildlife emblem is on there, so you guys are  
10 representing a lot. You guys are -- and Selawik is  
11 within the Refuge and there's a lot of subsistence  
12 lifestyle going on there, a lot of harvest, a lot of  
13 things involving subsistence there in Selawik.

14

15 Another big thing, too, where the  
16 Selawik Refuge is, that's where a majority of our  
17 caribou herd spends their winter. Buckland, Selawik,  
18 you know, that Selawik Wildlife Refuge. So when Jim  
19 comes up I'm going to -- I had a lot of questions from  
20 people. How far do our caribou migrate down south, who  
21 else targets our herd. So I've got a lot of stuff I'm  
22 going to be asking Jim.

23

24 It's good that -- I mean if they can  
25 work with us to help continue the subsistence  
26 lifestyle, then the fish and wildlife would be -- you  
27 know, you guys would be on our side also. We need to be  
28 able to stand up and -- you know, we need to be able to  
29 protect those.

30

31 That's all I got.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

34

35 Go ahead, Tina.

36

37 MS. MORAN: And I'll make sure Melinda  
38 has the contact information for that teleconference on  
39 the 7th and the 12th and then also making sure the  
40 tribes have that information as well. I think we've  
41 gotten some of it, but I want to make sure to get that  
42 to everyone.

43

44 And just to answer your question on  
45 subsistence, that is one of our purposes for the  
46 Refuge, is subsistence. So thank you. I definitely  
47 encourage you guys to attend those meetings.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. We're  
50 done. Thank you, you two. Job well done. Melinda,

1 we're going to go back to the agenda? What's going on  
2 now?

3

4 MS. BURKE: Yes, let's see if -- Marcy  
5 Okada, are you on the line?

6

7 MS. OKADA: Hi, Melinda. I'm still on  
8 the line.

9

10 MS. BURKE: All right. Awesome.  
11 You're next. Folks, I provided the update that Marcy  
12 always gives us. It's in your gray folder. I think I  
13 put it on the left-hand side. Okay, Marcy, go ahead.  
14 They have your handout.

15

16 MS. OKADA: Okay. I'm going to make  
17 this very brief. I'm just going to cover certain  
18 topics on the Park update. My name is Marcy Okada.  
19 I'm with Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
20 Preserve.

21

22 Some of the items I'll share with you  
23 are the Park Service and USGS has deployed 30 GPS  
24 collars on grizzly bears along the proposed corridor to  
25 the Ambler Mining District. We're collecting this  
26 information on the movements, diets and health of these  
27 animals before future development occurs in this  
28 region.

29

30 We also had a Subsistence Resource  
31 Commission meeting in April of this year. It was held  
32 in Bettles and I would say for the last maybe four SRC  
33 meetings the Ambler Mining District Road have been  
34 pretty much highly discussed among our SRC members. We  
35 have SRC members that are from Bettles, Evansville,  
36 Allakaket, Ambler and Wiseman.

37

38 Lastly, we are expecting a right-of-way  
39 application from AIDEA in probably the next four to six  
40 weeks. They'll be submitting an application to Gates  
41 of the Arctic for a right-of-way to go through on what  
42 we call the Kobuk Preserve Unit of Gates of the Arctic.

43

44 So that was really brief mainly because  
45 there's other Park Service updates coming up right  
46 after me. Does anyone have any questions.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: Who has the report on

1 guides and transporters?

2

3 MS. OKADA: If I remember correctly,  
4 that report would be associated with Noatak National  
5 Preserve and I don't think a final report has come out  
6 of that project yet.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy, for your  
9 information, Selawik still have to get their data  
10 together, the information, and they will give it to us  
11 in our winter meeting.

12

13 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. This is Ken  
14 Adkisson. If I may speak on that for just a second.  
15 Like Fish and Wildlife Service for Selawik, the Park  
16 Service, Western Arctic National Parklands, really  
17 doesn't have the data in from this year's activity  
18 until at least early next year, so hopefully we can  
19 present you with a report and numbers perhaps at your  
20 winter meeting or next fall meeting. Preferably at  
21 your winter meeting, hopefully.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken.

24

25 Go ahead, you have the floor.

26

27 MS. JOHNSON: Hello. I'm the other  
28 Marci with an I. I'm Marci Johnson. I work for the  
29 National Park Service also, but in Kotzebue for the  
30 Western Arctic Parklands. I've truncated as much of my  
31 report as I can to hurry this along, but I wanted to  
32 review some of the survey work we've done this last  
33 year and what we plan to do this coming year.

34

35 With sheep, we've already spoken quite  
36 a bit about the sheep. Kumi gave a little history on  
37 the repeated surveys we've been conducting and where  
38 they've been. We're going to continue in the future to  
39 do annual surveys in the western Baird Mountains. So  
40 next summer we'll be heading out again to do more of  
41 those and we'll continue to do those for the  
42 foreseeable future, particularly as long as the hunt is  
43 closed.

44

45 Muskoxen, we were all getting ramped up  
46 to do a big muskox survey across the Seward Peninsula  
47 last year, but they didn't get enough snow. It was a  
48 little lean everywhere, but especially over near Nome,  
49 so we had to cancel that one. We're hoping to do that  
50 again this winter. It should be a large survey

1 followed by another large survey to the north. The  
2 Cape Thompson population of muskoxen is surveyed pretty  
3 frequently in what we call a core area, which is from  
4 Cape Krusenstern up to Cape Lisburne.

5  
6 In that area in our last survey was in  
7 2014, just this last year, and we estimated about 230  
8 to 240 individuals. A fairly stable population, but a  
9 low bull/cow ratio we're finding. This core area is  
10 area that we've been surveying, as I mentioned, more  
11 regularly than the larger area. As many of you know,  
12 muskoxen are also found east of that area. We see  
13 animals quite a way up the Noatak River now. So this  
14 larger area has approximately 500 animals in it that we  
15 surveyed in 2011. We'd like to do this survey again  
16 this next winter if we could find the funding to do so.  
17 So we have two very large muskox surveys coming up that  
18 will hopefully give us a good reference point on how  
19 those populations are doing.

20  
21 Jim Lawler from our long-term Inventory  
22 and Monitoring Program, he does a composition survey of  
23 muskoxen, so aside from what we can kind of gather  
24 squinting and looking out the airplanes and coming back  
25 and reporting bull/cow ratios, he lands and looks very  
26 carefully at these groups and looks at all age and sex  
27 classes. So he's been monitoring that along with our  
28 aerial surveys. His last composition survey, while we  
29 did our Cape Thompson survey last year, he comp'd 163  
30 individual animals and one of the results that he found  
31 that was of note was that there was a large cohort of  
32 short yearlings, so that s always good news to hear.

33  
34 So as we continue, especially with  
35 these large surveys, of course we'll work to improve  
36 and continue getting the information out to you.

37  
38 With moose, I'm not sure if Brandon  
39 Saito and the Fish and Game will report on this or not,  
40 but this last spring we conducted a moose survey in the  
41 Upper Kobuk. The previous fall we did not do a  
42 composition survey, but we hope to do that again this  
43 year. So in the fall we do these composition surveys  
44 while they still have some antlers and in the spring we  
45 do these population estimates and we're trying to have  
46 this rotation of all these different survey areas that  
47 we need to cover. We're thinking that this fall we may  
48 go do the Selawik area based on the Selawik Refuge and  
49 some outlying areas from there. So that's what we're  
50 just starting to look into right now and submitting

1 budgets and things like that to look into that.

2

3                   For brown bears, many of you may know  
4 we've been trying to develop a long-term monitoring  
5 protocol for surveying brown bears and getting some  
6 numbers on brown bear populations. They've developed  
7 different survey areas that will also rotate from one  
8 to the next. We tried in 2013 to do a big effort down  
9 on the Seward Peninsula and then we got stuck in fog  
10 for over a week with these very antsy pilots and we had  
11 to cancel that after leaves started coming out and it  
12 was going to be too difficult to see the bears. So  
13 we're hoping to do that again this year.

14

15                   Of course, I've mentioned a lot of  
16 other big, expensive surveys to do this year, so we've  
17 got our fingers crossed we can do as much of these as  
18 possible. So we're looking forward to a very busy year  
19 and hopefully have some more data for you very soon.

20

21                   I'm going to move really quickly on  
22 just another issue we're working on. It's what we call  
23 -- it's kind of an unfortunate term, but wildlife  
24 conflicts and just hearing your concerns about largely  
25 muskoxen and bears, but obviously there's concerns  
26 about wolves and beavers and even seagulls and ravens  
27 and things like that too. So we're trying to address a  
28 lot of concerns. We've put together a working group  
29 with multiple agencies. Between the Borough, the  
30 Native Village of Kotzebue, Fish and Wildlife Service,  
31 BLM, Fish and Game and some troopers, we wanted to get  
32 a start on pooling resources and expertise.

33

34                   So if somebody wants to learn more  
35 about defense of life and property, they can call Fish  
36 and Game, but if somebody wants to hear more about how  
37 they could protect their cabins or electric fencing,  
38 bear spray, things like that, there's several of us  
39 that can help on that. I've got some resources with  
40 electric fencing and I've got some barrels and some  
41 other food containment ideas for keeping bears from  
42 getting food in your cabins and becoming food  
43 conditioned and then coming back and back. So we have  
44 some ideas and we might have some resources with some  
45 partner organizations I'm working with where we can  
46 hopefully make things like these a little more  
47 accessible to folks.

48

49                   This year I had some funding to do some  
50 outreach. I went to a number of villages and I did

1 some fieldwork as well too that I won't go into based  
2 on time here today, but I just wanted to mention that  
3 we're hoping this working group kind of builds momentum  
4 and that other people are welcome to offer some  
5 concerns to us or you can be involved with what we're  
6 working on.

7

8                   During our first meeting we just  
9 discussed the issue with muskoxen down in Deering  
10 creating some issues there with the grave markers and  
11 it spurred several different agencies to work together  
12 to plan a trip down there and maybe try some  
13 experimental work and other entities they can help  
14 getting funding and things like that.

15

16                   So we're hoping it helps us work  
17 together and we're hoping in the end for local  
18 residents we can get some more information out, people  
19 will have a reference where they know who to call if  
20 they're in certain areas, if they have certain kinds of  
21 concerns.

22 So it's just something we're building on and we  
23 certainly welcome outside suggestions and involvement  
24 as well.

25

26                   One last thing. I just wanted to  
27 mention just to respond to some of the conversations  
28 we've had here in Kiana. Susan mentioned the idea of  
29 having some community involvement and getting some  
30 data, like with the water quality. There is the Upper  
31 Kobuk Watershed Council and I've heard there's interest  
32 in developing a Lower Kobuk Watershed Council.

33

34                   The Upper Kobuk Watershed Council has  
35 obtained some water quality sampling equipment that  
36 they've given to the schools and they've trained  
37 people, the teachers in the schools and the kids to do  
38 this. So between our agencies and the schools and this  
39 cooperative group upriver, hopefully there could be  
40 some good resources for that type of topic.

41

42                   There's other projects, other  
43 researchers interested in grey-headed chickadees and  
44 Aleutian terns. I'm interested in  
45 odd outbreaks of insects and things like that, so  
46 there's always -- if you see things like this, as Susan  
47 mentioned, it's great to give us a call as soon as  
48 possible. We can usually get some sampling equipment  
49 or whatever you need to get us a sample and we can get  
50 it to the right expert.

1                   Attamuk has mentioned a concern about  
2 some fungus in trout, so if anybody has a sample they  
3 can get to me fresh dead, I can get it to -- it can't  
4 be frozen, but if it's fresh dead I can get it to the  
5 right lab. So we really look forward to working with  
6 folks more on that kind of work. Information and  
7 samples. So keep in touch with us.

8  
9                   The last one I'd like to bring up is  
10 Mike mentioned like a website to make information  
11 available about projects and Hannah's and others  
12 comments about putting them in layman's terms and kind  
13 of brief updates on what we do and some of our work.  
14 Right now my only solution I mean other than some -- I  
15 have a blog at this point, which is the best I can come  
16 up with for a way that I could highlight other people's  
17 projects and just put some photos and a few paragraphs  
18 on a project with contact information to learn more.  
19 So I invite you to look at that too.

20  
21                   We did have some outreach trips I will  
22 mention. Linda Jeschke with our interpretive program  
23 just brought the field biology class from Kotzebue out  
24 to the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes and they worked on a lot  
25 of different science projects and taught them how to  
26 flyfish and things like that. They do a lot of junior  
27 ranger programs as well and other outreach in Kotzebue.

28  
29                   I will let Mary McBurney follow up  
30 unless there's some questions for me. Sorry to talk so  
31 quickly.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy. You  
34 had your hand up. You have a question for Marci.

35  
36                   MR. BALLOT: So did you guys say that  
37 muskox in Unit 23D their population moved east, north  
38 or do you have a pattern there?

39  
40                   MS. JOHNSON: Everybody's averting my  
41 eyes right now.

42  
43                   (Laughter)

44  
45                   MS. JOHNSON: Ken, would you like to  
46 speak to that?

47  
48                   MR. ADKISSON: Marci, did you ask for  
49 something?

50

1 MR. BALLOT: It wasn't a hard question.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 DR. LAWLER: I think the question was  
6 where the population was in 23 and there's folks here  
7 who know better than I do with Fish and Game. The idea  
8 is that we've traditionally done a core area,  
9 Krusenstern up to Cape Thompson for muskoxen population  
10 and I think it was Charlotte Westing with ADF&G who  
11 originally suggested that we expand that survey because  
12 there was lots of observations of muskox and up to  
13 Noatak and then up on the north side in Unit 26.

14

15 So a few years ago, I think Charlotte  
16 was the driving force of that, got together resources,  
17 so agencies -- you know it's difficult for agencies to  
18 pull together all the resources to do a surveys. So it  
19 was a cooperative effort, Fish and Game, Park Service,  
20 I think it was Fish and Wildlife involved, and surveyed  
21 this larger area and found a number of more muskoxen.

22

23 One of the challenges of deciding  
24 whether wildlife population is growing or shrinking is  
25 defining where that population is. Part of what went  
26 on with that -- you know, not to put too fine of a  
27 point on it, but there was a number of more muskoxen  
28 found in this broader area, this larger area.

29

30 So this upcoming year the hope is once  
31 again to do a cooperative deal with all the different  
32 agencies and do a larger area. The challenge is going  
33 to be lots of large surveys are proposed for this  
34 upcoming year. As Gene Peltola pointed out, there's  
35 not a whole lot of money available, so that's going to  
36 be the challenge, how far can we get on these.

37

38 MS. JOHNSON: I apologize. I thought  
39 you were talking about Tag area.

40

41 MR. BALLOT: No, I was talking about is  
42 there a pattern from Buckland area, Unit 23D, of the  
43 muskox population or the pattern they're moving, north  
44 or south or west or here or wherever.

45

46 DR. LAWLER: So there's kind of a lead  
47 person in charge of each survey, so the Selawik area,  
48 the person who is kind of the organizer and the  
49 ringleader maybe, because it can be kind of like a  
50 circus with trying to get all these people together,

1 but Tony Gorn from Fish and Game typically does that.  
2 He tries to cover basically kind of that whole Seward  
3 Peninsula to the east for muskoxen, but certainly you  
4 hear about groups of muskoxen outside of that core  
5 survey area. So, by Buckland and Deering that would be  
6 part of that Seward Peninsula survey.

7

8 MS. JOHNSON: We did have some collared  
9 animals, but it was just a few moved that way.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: Did you guys have any  
14 problem with any muskox on the Krusenstern Monument?  
15 Because I know I've gotten several complaints and they  
16 said that there's probably about 10 to 15 of them right  
17 there in Sheshalik. They've been ramming camps and I'm  
18 not too sure if they're doing any grave damage, but I  
19 think if they continue to harass people there, the  
20 numbers are going to go down by 10 real quick.

21

22 They've made attempts to try and chase  
23 them off, but they think that bears on the western side  
24 of Sheshalik from Kotlik Lagoon towards Sheshalik are  
25 keeping them on the main Sheshalik Spit, predators.  
26 That's the only reason why they know it, because they  
27 know they can be safe there and not be bothered by  
28 bears. But they're beginning to bother berry pickers.

29

30

31 A friend of mine was inside his cabin  
32 and all of a sudden he said it was like somebody  
33 smacked his cabin with a truck. He went outside and  
34 chased the muskox away and then he came back and they  
35 were chasing each other all over the tundra back there.  
36 Eventually Jim is going to go out there and take that  
37 one out like they had to take the one out in Kotzebue.  
38 Hopefully it doesn't come down to that. I'm hoping  
39 that they steadily move on.

40

41 I know there's always been a consistent  
42 problem with muskox in the Sealing Point area and know  
43 they're starting to go over towards Sheshalik. I don't  
44 know if you guys have gone over there or flown over  
45 there to watch them and monitor them and make sure that  
46 they aren't harassing people.

47

48 MS. JOHNSON: I was just there about  
49 two weeks ago and got to see that. They were very  
50 close to cabins and there weren't many people out there

1 at that time, but -- and we've heard a lot about it, so  
2 it was nice to be on the ground there in the summertime  
3 and kind of see the lay of the land and kind of get  
4 some reference points for some of these complaints.

5  
6 A lot of issues that we struggle with  
7 is that they're on allotments and so they're off of our  
8 National Park lands, but we still appreciate hearing  
9 the reports and trying to find a way to work together  
10 and maybe through this working group too having some  
11 more resources that way.

12  
13 DR. LAWLER: Mr. Chair. I would add  
14 that you're right on the mark. As you probably know  
15 from reading the newspaper about Nome and Kotzebue  
16 both, we don't have it figured out yet how to move  
17 those things along and keep them to where it's  
18 convenient, where they're not bothering people. So if  
19 you get the answer, let us know.

20  
21 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, they don't  
22 necessarily want to shoot them, but they just want to  
23 make sure that when their family members go out and  
24 pick berries they don't get bulldozed by muskox.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

27  
28 MR. MOTO: From what I understand the  
29 Norton Shore Peninsula muskox population they said went  
30 down. They were kind of considering lowering the  
31 Federal permit. And a State permit is, what, eight and  
32 the Federal permit was four for Shishmaref, Deering and  
33 Buckland combined. This year we didn't get maybe a  
34 permit yet for muskox. They said the population on the  
35 Seward Peninsula is decreasing. You can't believe it  
36 because they're having all those problems in Nome with  
37 muskox, you know. I was on the Muskox Commission for  
38 five years and I still get materials about it. I asked  
39 people in Deering, would you like a muskox permit.  
40 They said, no, kill them all.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 MR. MOTO: Because they're chasing our  
45 caribou away, they said. But they implanted those  
46 muskox in the Seward Peninsula 1987, about 100-  
47 something. The population jumped to over 3,000 for a  
48 while Now it's down to close to maybe a little over  
49 1,000. So where did they go. They probably went all  
50 over Kotzebue area, you know.

1 Do you have any idea whether they're  
2 going to lower the permits for Tier II on the Federal?

3  
4 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. This is Ken  
5 Adkisson. I can answer that question for Member Moto.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Ken.

8  
9 MR. ADKISSON: Okay. Member Moto,  
10 through the Chair. The number of permits available and  
11 the allowable harvest for that area, the  
12 Buckland/Deering area, is based on a combination of the  
13 total number of animals and the number of mature bulls  
14 in the population. And the final quota is really set  
15 based on a percentage of mature bulls in the  
16 population. The last count we had was 2013. As it was  
17 noted earlier, we tried to do a count in 2014, but the  
18 weather didn't cooperate and sightability due to lack  
19 of snow was a major issue and the InterAgency survey  
20 was cancelled.

21  
22 So we were working off of the 2012  
23 survey numbers and the allowable harvest for the  
24 Buckland/Deering area combined Federal and State was  
25 four bulls. The State issued four Tier II permits this  
26 year. Only one of those wound up in Buckland and  
27 Deering. On the Federal side, we issued four Federal  
28 permits, two of those went to Buckland and two of them  
29 wound up in Deering. We haven't had any reported  
30 harvest on those four Federal permits as of yet.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken.

33  
34 MR. ADKISSON: Next year, the 2015  
35 allocation will be based on the results of the data  
36 gathered in this upcoming spring 2015 survey. So we  
37 don't know whether they'll go up or down. That's going  
38 to depend on what comes in from the survey results.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

41  
42 Okay, Percy.

43  
44 MR. BALLOT: So, Ken, you're saying --  
45 can it be based on the whole population or based by the  
46 unit when you go the quotas?

47  
48 MR. ADKISSON: Member Ballot, through  
49 the Chair. It's based on a percentage of the adult  
50 males in the population of the hunt area. So basically

1 they go out and they count how many animals are out  
2 there and then they figure out a percentage of the  
3 mature bulls in there and that, of course, requires the  
4 composition work to be done. The final tally is set on  
5 a percentage of the mature bulls in that hunt area.  
6 Animals go up in one area, down in another sometimes.

7  
8 So we have an overall kind of guideline  
9 that we're looking at on the Seward Pen for total  
10 population. We keep that in mind, but when it comes  
11 down to the year-to-year quotas, those are based  
12 currently on the percentage of the mature bulls in the  
13 population in that hunt area. The reason for that is,  
14 that's a shift because we used to use the total number  
15 of animals in the hunt area, but one of the problems  
16 that the biologists believe they've identified as one  
17 of the causes for the decline of the Seward Peninsula  
18 muskoxen population may be an overharvesting of mature  
19 bulls. So we shifted our method to calculate the  
20 allowable harvest based on a percentage of those mature  
21 bulls.

22  
23 MR. BALLOT: Okay. Well, I was just  
24 thinking because we've been hunting for how many years  
25 and our quotas change, but we noticed the herd is  
26 moving to the north or east.

27  
28 MR. ADKISSON: That s probably true and  
29 muskoxen will expand to occupy suitable habitat where  
30 they haven't existed earlier if it's adjacent them.  
31 One possibility for the Cape Thompson animals, as  
32 already was explained, was that it may be sort of  
33 flattening out in the core area, but perhaps expanding  
34 to the north and east of Cape Thompson in the 26A and  
35 the northern part of 23. So the total number of the  
36 net new large area may be as great right now as the  
37 numbers in the core area, which is one of the reasons  
38 the driving force for getting out and expanding the  
39 survey area out there.

40  
41 I think people have noticed animals all  
42 the way up into the Tag area now, so I don't think  
43 there's much question that some of the Seward Pen  
44 animals anyway are spreading to the north and east from  
45 Buckland.

46  
47 There's been some discussion over the  
48 years I know with managers on whether or not hunts  
49 should be opened up in that area. No final decision  
50 has been made. I think people would be very cautious

1 about expanding hunts perhaps there now given what's  
2 been going on with the population in general. Another  
3 challenge there is then if you do that, you factor  
4 those animals in that area into the calculations for  
5 the Buckland and Deering hunt.

6  
7 I think that would be a good topic  
8 maybe to discuss down the road, especially after we get  
9 the counts hopefully in 2015. There's some drawbacks  
10 to that and we now face that same question with the  
11 northern 23 animals, the Cape Thompson animals. In  
12 January, the Board of Game expanded the hunt area to  
13 include the entire -- actually everything north of the  
14 northern bank of the Kobuk River in Unit 23, so now we  
15 face that problem and how do we deal with these animals  
16 in the newly expanded area relative to establishing  
17 quotas.

18  
19 So it's a challenge and stay tuned and  
20 we'll keep you advised of the results and you'll have  
21 an opportunity for input, I think, into those kinds of  
22 questions. They're all good questions and they're  
23 important to the subsistence users.

24  
25 MR. BALLOT: Okay, Ken, whenever that  
26 survey is done. I don't know, we haven't had a moose  
27 count for quite some time and I think it would be a  
28 good time to get together because we're a bit concerned  
29 about the State versus Federal hunt. Things haven't  
30 been going Buckland/Deering way. It's been all going  
31 to outside groups. So I think it's something we might  
32 want to look at.

33  
34 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I think that, too,  
35 is a valid question. We can examine that and talk about  
36 it. People like Brandon Saito with ADF&G need to be  
37 part of those conversations. We have those usually  
38 every year with people like Tony down here at ADF&G on  
39 how we're going to deal with a lot of the Seward Pen  
40 muskoxen and stuff in terms of allocation of permits.  
41 We haven't got a really perfectly worked out system,  
42 but I think we're doing a little better given the tough  
43 biological situation we face.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
46 Calvin, try to make it short and sweet because we need  
47 to move on. I hate to cut off anyone here, but we need  
48 to move on because Jim is going to come up and we'll  
49 have a lot of questions for Jim. So make it short and  
50 sweet and we will make Calvin the last one. I hate to

1 cut it off, but it needs to be done.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. MOTO: I was wondering what impact  
6 the weather we had in January where it rained for a  
7 couple of days and it froze all of a sudden. Did it  
8 affect most of the muskox and caribou? We were  
9 wondering what impact it had on those animals.

10

11

MR. ADKISSON: If you're directing that  
12 towards me, Member Moto, this is Ken again. I guess my  
13 impression initially is that it's a mixed bag, that  
14 maybe some species were more heavily affected by it  
15 than others and some very little by it. As far as it  
16 directly relates to muskoxen, I don't think we're going  
17 to have any idea until we get out this next spring and  
18 do all the counts and the composition work to look and  
19 see if there's significant changes in the composition  
20 of the population and then try to figure out why those  
21 changes have occurred. Right now I don't have a good  
22 answer for that.

23

24

MR. MOTO: The reason I asked that is  
25 this past summer we saw less muskox across the river on  
26 the flats and we were wondering if it affected it.  
27 That's why I asked the question.

28

29

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, okay. Thank  
30 you. I think we need to move on. Do you need a little  
31 time to set up, Jim?

32

33

Thank you, you two.

34

35

Go ahead, Melinda.

36

37

MS. BURKE: We've got -- Mary McBurney  
38 needs to come up really quick to finish up the last of  
39 the Park Service agenda item.

40

41

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Sorry, Mary. Go  
42 ahead, because I sure want to get to Jim.

43

44

(Laughter)

45

46

MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
47 Council members. I'll try to make this as brief as  
48 possible, but I imagine that the informational item  
49 that I'm bringing to the table might prompt some  
50 questions, so I also want to make myself available

1 after the meeting or whatever to answer whatever  
2 questions you may have.

3

4                   Let me just sort of launch into what I  
5 have to tell you about. Similar to the Fish and  
6 Wildlife Service, Susan mentioned that the Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service is looking into putting together some  
8 regulations regarding sport hunting on the Refuges. The  
9 Park Service has undertaken that same sort of process  
10 for the National Preserve areas. So the proposed  
11 regulations that I want to tell you about are going to  
12 apply to the Noatak National Preserve and the Bering  
13 Land Bridge National Preserve.

14

15                   Right now the Park Service is moving  
16 forward with proposing permanent regulations that are  
17 related to certain takings of wildlife in National  
18 Preserves by sport hunters. These proposals were first  
19 published in the Federal Register on September 4th and  
20 we realize that this was right in the middle of hunting  
21 season and it was not a real convenient time for folks  
22 to take a look at them and make comment, so the comment  
23 period has been extended to December 3rd and that's why  
24 I wanted to be here to give you a heads up on these.

25

26                   We're in the process of conducting a  
27 series of public hearings beginning this month as well  
28 as formal consultation with the State tribes and ANCSA  
29 corporations. The Park Service's proposed rule  
30 primarily covers three practices that have been  
31 historically illegal and specifically we're addressing  
32 hunting black bears, including sows with cubs, with  
33 artificial lights in their dens, harvesting brown bears  
34 over bait and taking wolves and coyotes, including  
35 their pups, during the denning season.

36

37                   This proposed regulation package also  
38 covers several other areas as well. First, it would  
39 formalize in regulation the predator reduction efforts  
40 with the intent or potential to alter or manipulate  
41 natural predator/prey dynamics and natural processes to  
42 increase the harvest of ungulates by humans would not  
43 be allowed on National Park Service lands.

44

45                   The Park Service is also asking for  
46 comment on issues related to the taking of brown bears  
47 over bait. So Mr. Cleveland for you. Last year the  
48 Park Service did the temporary restrictions on taking  
49 brown bears over bait and received several comments  
50 that suggested that black bear baiting also be

1 prohibited on Park Service Preserves. So this is  
2 another area where we're looking for comment.

3  
4 We're also looking for comments on  
5 whether to continue to allow the practice of using dogs  
6 to hunt black bears in Preserves and the proposed rule  
7 would maintain the current State prohibitions as well  
8 as their exceptions to the general prohibition on  
9 taking big game with the use or the aid of dogs.

10  
11 On other change that I want to note is  
12 that we're also proposing to prohibit sport hunters  
13 from taking swimming caribou. The proposed rule would  
14 also adopt State regulations that prohibit the  
15 intentional obstruction or hindering of persons that  
16 are actively engaged in lawful hunting or trapping  
17 activities.

18  
19 We're also looking at a series of  
20 administrative updates to our procedures for  
21 implementing closures or restrictions in Park Service  
22 areas. This proposed rule would update the current  
23 procedures to reflect the availability of new  
24 communications technologies that have kind of come  
25 around over the past 30 years, things like the internet  
26 and social media.

27  
28 Right now our regulations rely on  
29 public hearings to engage the public as well as  
30 newspapers and radio broadcasts and notices at the post  
31 office, but we want to recognize that the internet and  
32 social media are also becoming methods for  
33 communicating with the public that are being used more  
34 widely by more people.

35  
36 This will be something that we'll be  
37 adding to the usual things that we have done in terms  
38 of face-to-face meetings, radio broadcast, flyers and  
39 that sort of thing.

40  
41 So we're also proposing to simplify the  
42 categories of restrictions and currently the  
43 regulations address three kinds of restrictions;  
44 emergency, temporary and permanent closures and  
45 restrictions. We're looking at proposing a period of  
46 up to 60 days for emergency closures and restrictions,  
47 which is the same as what is currently on the books  
48 with the Federal Subsistence Board and this would be  
49 undertaken after suitable public notice and comment.

50

1 Non-emergency closures and restrictions  
2 or, for that matter, the termination or relaxation of  
3 them, would not require new regulations after a  
4 specific period of time. Instead, there would be a new  
5 threshold where that rulemaking process would only be  
6 required if the closures or the restrictions are of a  
7 nature, magnitude or duration that would result in a  
8 significant alteration in the public use pattern of the  
9 area, whether they would adversely affect the area's  
10 natural aesthetic, scenic or cultural values or require  
11 a long-term or significant modification in the resource  
12 management objectives of the area.

13  
14 Finally, after all of that, the  
15 proposed rule would also allow the use of native  
16 species or their parts to be used as bait.  
17 Specifically this part of the proposal would recognize  
18 the practice that is pretty widespread throughout the  
19 state, which is utilizing parts of fish, particularly  
20 eggs, for fishing. Currently there's a Service-wide  
21 prohibition against doing that and we wanted to  
22 recognize the widespread practice of that in Alaska.

23  
24 So the Park Service is starting to hold  
25 a series of 17 public hearings on these regulations and  
26 on the environmental assessment that's related to it.  
27 There's also going to be a number of other  
28 opportunities to provide public comment.

29  
30 The first is going to be a series of  
31 informational Facebook chats. This is kind of like  
32 having a conversation by text messaging almost. That's  
33 going to be starting on October 20th and running  
34 through the 31st. The Regional Facebook address is  
35 [www.facebook.com/alaskanps](http://www.facebook.com/alaskanps) and on October 21st from  
36 10:00 a.m. to noon National Park Service staff are  
37 going to be available online at that Facebook address  
38 to post real-time replies to people's questions.

39  
40 So this is primarily an informational  
41 process so that people can get answers to particular  
42 questions they might have, but it's not going to be  
43 considered official public comment for this purpose.

44  
45 On October 27th the Park Service will  
46 hold a phone-in hearing from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
47 where callers will identify themselves and can provide  
48 testimony, which will be recorded for the public record  
49 and the toll-free number is 1-888-921-5898 and callers  
50 can use the access code 5499349# to be connected to the

1 hearing. I will provide all of this information to  
2 Melinda as well.

3

4                   So finally there are going to be some  
5 public hearings that will be in person in the region.  
6 The first is going to be October 27th in Nome and  
7 that's going to be held in the Sitnasuak Building on  
8 Front Street from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. In Kotzebue  
9 there will be a face-to-face hearing on the 28th and  
10 that's going to be at the Northwest Arctic Heritage  
11 Center. It's from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For those  
12 folks that are in Anchorage on the 28th of October,  
13 they can attend a face-to-face hearing at the Lidia  
14 Selkregg Chalet at the Russian Jack Springs Park in  
15 Anchorage from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

16

17                   So all of that information that I just  
18 kind of dumped on you there I do have copies of the  
19 actual proposed rule that I will pass out so that you  
20 can take a look at exactly what is being proposed by  
21 the National Park Service. Again, the public comment  
22 period is open through December 3rd and would  
23 definitely encourage you to provide any and all  
24 comments that you might have to the National Park  
25 Service.

26

27                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
30 Well explained. Does anyone have questions for her.

31

32                   (No comments)

33

34                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, I'll turn it  
35 over to Melinda. Go ahead.

36

37                   MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. If the Council  
38 will indulge us, we've got one more agency report.  
39 This is always usually a really quick one. I've got  
40 the report from the BLM Fairbanks District Office  
41 handed out and I believe we've got Erin Julianus, Dave  
42 Parker and maybe Dan on the line if there's any  
43 questions from the Council.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

46

47                   MS. BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 We'll take a quick break after that and get Jim set up  
49 so everybody can grab a cup of coffee and proceed with  
50 his presentation. I'll hand out the report now. If

1 you have any questions, Erin and Dave are on the line.  
2 Erin, Dave or Dan, if you've got anything, go ahead and  
3 speak up now.

4

5 MR. PARKER: This is Dave Parker in  
6 Fairbanks. I would just encourage the Council to read  
7 that report and if you have any questions just call the  
8 contact that's listed in that section and we will do  
9 our best to answer whatever we can.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I like your final  
12 report. Thank you.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's short and sweet.  
17 I think they should take lessons from you. Yes, I like  
18 it. You can take a quick look at it and if you have  
19 any questions, you could question him now. Go ahead,  
20 Percy.

21

22 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I don't see  
23 in here a report -- or maybe I'm going to get it later.  
24 I was talking about transporters and stuff in there.  
25 Okay.

26

27 MS. JULIANUS: Yes, it should be the  
28 third section down in recreation.

29

30 MR. BALLOT: I found it.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. I  
33 think it's important for like the BLM Squirrel River  
34 area will be reported at the winter meeting, the  
35 transporters and outfitters.

36

37 Anyone else have a question.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, go ahead,  
42 Melinda.

43

44 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Let's take  
45 a quick, no more than 10-minute recess. We'll get the  
46 computer over to the other table for Jim, let everybody  
47 grab a cup of coffee and we will begin this long-  
48 awaited caribou presentation.

49

50 (Off record)

1 (On record)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, everybody. You  
4 guys done with your quick break. We'll turn it over to  
5 Jim Dau.  
6  
7 MS. BURKE: Brandon first.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Brandon first. Go  
10 ahead, Brandon, you have the floor. There you are.  
11  
12 MR. SAITO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm  
13 Brandon Saito, area biologist for Unit 23 based out of  
14 Kotzebue. I was going to do an overview, but it sounds  
15 like a lot of it has already been discussed from sheep  
16 and moose, which Marci mentioned, muskox. A lot of the  
17 surveys we do are cooperative through all the agencies.  
18  
19 A couple things I did want to talk  
20 about was just make some corrections. The hunt area  
21 for the muskox was recently changed at the Board of  
22 Game meeting in January. It's from the -- the southern  
23 boundary is up the Kobuk Basin, so it's the northern  
24 part, so all the waters that flow into the Noatak, so  
25 it's on either side of the Noatak River. It doesn't  
26 include the Kobuk drainage.  
27  
28 For the bear baiting, we don't have  
29 bear baiting here in Unit 23, so it's not an issue.  
30 Spotlighting, we can't use artificial light either. I  
31 think Verne had a question about leaving like a head or  
32 gut pile, is that bait. It's not technically if it's  
33 right where you leave the animal, but if you  
34 specifically take the gut pile and move it to a  
35 location as bait to attract a bear, then that is  
36 baiting. So that's the difference.  
37  
38 I'll talk a little bit about the sheep.  
39 As you guys heard, we had a crash in sheep numbers.  
40 Both the State and the Federal systems shut down  
41 hunting for Unit 23 and 26A. I think, Raymond, you  
42 were asking about getting the closures done early so  
43 it's not such an abrupt halt. One of the big problems  
44 is the survey timing. For surveying sheep, we have to  
45 have relatively snow-free hilltops to count, to be able  
46 to clearly see them, including the flyable weather to  
47 get up there. It's usually tough and we usually can't  
48 get the surveys completed until right before the  
49 hunting season starts.  
50

1                   So that's pretty much it unless there's  
2 specific questions I can answer.

3  
4                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone  
5 have questions for him.

6  
7                   (No comments)

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, well  
10 explained. Thank you.

11  
12                  MR. BALLOT: Thank you.

13  
14                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

15  
16                  Now we'll turn it over to Jim Dau.

17  
18                  MR. DAU: I'm Jim Dau. I work for Fish  
19 and Game in Kotzebue. I'm here to give all you guys  
20 the same rundown I've been giving to all the  
21 communities in Unit 23. Just about the status of the  
22 Western Arctic Herd now. I'm trying to go to every  
23 village in this unit. We've got Letty Hughes. She's  
24 been going to the villages down in Unit 22 and Geoff  
25 Carroll and Lincoln Parrett have been doing 26A.

26  
27                  To some of you guys I'm going to have  
28 to apologize. Calvin and Percy, you've already seen  
29 this. Susan Georgette has had to sit through it, so  
30 it's going to be the same thing. So if I get something  
31 wrong, correct me.

32  
33                  MR. BALLOT: Okay. You didn't say your  
34 name.

35  
36                  MR. DAU: Jim Dau.

37  
38                  MR. BALLOT: No.

39  
40                  MR. DAU: Oh, Komuk (ph). I'd like to  
41 thank Nathan Hadley for that, Nathan Hadley, Sr. I'm  
42 not going to be as fast as Dave Parker with BLM, but  
43 I'll try and move right through this. The one thing  
44 I'll say is if you've got questions, don't wait until  
45 I'm done. Just raise your hand. It's easier to talk  
46 from the slides. You can't possibly make this any  
47 worse than I'm going to do already, so don't be afraid  
48 to butt in.

49  
50                  So first I'll show you the range of the

1 Western Arctic Herd based on satellite data. I'll talk  
2 quite a bit about population size and trend because,  
3 frankly, that's why I'm here doing this. The numbers  
4 have been going down. You're all aware of that. We  
5 got a census done in 2013. So I'll spend quite a bit  
6 of time talking about that.

7  
8 I'm going to mention the Western Arctic  
9 Herd Cooperative Management Plan that was revised in  
10 2011. A number of you people here have had something  
11 to do with that; Attamuk, Raymond Stoney, Verne. Verne  
12 is now the chair of the group. But other people may  
13 not know it as well, so we're going to talk about that  
14 because that plan will influence what both the State of  
15 Alaska and the Federal agencies do in response to this  
16 decline.

17  
18 I'll talk about trends in calf survival  
19 and also about mortality, mostly adult cows. I'll talk  
20 a little bit about factors that may be driving those  
21 two things. Everybody always wants to know how come  
22 numbers are going down, how come cows are dying. We'll  
23 talk about that.

24  
25 Everybody always wants to know about  
26 harvest data. Again, that's another reason why I'm  
27 here, is one of the few things that we can control are  
28 harvests. We can't control the weather. I'll show you  
29 harvest data going back to 1998.

30  
31 Also we'll talk about harvest in  
32 relation to something that's called the harvestable  
33 surplus. What that is is the number of caribou we can  
34 take out of this herd every year without us impacting  
35 it further, so we'll talk about that.

36  
37 Finally I'll talk about what does all  
38 this mean for caribou hunting regulations. I think  
39 that's really what everybody in this room is thinking  
40 about, including me.

41  
42 So range of the Western Arctic Herd.  
43 What this is, these are satellite collar locations that  
44 we've collected since 1988. It's from collars that  
45 have been purchased by the Department of Fish and Game,  
46 Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and  
47 also BLM.

48  
49 This is the purest depiction of Western  
50 Arctic Herd range I can possibly give you. I haven't

1 done anything with this. These are just point  
2 locations for over 25 years. The only thing I did was  
3 standardize collars for seasons. I've taken out  
4 mortalities, but you can see that s where the herd  
5 goes.

6

7 This chart shows the results of all our  
8 photo censuses going back to 1970. If I had a pointer.  
9 Anybody got a pointer? Tina?

10

11 REPORTER: I don't.

12

13 MR. DAU: No pointers, okay. Anyway,  
14 the red axis, what those are, those are minimum counts.  
15 What we used to do is we'd fly around and we'd take  
16 photographs, we'd count them and that's the estimate.  
17 That's just what we counted off the photos. The little  
18 black dots there, those are estimates based only on  
19 radio-collared caribou. There's a way we can estimate  
20 population size using only those collars.

21

22 We still fly around, we photograph the  
23 herd, we still count the groups, but we use our  
24 mathematical model that not only gives us an estimate  
25 of herd size, but that vertical line, that's called a  
26 confidence interval. There's some uncertainty with any  
27 estimate. You know, it's close, but we don't know  
28 exactly what it is. What that vertical line shows you  
29 is 80 percent of the time the real number is going to  
30 be somewhere between the top and the bottom of that  
31 vertical line.

32

33 So you can see that way out to the  
34 right, 2013, that's the most recent census we've got,  
35 235,000 caribou. That was the count. The one before  
36 that was in 2011 and it was 325,000. So from 2011 to  
37 2013 we lost more than 25 percent of this herd. That's  
38 more than the caribou that are even in the Porcupine  
39 Herd. It was a huge loss.

40

41 We can also see in 2013 for that census  
42 that little vertical line is really small. That means  
43 it's a really, really good census. We didn't blow it  
44 in 2013. We didn't miss them. You can see the minimum  
45 count is virtually identical to the mathematical  
46 estimate. So this gives us lots and lots of confidence  
47 that we didn't blow it in 2013 and just miss a lot of  
48 caribou. This is really what's happening.

49

50 You can see in 2003 that was the

1 highest number we ever got, 490,000 caribou. You guys  
2 have heard me say this number for years. We're now  
3 less than half of what we were just 10 years ago in  
4 terms of the number of caribou in this herd. I think  
5 everybody in this room is starting to feel that and see  
6 that.

7

8 Enoch, how many years since you guys in  
9 Noatak have been able to get caribou easily?

10

11 MR. MITCHELL: Five years now.

12

13 MR. DAU: Yeah, five, six years.  
14 Kivalina, if we had Raymond Hawley or somebody here,  
15 same thing. They've had a tough time. For the last  
16 two years on the Kobuk, gosh, we didn't have caribou  
17 until way into September. It used to be we got caribou  
18 in August. So we're all starting to feel this. Part  
19 of it's numbers, part of it's timing in the migration,  
20 part of it's where they're going. All three of those  
21 things are working against people who need to find  
22 caribou for food. So this is one of those things, this  
23 is numbers.

24

25 Any questions about the numbers?

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So far not, I guess.  
30 Thank you. Keep on going.

31

32 MR. DAU: Okay. I'll keep going along  
33 here. Now I'm going to mention this Western Arctic  
34 Caribou Management Plan. This is a cooperative plan.  
35 We last revised it in December 2011. There s seven  
36 different elements or parts of the plan. Two of those  
37 are really relevant to management of the herd. The  
38 first one is the population management section and the  
39 second one is the regulation section. I'm going to  
40 show you just a couple things from those.

41

42 The population management element.  
43 There's two parts to that. There's this big, ugly  
44 table that I'm going to show you next, but it relates  
45 population size and trend to different management  
46 actions and also harvest levels. And then there's an  
47 appendix in the back of the plan, Appendix 2, and it  
48 provides detailed recommendations based on this table  
49 I'm going to show you regarding how the agencies  
50 monitor caribou.

1                   It tells us in there or recommends how  
2 often we should do censuses, how often should we get  
3 fall composition data, how often should we do health  
4 assessments. Then also it provides recommendations to  
5 both the Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence  
6 Board about how to start stepping back on regulations  
7 when that becomes necessary.

8

9                   I want to say that nothing in this plan  
10 is really meant to be hard and fast. There's numbers  
11 in there, but they're not meant to be thresholds per  
12 se. All this plan is meant to do is provide guidance  
13 to the Federal Board and the State Board of Game.

14

15                   So here's this table, this big, ugly  
16 table I was talking about. Basically, to understand  
17 this, the population trend is declining, stable or  
18 increasing. That's the three columns on the right.  
19 All it really says is when the population is going  
20 down, it's declining, we're going to manage more  
21 conservatively than when the population is stable and  
22 increasing.

23

24                   The rows going across, the green row,  
25 the brown row, the yellow row, the red row, all that  
26 means is when the population is real high, when we've  
27 got lots of caribou, we're going to have more liberal  
28 regulations. So that's it in a nutshell. That's how  
29 this table works.

30

31                   Where we have been for a long, long  
32 time is in that top left box, liberal and declining.  
33 We've been there since 2003. Where we've slid into is  
34 the next box down. We're now in conservative  
35 management and we've got a declining herd.

36

37                   So how does that plan relate to the  
38 population chart that I've just showed you. What I've  
39 done is annotate that same results of all the photo  
40 censuses and you can see in a declining population  
41 we're in liberal management when we're above 265,000  
42 caribou. When we're between 200-265, then we go into  
43 what's called conservative and that's where we are  
44 right now. The next one down, if the herd keeps going  
45 down as it has in the last couple years, we're quickly  
46 going to get into preservative management.

47

48                   Any questions about this?

49

50                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I have one.

1 MR. DAU: Attamuk.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Jim, before, when we  
4 get to this stage, I thought we had numbers where the  
5 Natives could keep harvesting and yet we were going to  
6 stop the transporters, outfitters and next the guides  
7 and try to make the Natives the last possible to take a  
8 reduction in take. So my question is this, the numbers  
9 that we put in there when we first wrote the Caribou  
10 Management Plan, when were those taken out? Because I  
11 never see them on that booklet that was handed out, the  
12 numbers that we thought was important at that time.  
13 Because we need numbers for certain steps to be taken.

14

15 I hate to see you go directly to us to  
16 have a reduction, the Natives. I would rather see  
17 transporters and outfitters be stopped first under  
18 emergency order so we could keep harvesting our  
19 resource while we could. If things get worse, yes, we  
20 would agree to take a reduction, but it's going to put  
21 a lot of hardship on us if we don't take our caribou  
22 just to make it for the winter.

23

24 So my question basically is when were  
25 the numbers ever taken out for the transporters because  
26 you were pretty close to level three already the way I  
27 see it.

28

29 MR. DAU: That's a good question and  
30 actually, Attamuk, they're still in there and you're  
31 actually getting ahead of me because that's the next  
32 thing I'm going to show you. They're all in there.  
33 All that stuff that we did before, they're still in  
34 there. That's the Appendix 2 that I was talking about.  
35 So I'll show you that here.

36

37 Now in this chart you can see those six  
38 black dots and what those are, those were the six  
39 right-most black dots that are in this chart, so I'm  
40 only showing you now the right side of this chart. But  
41 then you'll see two lines down to the right. There's  
42 one with blue squares and then there's another one with  
43 red. What I've done here is project out where the  
44 population is going to be for the next three or four  
45 years.

46

47 I've done it two ways. The blue  
48 squares just assumes the herd is going to continue to  
49 decline at 15 percent per year as it did from 2011 to  
50 2013. Do I think that's going to happen? No. I just

1 estimated the mortality rate for the last year and it's  
2 one of the lowest mortality rates I've had in probably  
3 eight or ten years. So I don't think it's going to be  
4 as bad as it was from 2011 to '13.

5  
6                   The little red triangles down there,  
7 that's another way to, what biologists call it, model  
8 the population size. It's a mathematical way of  
9 estimating numbers based on things like adult cow  
10 mortality, calf survival, harvest levels, sex ratios of  
11 the herd and the harvest. It paints a little gloomier  
12 picture, but both of those lines say the same thing,  
13 we're headed down. Things are probably going to get  
14 worse before they get better.

15  
16                   The one thing I can say on both of  
17 these projections, whether you use the blue squares or  
18 the red triangles, they're based on lots of  
19 assumptions. Are those things going to come true? I  
20 don't think so. The other thing I'm really sure about  
21 on this graph is that neither one of these things is  
22 going to be exactly right, but I think what they both  
23 suggest is probably true, that the herd is going to  
24 continue to decline for the next three or four years.

25  
26                   I'm getting towards that appendix,  
27 Attamuk.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

30  
31                   MR. DAU: In fact, it's not until  
32 towards the end, but don't worry, we'll talk about  
33 that. People always want to know when they see these  
34 charts why is the herd going down. This is one of the  
35 main reasons why. You can see adult cow mortality has  
36 been going up and it's been doing that for a long time.  
37 Each one of the little dots, that's the point estimate  
38 of basically the proportion of cows that has died.  
39 This is based on radio-collared animals.

40  
41                   The vertical bars again are those error  
42 bars. You can see there's a lot of uncertainty in any  
43 one year about exactly what the mortality rate for the  
44 cows was. But what makes this data set strong is this  
45 goes all the way back to the mid 1980s. This goes back  
46 almost 30 years. So the trend is real clear all the  
47 way through that time.

48  
49                   What I just said a few minutes ago that  
50 I just estimated mortality for the last year, that's

1 the right-most point over there and you can see it's  
2 lower than it's been in over 10 years. It's 14  
3 percent. We've had mortality rates -- oh, it would be  
4 two years ago now, the third point from the right.  
5 That was 30 percent of the adult cows died in one year.

6  
7 So that's why I say that I think in the  
8 census that we do this coming summer it's not going to  
9 be quite as bad as it was from 2011 to 2013. The thing  
10 that you need to take from this is this is one of the  
11 reasons why numbers are going down, more cows are  
12 dying.

13  
14 The other reason numbers are going down  
15 is that we've had fewer calves that have been  
16 surviving. This is calf survival, just female calves,  
17 and it's the same thing. In any one year there's a lot  
18 of uncertainty with what the mortality rate for calves  
19 was or the survival rate. But over time, going back to  
20 the mid 1980s, the trend is very clear; we've had lower  
21 and lower calf survival.

22  
23 This next chart, I just overlaid those  
24 two things together and I've color-coded it based on  
25 that census chart. Let me show you the census chart.  
26 If you look from the mid 1970s until about 1990, the  
27 herd was growing about 13 percent a year. That's the  
28 maximum that caribou herds can increase. From 1990 to  
29 2003, the herd was more or less stable. There was some  
30 wobbling around, but it didn't change much. Then from  
31 2003 until '09 the herd was going down.

32  
33 So these color codes, the green is  
34 where they're going up, the white in the middle is it  
35 was stable and the red is where it's going down. You  
36 can see in the green section adult cow mortality, which  
37 is the line on the top there on the left -- no, it's  
38 the line on the bottom on the left, the red line, it  
39 was lower than calf survival and the white part, the  
40 two lines are about the same. Then, when we get into  
41 the period of decline, adult cow mortality has greatly  
42 exceeded calf survival and it's been that way for over  
43 10 years.

44  
45 So all these things put together, the  
46 census estimates, our estimates of adult cow mortality  
47 and our estimates of calf survival, are all saying the  
48 same thing. They're all consistent. Again, I don't  
49 think our numbers are wrong. I think they're all  
50 pointing in the same direction.

1                   This is a little different. What I'm  
2 showing you here is the percentage of bulls in the  
3 herd. From the early 1990s -- well, I'd say around  
4 1990, 1992, we had about 60 percent bulls or 60 bulls  
5 per 100 cows.

6  
7                   MR. BALLOT: I was just wondering.  
8 When you say quite a bit of them died, what kind of  
9 evidence do we have of whatever percent died? Do we  
10 have some kind of evidence there?

11  
12                   MR. DAU: Yeah, this is based on  
13 collared animals, so this is just the collared sample,  
14 so it's not based on the whole herd. So every year I  
15 have -- I know how many collars I've got going into the  
16 year, I know how many died and that gives me the  
17 percentage. And then to try and figure out what's  
18 killing them we're going to those mortality sites and  
19 making our best estimate.

20  
21                   I've got some slides to talk about  
22 that s coming up a little bit later. Good question. I  
23 didn't really say that, but this is all based on radio-  
24 collared animals.

25  
26                   MR. BALLOT: Okay.

27  
28                   MR. DAU: So here what I'm talking  
29 about is just the proportion of bulls in the herd.  
30 From the early 1990s until 2012, that's the last time I  
31 did a fall composition count, we've seen a steady slide  
32 in the percentage of bulls in the herd. So not only do  
33 we have lower and lower numbers, just total numbers in  
34 the herd, but on top of that we have a lower percentage  
35 of the herd that's bulls.

36  
37                   So those two things together are a big  
38 deal for hunters because most hunters want big bulls.  
39 If you want good meat, you shoot the biggest bull you  
40 can before they go stink. If you're a trophy hunter,  
41 you shoot the biggest bull because he's got the biggest  
42 antlers. But if people can get them, they usually want  
43 big bulls. That's why this was important.

44  
45                   The other thing is, I talked a little  
46 bit about harvestable surplus. Most of the harvestable  
47 surplus that we figure, and I'll tell you more about  
48 this later, but it's bulls. So, as this proportion  
49 goes down, this is going to really affect what's out  
50 there to take. We'll talk more about that later.

1 Anyway, the thing I want you to remember from this  
2 slide is that the proportion of bulls in the herd has  
3 been going down and it's been going down for over 10  
4 years.

5  
6 This chart shows the proportion of  
7 bulls that we've been harvesting out of the Western  
8 Arctic Herd. That's the black line on the top. The  
9 red line on the bottom is the proportion of cows in the  
10 herd that we've been harvesting.

11  
12 Calvin.

13  
14 MR. MOTO: I was wondering what's the  
15 ratio of calf and adult mortality? I know that we've  
16 got more predators now, more grizzly bear, brown bear,  
17 black bear and wolf and they prey mostly on the calves  
18 because they're easier to catch than the adults  
19 sometimes. So I was wondering what your ratio is of  
20 how many more calves are being taken than bulls or  
21 cows.

22  
23 MR. DAU: With calves it's really hard  
24 to tell. We know loss of calves happens in the summer,  
25 but it's hard to know exactly how many because there's  
26 not much left. We don't collar any calves ever, so I  
27 don't have a specific number. We've not done a calf  
28 mortality study for this herd.

29  
30 Now for the next herd to the east, the  
31 Teshekpuk Herd, they're just finishing a three-year  
32 calf mortality study where they went out on the calving  
33 grounds with a helicopter. They jumped out, they  
34 caught calves, they put a tiny little transmitter on  
35 them and then they've monitored those things. Their  
36 mortality has been really high.

37  
38 But for this herd we know that most of  
39 the calf mortality happens in the summer. I don't have  
40 a slide in here to show you this now, but you can see  
41 if you look there's been no trend in calf production.  
42 It's been more or less flat. Calf survival through  
43 fall, that's been going down, so we know the change has  
44 happened in the summer. When you look at from fall  
45 until spring, you have fewer calves in the spring than  
46 you had in the fall because wolves continue to kill  
47 them and they starve and they die, various things. But  
48 the slopes of the two lines are the same, so there's  
49 been no change through time. The big change has been  
50 an over summer survival.

1                   The one thing I didn't point out here  
2 with this bull/cow ratio business, you can see there's  
3 a red dashed line 40. That's what that management plan  
4 says we don't want to fall below. It must maintain at  
5 least 40 bulls per 100 cows. You can see in 2012 we  
6 were just about there. It was 42 per 100. We're  
7 probably there now. On the flight composition surveys  
8 this fall, I'll do it in about two more weeks in fact  
9 and we'll figure that out.

10

11                   Calvin.

12

13                   MR. MOTO: I was wondering also with  
14 climate change and the weather being warmer are the  
15 cows dropping their calves early before they go migrate  
16 or are they still going to the Slope? I was wondering  
17 how many of those cows were dropping them before they  
18 go because the weather is good and warm, you know, from  
19 the climate change.

20

21                   MR. DAU: That's a really interesting  
22 question. That's something I've thought about too. In  
23 terms of the timing of when they drop their calves, it  
24 really hasn't changed. The pre-calving only lasts  
25 about five days for this herd. It's amazingly short.  
26 That doesn't mean that it all happens. You know,  
27 calving happens over about a four to six week period,  
28 but the vast majority of the calves are dropped in that  
29 five-day period.

30

31                   When you get up to the calving grounds  
32 -- when I used to go to the calving grounds back in the  
33 '80s and '90s, I've been flying surveys up there since  
34 '88, I've been in break-up boots down here in Kotzebue  
35 and getting lighter jackets and I'd always be thinking,  
36 man, do I wear my break-up boots or do I put my winter  
37 stuff back on because you'd go up there and it would be  
38 winter. It was cold. And you go up there now, there's  
39 no snow on the calving grounds right now. Not only is  
40 there no snow there's mosquitos out by the end of the  
41 calving period. We never used to see that at all back  
42 25 years ago.

43

44                   So climate change and weather have  
45 absolutely changed. We all know that. We see it. But  
46 in terms of the timing of the rut, the timing of when  
47 they drop their calves, at least so far we've not seen  
48 a shift. I think where we have seen shifts there is  
49 when they start migrating in the fall. It seems like  
50 they're coming later.

1                   We used to go to Onion Portage at the  
2 end of August, first of September. We never worried  
3 about not having caribou because they'd already been  
4 crossing for two weeks. We go there now, middle of  
5 September, end of September, there's still nothing.  
6 Last year it was terrible. This year was not very  
7 good.

8  
9                   So I think what you were asking about  
10 with regard to calving, it's not changed, but in other  
11 times of the year it has and I'm not sure why the  
12 difference there. I think for these climate change  
13 effects to really play out with caribou it's going to  
14 have to persist for decades because that's kind of a  
15 scale at which selection occurs.

16  
17                   Mike.

18  
19                   MR. KRAMER: Yeah. We've already  
20 looked at making measures to start cutting off  
21 transporters. We have a proposal going in the process.  
22 We're also looking at a proposal for land and shoot  
23 wolves within this Game Management Unit. We're also  
24 going to forward a proposal to allow non-resident  
25 guides same day airborne to allow them to take grizzly  
26 bears for the purpose of protecting the herd. I'm also  
27 going to bring that to the Fish and Game Advisory  
28 Council too when our meeting comes up. I'm going to  
29 make a motion for those proposals there also because I  
30 hold a seat on that.

31  
32                   You know, like I said earlier, we got  
33 hammered by the sheep. I've mentioned several times in  
34 the past year or so we need to do something for the  
35 sheep. Now it's too late. We shut down the season.  
36 We probably won't be able to hunt sheep for a good  
37 number of years. I don't want to see that happen to  
38 the caribou and moose. Once one falls we fall on the  
39 other. The next time you know it there's an all-out  
40 crash. So we need to start taking measures now and  
41 we're already looking at doing that.

42  
43                   Another part of it is predator control.  
44 I did notice in our Federal subsistence book here it  
45 says 15 a day. I think we do need to try and see if we  
46 can make that down to 10 in the hunting regulations for  
47 the Federal subsistence. I think we also need to  
48 widen for the taking of cows. I think we need to start  
49 taking those measures also just to limit the stress on  
50 our herd. We'll still have an amount to harvest.

1 MR. DAU: Okay, thanks. You're getting  
2 ahead of me too because that's how I end this whole  
3 thing, so we'll talk about that some more towards the  
4 end of this. Yeah, all you guys are ahead of me.

5  
6 Percy.

7  
8 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. When you were  
9 talking about the 40 to 100 cows, are you talking about  
10 mature bulls or are you talking about just bulls in  
11 general?

12  
13 MR. DAU: Yeah, that's all bulls,  
14 everything older than a calf. I don't distinguish when  
15 I'm flying the surveys in the fall, a calf is a calf.  
16 I don't care if it's a female or a male. Anything above  
17 a calf I can tell bulls or cows. Not by the head so  
18 much, but by their rear end. So that's all ages of  
19 bulls, from yearlings up to big ones.

20  
21 MR. BALLOT: So that would mean like  
22 2.5 cows to one bull? I usually see them with 10 or so  
23 in the herd or their harem or whatever you call it.

24  
25 MR. DAU: Yeah. When you figure these  
26 ratios out, there's three components to it. So this is  
27 expressed bulls per 100 cows, but then there's another  
28 component there that's not shown and that's the calves.  
29 Calves, there's actually numerically a fair number in  
30 there when I do them in the fall because they haven't  
31 all yet died down. But this is just a standard way of  
32 expressing -- it's easier than a percentage although  
33 it's similar.

34  
35 The main thing is I think we could  
36 express it various ways, but the main thing to get out  
37 of this is just the proportion of bulls in the herd has  
38 been going down. In an air observation, you usually  
39 see a lot more cows than bulls. A lot of the little  
40 bulls, the yearlings, they just look like cows, so  
41 that's part of what you see out there. It looks like  
42 there's probably fewer bulls than not.

43  
44 The other thing that I notice, it  
45 really makes a difference if you're at the front end of  
46 the migration or the back end. The lead part of the  
47 migration tends to be heavy on cows and calves.  
48 There's certain bulls in there, big bulls, we know  
49 that, but the farther you get back towards the back the  
50 more of those real big herd bulls that I start seeing

1 and it's something that I have to be very concerned  
2 about when I do the estimates. If I just sample the  
3 front or the back, that could really affect my  
4 estimate, so I try and -- I use the radio collars to  
5 allocate my effort. I don't just go to one little spot  
6 and do them here.

7

8

Did that answer your question?

9

10 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I think so. The  
11 other one is remember we were talking a year ago that  
12 we were noticing that the herd stayed behind, the herd  
13 dipped there. How does that all figure into what's  
14 going on?

15

16 MR. DAU: All these numbers I'm giving  
17 you they're for the whole herd no matter where they  
18 are. One of the nice things about the count especially  
19 is we do that at the end of June or the first part of  
20 July and that's the only time of year when they're all  
21 together. When I say all, that's at least -- you know,  
22 based on the collars, it's never been 95 percent. It's  
23 always been more than 95 percent of the collars were  
24 there. Some years it up like 98, 99 percent. So the  
25 counts are very clear. We can't find caribou anywhere  
26 that we don't count them.

27

28 The other times of the year when I'm  
29 doing the counts, like the bull/cow ratio and the  
30 spring recruitment, stuff that I talked about, the calf  
31 ratio, that's tougher because they're all spread out.  
32 Still, we use radio collars to try and get everywhere  
33 there's caribou so it reflects the entire herd, not  
34 just what's in Buckland or not just what's in the  
35 Noatak.

36

37

Hannah.

38

39

40 MS. LOON: Thank you. How is the  
41 population of the Porcupine Herd and the Teshekpuk Herd  
42 in comparison to Western Arctic Herd.

42

43 MR. DAU: Good question. That's  
44 interesting nobody's asked me that before at these  
45 village meetings. There's four herds in Alaska that  
46 are north of the Yukon. Going from west to east  
47 there's this herd, the Western Arctic, the next one  
48 over is the Teshekpuk Herd. That's up around Teshekpuk  
49 Lake, kind of around Barrow. The next one is the  
50 Central Arctic Herd. It's kind of centered right on

1 the pipeline up around Prudhoe Bay. The next one to  
2 the east is the Porcupine Herd.

3

4 Out of the big herds in Alaska, the  
5 Porcupine Herd, is the only one we know of right now  
6 that's still growing. It's gone up -- I think it's  
7 about 169,000 caribou. It's still smaller than this  
8 herd, but it's been going up slowly for -- we're not  
9 really sure because we haven't gotten a census on that  
10 herd every other year. We thought that herd might be  
11 really low. When they finally got a census two years  
12 ago, I said holy cow. The number is actually 169,000.  
13 They were afraid that it was under 100,000.

14

15 The Central Arctic Herd has gone down.  
16 I think it's gone down by about 15,000 animals. The  
17 Teshekpuk Herd, that herd has gone down about on a par  
18 with this herd. It's about cut in half. It looks like  
19 that herd is in even tougher straits than the Western  
20 Arctic Herd. Right now there's only about 32,000  
21 caribou in the Teshekpuk Herd and it's harvested  
22 heavily by Barrow, Wainwright, Point Lay, Anaktuvuk,  
23 Atqasuk, Nuiqsut. Kaktovik gets some of those. So  
24 they're in tougher shape than we are.  
25 And then this herd and, like I said, it's down about  
26 50 percent compared to its peak.

27

28 The other thing I can tell you,  
29 thinking about other caribou herds, is there's caribou  
30 that go all the way to eastern Canada. Without  
31 exception all the big Canadian caribou herds have gone  
32 down too. They've got two really huge herds, the Leaf  
33 River Herd, the George River Herd. Those two herds got  
34 way bigger than this herd. This herd, I told you, we  
35 counted at the peak was 490. Those two herds got up  
36 over eight or nine hundred thousand caribou. They were  
37 almost double our size. Those two herds right now are  
38 under 20,000 caribou.

39

40 So that tells you how bad  
41 things can be with these caribou herds. They can go  
42 from close to a million animals to really, really low.  
43 We're not talking about 100 years. We're talking about  
44 10 or 15 years that that happened.

45

46 The one thing with the Canadian herds,  
47 they don't get a census every other year like we do, so  
48 they tend to sort of notice these big changes more than  
49 we do. We see things coming more quickly.

50

1 Attamuk.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You said there was a  
4 reduction in the different caribou -- different parts  
5 of Alaska. For Northwest Alaska the migration route of  
6 the caribou, there was a lichen study done. Did you  
7 guys ever do another lichen study in different plots,  
8 in different areas near Nome, here and toward Prudhoe  
9 to see if the lichens have a big reduction? Eaten by  
10 caribou in other words.

11

12 I know for sure, I always stress that  
13 you verify they mainly live on three and they live on  
14 other plants also, the caribou. Are you guys going to  
15 think of taking another study on those plots that was  
16 already there and go outside those plots to see how  
17 much the lichen declined? Because it takes 50 years  
18 for lichen to grow for caribou to live off. Are you  
19 guys going to do a study on the lichen in different  
20 areas like Nome, Kotzebue?

21

22 MR. DAU: Fish and Game have not done  
23 hardly any habitat work, but the Bureau of Land  
24 Management started looking at lichens on winter range  
25 down in the Selawik area, down in the Buckland area.  
26 They started that back in 1981. I know some of the  
27 guys that worked on that and they continue those. They  
28 only read their plots about every -- they're actually  
29 transects, about every five or seven years.

30

31 I just talked with a BLM biologist.  
32 She was helping at Onion Portage. They're going to do  
33 those again. Ulukluk Creek is one of them, but they've  
34 done down at McCarthy's Marsh, down by White Mountain,  
35 they've got some plots in Nulato Hills. So that's been  
36 going a long time and what BLM has found is they've  
37 seen a measurable decline in the percent cover of  
38 lichens for sure and they've seen also increases in  
39 grasses and shrubs. It s measurable, it's real  
40 noticeable.

41

42 Another thing that has just recently  
43 been started is looking at summer range. The U.S.  
44 Geological Survey and National Park Service have teamed  
45 up and they're looking at summer range north of the  
46 Brooks Range and I think they've only got two years of  
47 data now. The one thing they said initially was very  
48 clear, that the summer range for this herd is highly  
49 productive. Much more so than the range of the next  
50 caribou herd to the east, the Teshekpuk Herd. For the

1 Western Arctic it s like 10 times more productive and  
2 they're saying maybe that's why this herd reached  
3 490,000 and that other herd at its peak only got up  
4 around 68.

5  
6 So, anyway, I don't think Fish and Game  
7 is going to get into habitat work in a big way, but I  
8 think we've really been encouraging the Federal  
9 agencies to keep investing in that and they have been  
10 and I think those things will go on.

11  
12 The one thing I want to say though,  
13 especially with regard to the change in winter range  
14 that BLM is showing that we have not seen that  
15 reflected in body condition of caribou. Even though  
16 there's been measurable changes in lichens, these  
17 caribou are fat. This year, the caribou I handled at  
18 Onion Portage, I kept asking these guys make sure this  
19 is a cow, make sure this is a cow, because I'd be  
20 reaching around their neck to get a blood sample and  
21 collar them and it felt like a little bull. Even the  
22 cows were in good shape this year. The big bulls that  
23 we saw, we didn't see many, but they were fat.

24  
25 So my point is that you can have  
26 changes in range, but until that range becomes limiting  
27 it doesn't really make much difference. It's kind of  
28 like Thanksgiving. Let's say you and your wife got two  
29 turkeys or you got four turkeys, you can only eat part  
30 of a turkey. So you could lose half of that and you'd  
31 still get full and that's why we have this herd. The  
32 range doesn't look like it's limiting yet.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Can you get on the  
35 mic, please. State your name, please.

36  
37 MR. BANIA: My name is John Bania. I  
38 just wondered, Jim, if you had been in contact with  
39 your Canadian counterparts for perhaps similarities and  
40 differences in the declines of their herds and this  
41 herd.

42  
43 MR. DAU: Yeah, a little bit. I talk  
44 to them at conferences. There was just a  
45 teleconference with some Yukon biologists, Northwest  
46 Territory biologists. They have two herds over there,  
47 the Bath Herd East and West. Just like people in this  
48 region are talking about lots of wolves, they don't  
49 count wolves either, but all the village people are  
50 saying the same thing, lots and lots of wolves. So

1 that's one common thing I've heard of from the  
2 Canadians.

3

4                   The other thing that's different from  
5 eastern Canada, the people I talk to, is mostly what  
6 they want to talk about is  
7 habitat loss. They've got big hydro projects with  
8 roads that are carving up habitat. Caribou are not  
9 going to areas they used to go to. They've got really  
10 intense logging in some places. They've got big, big  
11 mines. Most of these big development projects come  
12 with roads. The biologist that I talked to they say  
13 it's not so much the mine, it's not so much the dam or  
14 the impoundment, it's the road that's opening up these  
15 areas.

16

17                   So it's not quite the same in western  
18 Canada as it is in eastern Canada. You get different  
19 takes from the Canadian biologists.

20

21                   MR. BANIA: So I guess that says  
22 something about what could be on the horizon here in  
23 this region as far as roads go then.

24

25                   MR. DAU: You'd be a fool to ignore it,  
26 for sure. I'm just repeating what I've been told by  
27 Canadian biologists.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

30

31                   MR. KRAMER: Before I left Kotzebue to  
32 come here a lot of people asked me questions. They  
33 said who else harvests our animals south of us beyond  
34 the Game Management Unit 23 and if they are taking the  
35 appropriate measures to lessen their take and not allow  
36 guides.

37

38                   The other thing I saw when I came up  
39 here hunting a few weeks ago was, man, everybody is  
40 afraid of being restricted. There's such an urgency to  
41 get caribou. I mean there were times when it was  
42 chaos. If you go up here a little ways, there was  
43 people shooting cows and there was even a few calves  
44 taken. I know that when I pulled up, we had shot four  
45 bulls. Somehow we ended up with three bulls and  
46 somebody's cow and another boat was driving off with  
47 our bull. They left us a cow. We had no choice but to  
48 take it.

49

50                   It was just chaos. There was such an

1 urgency, you know, for people to get caribou. I know  
2 that people even came back up and got more for other  
3 people in Kotzebue. They're so afraid that one day  
4 they're going to get restricted. I told them, I said,  
5 that day may come, but it ain't going to be too soon.  
6 I said there will be a lot of other people that get cut  
7 off first. You know, transporters and then eventually  
8 guides.

9  
10 That was one of their main concerns, is  
11 like well who else hammers our herd besides us. It  
12 would be good to know. Who's south of us, Koyuk,  
13 Unalakleet, if they take any of our herd, Huslia, if  
14 any of our herd ever strays down in those areas and  
15 they take some, if those Rural Advisory Councils are  
16 taking the necessary actions to protect our herd also,  
17 not only just us.

18  
19 MR. DAU: Good question. If you think  
20 back to that very first slide with all the locations of  
21 the satellite collars, we've got locations all the way  
22 down to Kotlik on the northern extent of the Yukon  
23 Delta. This herd, back before we had satellite  
24 collars, I tracked a VHF collar all the way down almost  
25 15 miles from Grayling if you can believe that. That's  
26 way down the Yukon. It's south and east of Unalakleet  
27 quite a ways. They go as far east as Koyukuk. We know  
28 that the Western Arctic Herd occasionally gets up  
29 around Barrow, but not very often. Wainwright is about  
30 the extent.

31  
32 But in terms of restrictions and how  
33 that's going to play out, we have regulations that are  
34 pretty much for the Western Arctic Herd. It's not just  
35 one unit, so there's not caribou regs just for Unit 23.  
36 Now I'm not saying they're all the same because we have  
37 different situations in different units. In Unit 22,  
38 we've got really complicated caribou regulations  
39 because we've tried very, very hard to protect reindeer  
40 herds. We didn't want to have caribou seasons open  
41 when there were no caribou because people would go out  
42 there and shoot reindeer, so we've tried to accommodate  
43 that.

44  
45 I think in terms of sharing the pain  
46 throughout the range of the herd, the State is going to  
47 think about that a lot and I'm sure the Federal  
48 agencies will too. I think what's really going to get  
49 tough is some people when they see these numbers are  
50 going to say, my gosh, we need to just close cows

1 period. That's a simplistic view. I don't think we  
2 can do that because communities in the southern part of  
3 the range, Buckland, Deering, certainly Koyuk,  
4 Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, Elim, if you close the cow  
5 season just unilaterally, you may as well have just  
6 closed the entire caribou season because they don't get  
7 caribou before bulls are stinky.

8  
9                   So I think when we start working on  
10 really the nuts and bolts of how do we restrict, we're  
11 going to have to make regulations that are appropriate  
12 for the different areas. We don't want the cow harvest  
13 sucked up by northern villages simply because it's  
14 easy. If they can get bulls, they should get bulls and  
15 save the cows for the southern ones that need them.

16  
17                   But that's where I think the Western  
18 Arctic Herd Working Group in particular can be really,  
19 really effective because we've got representatives from  
20 Nuiqsut and Wainwright and Point Hope, all the way down  
21 to the southern part of the range and it will give that  
22 range-wide perspective that we need. Also we've got  
23 Advisory Committees and RACs that represent the whole  
24 range. So you're right on and it's not going to be  
25 easy. It's going to be tough.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Jim, maybe you could  
28 give us the places where they take caribou for the  
29 Western Arctic Caribou migration route. I thought it  
30 was 19 different villages that take our caribou. So  
31 did it expand, the take of our Western Arctic Caribou  
32 Herd? At the time, remember when we did that plan and  
33 you put that map together we had 19 different villages.  
34 That's why we have a representative from every village.  
35 It's one of the largest groups there is, the Western  
36 Arctic Herd Working Group.

37  
38                   MR. DAU: The subsistence users by far  
39 are represented throughout the whole range and most of  
40 the voting chairs on that group they're subsistence  
41 users. The environmentalist has one chair and they've  
42 got one vote, guides have one vote, transporters have  
43 one vote, non-local Alaska hunters have two votes,  
44 Anchorage and Fairbanks, but then all the rest of them  
45 represent subsistence communities.

46  
47                   I think, Attamuk, it's even higher than  
48 19 now because some of those have one representative  
49 for three villages. Down here, Verne represents Kiana  
50 and Noorvik. So usually we've got one guy that's got

1 to represent two or three villages. So in terms of  
2 numbers of communities, it's actually even higher than  
3 19.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks.

6

7 Hannah.

8

9 MS. LOON: Thank you. You said before  
10 when the population of the caribou was very healthy you  
11 always come into the calving grounds with snow still  
12 around and now you come to the calving grounds when  
13 there's no snow. I was wondering if the calves are  
14 being well hydrated and their food source is moist.  
15 You know, because right now the Noatak River and the  
16 Kobuk River there's low water. I wonder if there's  
17 absolutely no water available to the caribou population  
18 while they're calving.

19

20 MR. DAU: There's lots of water.

21 There's just no snow, but that snow that's melted it's  
22 mostly standing on the tundra. The tundra is still  
23 froze below it, so that water can't go down. When you  
24 fly over it and do the survey and you look out over the  
25 tussocks, it's just standing water. If you walk around  
26 down in there, you can't go anywhere without break-up  
27 boots. So there's lots of water.

28

29 I think the biggest thing isn't so much  
30 whether there's enough water for them, but it's how  
31 quickly things dry out. I think really the 800 pound  
32 gorilla in the summer -- it's two things. One is just  
33 the quality and quantity of the food and the second  
34 thing that is huge is just bugs. I just can't  
35 overemphasize how important mosquitos and these warble  
36 flies and botflies are to caribou.

37

38 If you have a warm, dry summer,  
39 especially if it gets warm and dry early, based on the  
40 research that Greg Finstad has done on the Seward  
41 Peninsula, warm, dry conditions early in the summer  
42 result in lower quality of food and less food than when  
43 it's cool and wet. So what you really want is cool and  
44 wet early on. Warm and dry is also really good for  
45 bugs and that's really bad for caribou. They spend so  
46 much time running, running in big, huge groups, they re  
47 not feeding. You look at them and they're not feeding.

48

49 So it's not so much water, I think,  
50 this climate change issue and snow melt, it's more

1 quality of food and even more importantly I think is  
2 the bugs, insect harassment, but that could be  
3 changing.

4  
5 I'll keep talking here. What I was  
6 going to talk about here, this is the proportion of  
7 bulls, the top line, that we've been harvesting every  
8 year. You can see a vertical dashed line there.  
9 Everything to the left of that is history. That's  
10 what's actually happened. Everything to the right of  
11 that vertical line, those are projections of what could  
12 happen in the future.

13  
14 So let's just look at the top line.  
15 That's bulls. That's the proportion of bulls that  
16 we've taken every year. You can see from 1999 through  
17 about 2010 we were taking about 8 to 12 percent of the  
18 bulls per year, but the last two years it started going  
19 up. We're up above 14, 15 percent of the bulls. The  
20 scary thing is that if these trends continue, starting  
21 this year and going on for five years, we could be  
22 taking over 30 percent of the bulls out of this herd  
23 every year.

24  
25 Now that's really not going to affect  
26 the numbers very much. Removing bulls only kind of  
27 takes out -- the only impact it has is the number of  
28 bulls you remove. Also, when you take bulls, like I  
29 said earlier, everybody wants to take the biggest  
30 bulls. They're the best meat, they're fat, they've got  
31 the biggest antlers, so a lot of those bulls are going  
32 to die anyway. So we're shooting bulls that are  
33 probably going to die within a year or two anyway. So  
34 that doesn't really impact the population either.

35  
36 If you look at the bottom line, the red  
37 line, from '99 until right now, we've been taking 2 to  
38 4 percent of the cows out of the herd, but it starts to  
39 bump up next year. It doesn't go up much, nothing like  
40 the bulls, but increasing the harvest of cows from 2  
41 percent up to 5 or 6 percent, that's going to have a  
42 bigger impact on your numbers than anything we do with  
43 the bulls.

44  
45 The reason why is when you kill a cow,  
46 you kill her calf and you don't just kill her next  
47 calf, you kill all of her calves and half of those  
48 calves are going to be female cows. Those female cows  
49 would give birth to calves that would have female  
50 calves too. It's really exponential, an exponential

1 effect, and that's what it's called in mathematical  
2 terms.

3

4                   Because one bull can breed with lots  
5 and lots of cows, you can take lots of bulls and not  
6 affect the numbers too much, but one cow, no matter how  
7 many bulls she breeds with, she's going to have one  
8 calf that year. It's a really important concept to get  
9 down, is that when you take cows you're taking future  
10 reproductive potential from the herd. So this bottom  
11 line, even though it looks a lot less dramatic than the  
12 top line, that's the one that's going to affect your  
13 numbers. It's the cow harvest.

14

15                   What are some things driving this  
16 decline possibly? You guys have asked me questions  
17 about most of this stuff already. I've told you that  
18 calf production has not changed. It's the same as it's  
19 been for the last 20 years. No change in that trend at  
20 all. But we've seen a decline in calf survival. We  
21 think most of that decline is in the summer. It's not  
22 in the winter or the fall.

23

24                   We know range condition has changed.  
25 BLM has told us that, but we've not seen that reflected  
26 in body condition. These caribou can still get fat.  
27 The range is still good enough to support them. It  
28 looks like body size might be a little bit smaller now  
29 than it was back in the '70s and '80s. That's based on  
30 those jaw samples that I've been collecting. Even  
31 though there's a statistically significant difference,  
32 caribou are smaller now than they were 20 years ago,  
33 slightly. I don't know that it's really a biological  
34 difference and that's why I want to continue to get  
35 jaws, to see if that continues, that trend continues.

36

37                   We've done two health assessments in  
38 the herd. We've seen no red flags with parasites or  
39 disease. We've had the animals that we've shot tested  
40 for both radioisotopes because people in Point Hope are  
41 deathly afraid that Cape Thompson Chariot poisoned our  
42 caribou. We have not found any indication of  
43 radioisotopes in these caribou. We've looked at these  
44 caribou for heavy metals because people in Kivalina and  
45 Noatak are deathly afraid that Red Dog is poisoning our  
46 caribou with lead and zinc dust. We've not seen  
47 anything to suggest that that's a problem. So health  
48 of the caribou seems fine.

49

50                   Habitat loss and fragmentation. I've

1 talked about the Canadians. That's a big concern.  
2 Here, the only big development we've got is Red Dog. I  
3 think all you guys have seen my slides showing that in  
4 some years caribou have a tough time getting past the  
5 Red Dog Road and some years they don't. They cross the  
6 road easily. Most years, like this year, there's  
7 hardly a caribou even going to go by Red Dog. They're  
8 all east of Red Dog. I don't think Red Dog has  
9 affected our numbers at all.

10

11 Harvest. I'm going to show you more  
12 about harvest, but I don't think harvest is what  
13 started the decline because harvests haven't changed.  
14 They've been pretty stable. I'll show you that.

15

16 Calvin brought up climate change. I  
17 think the main thing to think about with climate change  
18 is how that affects weather. I told you earlier that I  
19 think these warm winters we've had with icing, that's  
20 what started things down, but since numbers started  
21 going down, wolf numbers have been going real high,  
22 brown bear numbers. I've heard it over and over. I  
23 think predators are having a bigger role now than they  
24 did 5, 10, 15 years ago.

25

26 What I did was I went back -- what I'm  
27 going to show you here is sources of mortality. What I  
28 did last winter is I went back through all of our radio  
29 collar data, so this is based on radio-collared  
30 animals, and I wanted to know how important is harvest  
31 versus natural mortality. The black lines here on this  
32 chart, that's natural mortality. The red lines are  
33 hunter harvest. You can see the black lines are way  
34 higher than the harvest. So of the two sources of  
35 mortality, natural mortality has mainly been driving  
36 what's killing caribou. It's not been harvest.

37

38 Then I wanted to know, well, natural  
39 mortality, that's a lot of different things. It's  
40 wolves, it's bears, wolverines, starvation, winter  
41 weather, animals die of disease, drop through the ice.  
42 How do those things rank in importance. The only thing  
43 I could really sort out was predators versus everything  
44 else. So here the red lines are everything else and  
45 the black lines are caribou that died due to predation.  
46 You can see that predation is much higher than  
47 everything else combined in terms of natural mortality.

48

49

50 So it look like it's mostly natural

1 mortality and it's mostly predators. It's not that  
2 they're starving and it's not that they're dying of  
3 disease.

4  
5 Harvest. This is total harvest by  
6 year. You can see it varies from year to year, but  
7 this is both from sport hunters and also subsistence.  
8 This is total harvest. Sometimes you hear on the  
9 street, well, harvests are going up, harvests are going  
10 up. They're really not. If you drew a line, it would  
11 be a flat line. There's been no trend.

12  
13 This is the harvest in terms of the  
14 percentage of the herd that we've removed every year  
15 and you can see for a long, long time that we were  
16 taking about three and a half percent of the population  
17 until the last three years and it's bumped up. It's  
18 gone up to over 5 percent. The reason for that is  
19 people are taking just as many caribou or we're taking  
20 it from a smaller and smaller population, so the  
21 percentage goes up.

22  
23 This is probably the best slide to make  
24 the point that if we don't reduce our harvest, these  
25 bars on the right are going to continue to climb.  
26 We're going to take more and more and harvest didn't  
27 start the decline, but I think if we don't do  
28 something, harvests are going to start driving numbers  
29 even lower.

30  
31 This is a chart that shows who's taking  
32 the caribou. It's the same data but I've just broken  
33 out everybody who lives within the range of the heard,  
34 those are the black part of the bar. Everybody else,  
35 the sport hunters, that's the little red cap on the  
36 top. Sport hunters are taking 5 percent of the total  
37 harvest and it's been real consistent for a long, long  
38 time. They don't take much of this herd at all. What  
39 we always hear is we need to restrict the sport hunters  
40 and we can and we will. That's what the plan says,  
41 that's what the Federal policy is and that's even what  
42 State policy is. We could close the non-local hunters  
43 down completely.

44  
45 Somebody just closed my computer down  
46 completely. We can close those guys out completely and  
47 it's not going to make any difference. It's 5 percent  
48 of the harvest. Most of the harvest is by subsistence  
49 users.

50

1 Verne.

2

3 MR. CLEVELAND: On the harvest, I think  
4 it was five per day, not 15. Are we lowering that or  
5 is 15 per day?

6

7 MR. DAU: All you guys are way ahead of  
8 me because I've got a slide. Right now in the State  
9 regulations throughout the whole range of the Western  
10 Arctic Herd for resident hunters it's five per day.  
11 Under Federal regulations, and I'm going to put the bug  
12 in you guys' ear today while you're here, I think what  
13 Michael said earlier, it's 15 per day in Unit 23 and  
14 Unit 26A, the North Slope, it's 10 per day, and Unit 22  
15 it's five per day.

16

17 I think 15 and even 10 per day is too  
18 high. I'm going to suggest to you guys that you work  
19 through the Federal side and try to get that down. I  
20 think it would be a good time to get State and Fed regs  
21 in line if we can to make it easier for everybody to  
22 understand what the heck they can do. So I'm  
23 encouraging you to think about reducing the Federal bag  
24 limit here to five a day for beginners. It's something  
25 to think about.

26

27 MR. CLEVELAND: Is that your proposal?

28

29 MR. DAU: Well, I don't know if we're  
30 going to submit a proposal. We don't usually submit  
31 Federal proposals. We do sometimes. I would rather  
32 work through you guys. I mean I don't need to propose  
33 that, but I'm putting the bug in your ear. I think  
34 it's time to start thinking about that stuff. If you  
35 want to see that happen, I think you have a lot more  
36 sway with the Federal Subsistence Board than I do or  
37 the State.

38

39 I don't really care who proposes it.  
40 Maybe the working group. Although early on the working  
41 group said we don't really want to submit proposals, we  
42 want to make recommendations for the RACs and the  
43 Advisory Committees to submit. There's lots of  
44 entities who could propose it.

45

46 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

47

48 MR. DAU: Okay. This is just  
49 subsistence harvest now and I've lumped all years, but  
50 this just shows where the subsistence harvest is mainly

1 coming out of. Unit 23 you can see far exceeds all the  
2 other units put together in terms of subsistence  
3 harvest. So that's why what you guys do here with the  
4 Northwest RAC is so important. This is where most of  
5 the subsistence harvest happens.

6  
7 This is the same type of a chart,  
8 except it shows hunters as well as harvest, but this is  
9 the non-local hunters. These are the recreational  
10 hunters and it's the same pattern. Most hunters, I  
11 think it's like 75 or 80 percent of the non-local  
12 hunters who hunt this herd -- so it's not everybody in  
13 Alaska, it's just people who hunt this herd, if they  
14 don't live within the range of the herd, they come to  
15 Unit 23 to hunt. Again, that's why it's so important  
16 that we get regs right for Unit 23. That's where most  
17 of the harvest comes.

18  
19 Again, what we're talking about here in  
20 this chart is 5 percent of the total harvest. What  
21 we're talking about in this chart, that's 95 percent of  
22 the harvest.

23  
24 So I'm closing in on the end. Hang in  
25 there. Regulations. If you remember the color-coded  
26 table, we're out of liberal management, we're into  
27 conservative management and this, Attamuk, gets to one  
28 of your first questions about numbers and how we  
29 restrict. This gets into Appendix 2. In conservative  
30 management, the Management Plan recommends that we  
31 close cows to everybody. Subsistence users, non-local  
32 hunters, everybody. No more taking cows. That's what  
33 the plan recommends.

34  
35 It says non-resident cows should be  
36 stopped completely. Non-residents don't get to kill  
37 anymore cows. That's what it recommends. It also says  
38 we should start restricting the non-resident bull  
39 harvest and we don't even tie that to a 40 bull per 100  
40 cow level. We just say now is the time to start  
41 restricting non-residents and that's what Mike said  
42 earlier. We need to start restricting. He said  
43 guides, transporters. We're talking non-resident  
44 hunters here. It's a little different.

45  
46 The plan also says we're going to  
47 encourage voluntary reduction in the resident cow  
48 harvest and that's what I've been saying in every  
49 village. Percy and Calvin heard me say it. Don't take  
50 any more caribou than you have to and especially, if

1 you can avoid taking cows, don't take cows.

2

3                   The last thing the plan says is we  
4 suggest limiting the subsistence harvest to bulls only  
5 if that ratio drops below 40 per 100. We're not there  
6 yet, but we're close.

7

8                   I've got several slides here that show  
9 what's called harvestable surplus. What that means is  
10 this is what you can harvest from the population  
11 without affecting it. So I estimated that assuming you  
12 can take 15 percent of the bulls every year and have no  
13 impact on the population, but you can only take 2  
14 percent of the cows. That's the top line. You can see  
15 as the herd has gone down after 2003 that harvestable  
16 surplus has gone down. The other thing driving this is  
17 the proportion of bulls is going down.

18

19                   The bottom line, the black line, that's  
20 the actual harvest. That's our estimate of harvest.  
21 The main thing to get out of that is last year the  
22 harvestable surplus was just about exactly what we  
23 took.

24

25                   Under State regs there's two concepts  
26 that are going to drive what the State does. The first  
27 is the intensive management law and under intensive  
28 management there's actually two types of numbers you  
29 need to think about. Intensive management, the  
30 population objective says we want to maintain at least  
31 200,000 caribou in the herd. We're still above that at  
32 235. It also says we want to have a harvestable  
33 surplus from 12-20,000 caribou and that's what that  
34 green line is or the green bar in that area. That's  
35 shows the 12-20,000 range. The red line is what we've  
36 harvested. That's the actual harvest levels.

37

38                   The other thing you need to think about  
39 under State regulations is the State subsistence law.  
40 In there we say the number of caribou necessary for  
41 subsistence users is 8-12,000 caribou. The way those  
42 numbers get back into hunting is when the harvestable  
43 surplus, that top line, when that goes below 12,000  
44 caribou, Fish and Game has to consider intensive  
45 management. What that is is either habitat improvement  
46 or predator control. That's written in State law. We  
47 have no choice. We have to do that.

48

49                   We started the process internally  
50 already doing what's called a feasibility assessment

1 for intensive management. I'll tell you right off the  
2 bat that to try and improve habitat out here, there's  
3 no way we can do it. We're talking about a third of  
4 the state. So what the State is going to focus on is  
5 predator control.

6  
7 Also, when we drop below 12,000  
8 caribou, that harvestable surplus, the State must close  
9 non-resident hunting. We have to. We've got no choice.  
10 So, Mike, there you go. We're above that right now.  
11 The harvestable surplus is like 13-14,000 caribou. In  
12 a couple years non-resident hunting on this herd may  
13 stop and it's not because of a decision we're going to  
14 make. It's for a decision that was made years and  
15 years ago.

16  
17 The other thing is that when a  
18 harvestable surplus 8,000 caribou, the State has to  
19 manage -- first of all we have to close all non-  
20 subsistence uses, but the other thing is we have to  
21 manage under what's called Tier II. In most of the  
22 state that usually means that you have to get a permit.  
23 You have to apply for a permit, you have to get drawn.  
24 It's just like muskox right now up in your area, Enoch  
25 or Percy, on the State side. So that's what happens  
26 when we go below 8,000 caribou.

27  
28 What I've done here is break out bulls  
29 and cows. This is just bulls now. This is the  
30 harvestable surplus and you can see it looks an awful  
31 lot like the last chart I showed you and that's because  
32 we're allowing up to 15 percent of the bulls to be  
33 taken. The harvestable surplus of bulls is just about  
34 exactly what we took last year.

35  
36 This is what it looks like for cows.  
37 It's a lot less dramatic, but the scary thing here is  
38 if you assume that you can only take 2 percent of the  
39 cows without affecting the population, for the last  
40 three years we've already taken more than 2 percent of  
41 the cows. Like I told you before, a very small  
42 increase in the cow harvest will have a big impact on  
43 the numbers. So we need to start thinking about  
44 protecting cows. That's a big deal.

45 So for you guys, you're making  
46 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board, we  
47 already know the sport hunters aren't taking cows. The  
48 only reason they'd take a cow is if they absolutely  
49 can't take a bull. But what we're really talking about  
50 is the subsistence harvest there. That's going to be

1 really hard. I mean I have no delusions. This is not  
2 going to be an easy thing for anybody. It's going to  
3 impact people. It s a big deal.

4

5 I've told you all this stuff already.  
6 I've been talking a long time. It's been a two-day  
7 meeting. I don't think I need to go through this  
8 summary. I've already said all this stuff. The one  
9 thing I will say is that we asked the Board of Game to  
10 consider taking up a Western Arctic Herd proposal this  
11 coming winter out of the regular cycle. We haven't  
12 submitted our request officially. We think they'll let  
13 us do it. If they say yes, we're going to have a  
14 proposal that would probably -- first of all, it would  
15 propose all the things that are recommended by the  
16 plan. Close the harvest of cows, close the non-  
17 resident cow season and start restricting the bull  
18 harvest by non-residents.

19

20 In addition to that, there's a same day  
21 airborne hunt in Unit 22. I think we should close  
22 that. No more same day airborne.

23

24 Then the last thing, at the January  
25 meeting the Board of Game combined the Teshekpuk Herd  
26 with the Western Arctic Herd for this ANS, the amount  
27 necessary for subsistence. Most of us in Fish and Game  
28 think that was a mistake. We think there should be  
29 separate ANS levels on the State side for those two  
30 herds. I'm pushing to get them to change that. I  
31 think our headquarters is going to overrule me. I  
32 don't think they're going to let me do that. I don't  
33 know. We'll see.

34

35 But anyway, I just want to tell you  
36 that we're pushing already to get the Board of Game to  
37 start doing what the management plan suggests. A lot  
38 of you guys are on the AC committees too. You'll be  
39 hearing it through that as well. So that's a heads up.

40

41 Lastly, there's lots of ways we can  
42 start restricting. I always put this up at the end.  
43 Should we have separate quotas for cows and bulls.  
44 Right now we just say caribou, but if we're going to  
45 protect cows, we need to start separating those two  
46 things. So that's one thing to think about, separate  
47 regulations for cows and bulls. We already talked  
48 about reducing bag limits on the State and Federal  
49 side.

50

1                   Then the last thing I'll mention is  
2 that in some parts of the state, like down around  
3 Glennallen for the Nelchina Herd, instead of having  
4 permit hunts where an individual hunter has to apply  
5 and get a permit, they've established village harvest  
6 quotas. That's something we should think about up here  
7 because that's more in line with how you people  
8 subsist. Somebody goes out, they find caribou, they  
9 get lucky, they shoot a whole bunch and they split them  
10 all out through the village, they share. That's how it  
11 works. It's not so much individual hunters. Oh, I've  
12 got my permit, I'm going to get mine. That's not how  
13 your culture works. It's not how it ever worked.

14  
15                   So anyway, that's one thing to think  
16 about on the State side. Don't just say we'll accept  
17 Tier II and we'll get a permit. You know, if you think  
18 village quotas would work better for you, tell the  
19 Board that and see what they do.

20  
21                   The last thing I'm going to say. You  
22 heard me say earlier that I think what started the  
23 decline was weather and now I think predators are  
24 having a huge role. We could close down -- let's just  
25 say theoretically we close down all hunting altogether,  
26 we shut down you guys, we shut down sport hunters, we  
27 eliminate the airplanes, don't let anybody kill a  
28 caribou, numbers are still going to go down for a  
29 while. We've got lots of wolves, we've got lots of  
30 bears and we're still having this crazy weather.

31  
32                   But I think we're at the point -- you  
33 know, you saw my slides. We're at the point now where  
34 if we don't do something, harvests are going to start  
35 making things worse. If we just go into denial, we're  
36 not going to do anything, it's not our fault, we have  
37 the potential to make things worse, so that's why I'm  
38 going to all the villages and making my spiel.

39  
40                   That's it. Thanks for your patience.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, okay. First of  
43 all, I'm going to tell Raymond and Hannah that you are  
44 going to every village to give this report. That's  
45 what you said earlier. They wanted to translate it for  
46 Noorvik, but Raymond, Hannah, they are going to Noorvik  
47 to give the same report what we hear. Every village is  
48 going to hear this.

49  
50                   MR. DAU: Actually we've been to

1 Noorvik already. I've done eight of them. But what we  
2 can do -- if you guys want to work on a translation,  
3 we'll work together. I can give you this thing and you  
4 can translate it and we'll make sure they've got access  
5 to it. I mean so many are online.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. There's a lot  
8 of hands up, so whoever is longest. Okay, we'll start  
9 with Enoch.

10  
11 (Laughter)

12  
13 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, Jim, talk about  
14 the harvest, hunters, local hunters, non-local hunters,  
15 and the intent of management, when are they going to  
16 start doing something about the hunters, about the  
17 harvest?

18  
19 Also the bears and the wolves, they do  
20 a lot of harvest too. Is something being done about  
21 them? I mean we're doing something about the man side.  
22 We need to start doing something about the predator  
23 side too. I mean put a bounty on them or something.

24  
25 MR. DAU: Well, it's an excellent  
26 question. Earlier this week I got a big dose of  
27 supervision from my director. He says, gosh, you know,  
28 you're focusing on all the bad news about the caribou  
29 going down and his words to me, he said you need to say  
30 too that the State is not going to stand by and do  
31 nothing.

32  
33 Again, State law requires us to think  
34 about intensive management and we are working now on  
35 this intensive management feasibility assessment. So  
36 I'm not sure what the State will actually implement.  
37 We're not even there at the threshold yet, so we're  
38 going to go through this process for a couple years,  
39 but I will guarantee you that the State Fish and Game  
40 and also the Board of Game will be considering predator  
41 control.

42  
43 What we've done so far though -- you  
44 know the story doesn't start right now. We've been  
45 incrementally bringing down the regulations for 20-25  
46 years. When I got here, the non-resident quota was 15  
47 bears per year, that's all. It's 68 now. When I got  
48 here, residents had to buy a special tag to kill  
49 grizzly bears. You could only shoot one every four  
50 years. We eliminated that a long time ago. You can

1 shoot a bear a year now.

2

3 We've even made the bag limit one bear  
4 per year for non-residents if hunts are  
5 undersubscribed. We used to have split spring and fall  
6 seasons. We combined that now. We've only got two  
7 months where the bear season is closed. For brown  
8 bears I'm talking about. That's June and July and  
9 that's when they have little cubs. For black bears  
10 there's no closed season. Three per year. No tag.  
11 You don't even have to get the dang thing sealed.

12

13 We've got a subsistence hunt that lets  
14 you leave the hide and the skull in the field if you  
15 take the meat. They've tried to make it easy for  
16 subsistence hunters to do that. So we've done some  
17 things already, as much as we can, through the  
18 regulations to just let people, hunters try and have  
19 some effect.

20 We increased the wolf bag limit 20 per year under  
21 hunting.

22

23 There's no bag limit for bears if you  
24 get a trapping license. If you get a trapping license,  
25 you can still shoot bears. You don't have to catch  
26 them in a trap or a snare. So we've been trying to do  
27 this through the public as much as we can. Again, this  
28 is right straight from my director, the State is not  
29 going to stand by and say we're not doing anything.  
30 You know, we're thinking about that too.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike. Mike  
33 was next.

34

35 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Jim, when you showed  
36 that slide about -- you remember when it gets to 8,000  
37 or 12,000, is that based on the harvest we've currently  
38 been taking per year? I mean I think you said we  
39 harvest -- what was that? I can't remember what you  
40 said the harvest was.

41

42 MR DAU: The average has been about  
43 14,000 a year.

44

45 MR. KRAMER: You said that if it gets  
46 to 12 or 8,000, that little threshold down there, I  
47 think that needs to be raised up a lot higher. Let's  
48 just say we take 16,000 head a year for subsistence.  
49 If we add another 20,000 to that, then that's when  
50 there should be some drastic measures begin to be

1 taken. You need to be considering also over the years  
2 we might be taking some. So taking those drastic  
3 measures.

4

5 I mean the measures I'm looking at now  
6 is just eliminating transporters, allowing guides, for  
7 the purpose of being able to take bears same day  
8 airborne. If we could put sport hunters to be a  
9 requirement to where they're only allowed to take  
10 caribou under a guide, just like bear, moose and sheep,  
11 and now add caribou to it, then they're limited.

12

13 I mean both you and I know guides.  
14 They only transport one once every 10 days. They come  
15 in and they come out. I mean not like transporters  
16 where they're just non-stop roaming through the  
17 mountains. I think that needs to be raised up to  
18 35,000 head. At least that way that makes the  
19 transporters have to hire guides in order to operate  
20 and be able to make money if they're willing to. You  
21 know, with that threshold, at least that way that will  
22 give us a lot more leeway to be able to still do some  
23 subsistence harvest.

24

25 MR. DAU: Let's see, just to make it  
26 clear, the 12-20,000 and what the 8-12,000 are, those  
27 are the harvestable surplus. I've showed you what the  
28 estimates are on that top line. So it's not based on  
29 what has happened at all. It's just based on that  
30 harvestable surplus. So there's different ways you can  
31 change this whole -- you can change anything in this  
32 graph. For one thing, I told you that in my estimates  
33 here of harvestable surplus, I assumed you could take 2  
34 percent of the cows, 15 percent of the bulls.

35

36 Now you could say the harvestable  
37 surplus is higher than this. You could say, well,  
38 hell, we can take 25 percent of the bulls, let's take  
39 50 percent, let's take 5 percent of the cows. That  
40 would shift this line way up. But you need to be  
41 careful because if you assume you've got this  
42 harvestable surplus and it's not realistic, you're  
43 going to overharvest.

44

45 That needs to be a biologically sound  
46 decision on what you can take. That can change. If we  
47 drive our bull/cow ratio down, let's say we get down to  
48 20 bulls per 100 cows, we're probably going to say we  
49 can't take 15 percent of the bulls anymore, maybe we  
50 can take 10, maybe we can only take seven. As soon as

1 we change those percentages on bulls and cows, that  
2 changes our estimate of harvestable surplus.

3  
4                   The other way this thing can get  
5 changed, and I think it's what you're getting at,  
6 Michael, you can put in a proposal to the Board of Game  
7 and say this ANS level is too low and that's kind of  
8 what I'm getting at when I say that I'm pushing to have  
9 the Board reconsider what they did in January. I'm  
10 saying we should have a separate ANS just for the  
11 Western Arctic Herd and then a separate one for the  
12 Teshekpuk Herd. We shouldn't put those two together.

13  
14                   Again, I think I'm going to get  
15 overruled, I don't know that, but my point is that  
16 number is not necessarily etched in stone. You can say  
17 this number needs to go up, needs to go down, just the  
18 bottom number, just the top number. It's a regulation,  
19 so there's.....

20  
21                   MR. BALLOT: You said that a rationale  
22 the State Game Board uses when the times get tough.

23  
24                   MR. DAU: Exactly. And that's what we  
25 have right now. That's why I've got these numbers on  
26 there. So, for intensive management, if the herd goes  
27 below 200,000, we have to consider  
28 predator control, we have to consider habitat  
29 improvement.

30  
31                   MR. BALLOT: One of the things I didn't  
32 hear, maybe we should think about, is we talk about  
33 quotas or things like that, but what about seasons?  
34 You know, cows have their babies in February, March or  
35 something like that. So if we had a set time  
36 maybe -- I know it would be kind of hard, but if people  
37 knew ahead of time that you're going to be open until  
38 around that time to get your cows, that's another  
39 thought.

40  
41                   MR. DAU: You're right on. That's  
42 something I've been thinking about too. These caribou  
43 drop their calves in early June, but I've wondered --  
44 I've said this and some of the villages have questions,  
45 should we have a bull season after the bulls go stink.  
46 Should we let anybody shoot a bull after it goes stink.  
47 You know, you guys won't shoot them. Should we let  
48 anybody else shoot them? I don't know. Should we have  
49 only a cow season when the bulls are stink? Is that  
50 really the only good reason to shoot a cow is because

1 the bulls aren't edible? But now we've got a six-week  
2 closure on cows.

3

4 I think you're right on, Percy. I'd  
5 think about extending that protected period.

6

7 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, if you think about  
8 it, if we were able to quit hunting before they start  
9 getting pregnant or when they're getting pregnant, the  
10 bulls are good by then. They just don't look good.  
11 The fat is all inside.

12

13 MR. DAU: Right, right. I don't know.  
14 Bob Yule told me years and years ago back when people  
15 were hunting with dog team and everything that they  
16 shifted back into shooting bulls. They shot anything  
17 in good shape after about December. They didn't wait  
18 all winter long because it was hard to get caribou.  
19 But they would start taking bulls. Let's say after  
20 about October 10th or so and then they'd go up until  
21 about Christmas and then after that they didn't care if  
22 it was a bull or a cow, they just wanted to get one in  
23 good condition. That's what he told me.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

26

27 MR. BALLOT: I'm done.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.

30

31 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
32 Last spring on the Caribou Working Group I strongly  
33 gave your presentation to the group that the time has  
34 come to work on these bag limits or transporters and  
35 guides. Let's start something. The number one item I  
36 said is that if the caribou continue to decline, of  
37 course you know we are all aware of all the guides and  
38 outfits in Unit 23. If we have to, I said to cut down  
39 half of the transporters and guides. Maybe that would  
40 help. Like last year there was well over 150 hunters  
41 at the Squirrel. I don't know how much it is this  
42 year. So even though we re in a situation like that we  
43 can see now that we re in fear because the caribou  
44 continues to decline.

45

46 Now for bag limits, the bag limits  
47 should be discussed for both transporters, guides and  
48 local subsistence users. You said the bag limit would  
49 be easy to deal with five caribou a day, but we cannot  
50 get five a day for 365 days. Absolutely no. That

1 should be worked on for the subsistence users how many  
2 a day. Five a day or seasonally or that should be put  
3 in the books so we'll know how many we can harvest.

4

5 So I know it's very difficult for the  
6 local users to start doing this, but we have to  
7 regardless. We have to cut down on the bag limits.  
8 I'll stop for now but I've got a lot more yet.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

11

12 Go ahead, Jim.

13

14 MR. DAU: Thanks, Raymond. I agree  
15 with you. We don't want to see somebody take almost  
16 2,000 caribou a year. I mean that's irresponsible. I  
17 mean that's nuts. But what you're talking about, not  
18 only daily bag limits, we need to consider what are  
19 annual total limits. You can take five a day up to X  
20 number of caribou. What's that X? That's what we're  
21 going to be looking to the villages and you guys.

22

23 I mean that's again why I'm going to  
24 the villages is to get you guys thinking exactly about  
25 what you guys are thinking about now. So give us  
26 numbers. Think about this. Talk about it amongst  
27 yourselves. What's the max we should take in a year.

28

29 MR. STONEY: When the situation is as  
30 it appears now that we have to work with the ACs. We  
31 have to make a strong recommendation and get support  
32 from the RAC and then it has to go to the Board of  
33 Game. Maybe we could get something done. Because the  
34 State is looking at the Advisory Council for the State.  
35 That's where we should go first.

36

37 Thank you, Jim.

38

39 MR. DAU: All right. I think having  
40 the ACs work with the RAC, maybe some kind of a joint  
41 meeting or something. We used to have joint AC  
42 meetings in Kotzebue. Maybe we should do something  
43 like that when we talk about this caribou stuff and how  
44 the RAC members -- I mean a lot of you guys are on the  
45 ACs already. All you do is wear two hats instead of  
46 one. But I think it's a good idea.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Mike, you're  
49 next.

50

1 MR. KRAMER: I was kind of hoping  
2 Melinda was here. I wanted to see if there was a  
3 possibility we can add another proposal to change  
4 harvest limits on our Federal subsistence book here  
5 from 15 a day to five a day.

6  
7 The other thing is to make it to where  
8 south of -- what are these mountains, Kiana Hills,  
9 Selawik Hills? South of there cows may be taken from  
10 October 15 to March 31st. That way we're protecting --  
11 you know, we're still allowing people south of Kiana,  
12 the Kobuk River, to be able to take cows, but only give  
13 them a certain window to be able to take them. We know  
14 that in March that they've got calves on board. At  
15 least that way you're somewhat limiting the taking of  
16 cows south of the Kobuk River.

17  
18 Like we said, we've got to start taking  
19 some serious measures to start taking care of our herd  
20 and protecting it for our future and for us to be able  
21 to continue to harvest these animals.

22  
23 I'm hoping that if Melinda can also  
24 take notes on this to where we can try and draft a  
25 proposal to either make it five per day or whatever the  
26 Council thinks is feasible for the time being, whether  
27 it be five or 10. I don't shoot any. I mean my kids  
28 shoot them all. We came home with nine caribou and one  
29 moose. My boys mostly do all the shooting.

30  
31 MR. DAU: The one thing I'd say to that  
32 is take your time and be careful. I don't think you  
33 have to have a proposal right now. Think about it when  
34 you guys correspond and talk. Again, I think having a  
35 bunch of ideas like that, if we could have a joint  
36 meeting and take those and have sort of a laundry list  
37 of things that we could start working through and  
38 involve the ACs, because we really need -- and I'm just  
39 talking about Unit 23. When you think about the scope  
40 of this, it's got to work from the North Slope all the  
41 way down to Unalakleet. My gosh.

42  
43 Maybe the venue to do this is the  
44 Western Arctic Herd Working Group and have the RACs  
45 come up with a laundry list of recommendations. You've  
46 said several things already, Michael, and others have  
47 too. I'll see if we can get the North Slope RACs or  
48 communities to do the same thing. I think it's  
49 going to be really important that it's got to work for  
50 everybody because there's a whole bunch of people from

1 the North Slope to way south of here that depend on  
2 this herd.

3

4 So don't do anything rash. Take your  
5 time. You're doing exactly what I'd like to see you  
6 do. Come up with ideas. Again, I guarantee you the  
7 State is not going to stand by and do nothing. I think  
8 you're better off to make the recommendations up front  
9 and not to wait for the State to do something and then  
10 try and get it changed because that's an uphill battle.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.

13

14 Go ahead, Hannah.

15

16 MS. LOON: Thank you. When the caribou  
17 migrate towards Selawik and we don't get five a day  
18 every day of me and my daughters, maybe seven is good  
19 enough for us for the winter and then we also take care  
20 of our neighbors. Five a day, we don't do that every  
21 day because right after they go there they go. You  
22 know, they're no more. That's all. Then October we  
23 don't try to look for them because we know the males  
24 are rutting and they're not desirable.

25

26 Throughout the winter we don't do 15 a  
27 day in winter or November/December, but people will try  
28 to get fresh caribou for Thanksgiving and Christmas  
29 dinners. Not everybody do 15 a day. It's too much  
30 because in reality we just don't do that. Only when it  
31 comes to deaths somebody will go out and get maybe a  
32 caribou or two for the community to serve the grave  
33 diggers.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

38

39 Go ahead, Calvin.

40

41 MR. MOTO: I'm caribou'd out.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,

44 Percy.

45

46 MR. BALLOT: I'm glad you said take  
47 your time, Jim, because I need to share this stuff with  
48 the hunters at home and gatherers. At least we re  
49 going to let them know we're going to do something and  
50 that something is make a change on quota at least for

1 now. I like the word five a day.

2

3 We always call it by sled loads,  
4 Hannah, when we go out. Maybe eight or something like  
5 that, six. For older guys like me, two or three is  
6 good enough. I want to do something and if we could  
7 have an understanding and be able to share this and get  
8 together for a proposal by teleconference even, I think  
9 we need to get this more out.

10

11 There's a meeting in Kotzebue next  
12 week. I hope you'll be able to be there and maybe we  
13 could put a presentation. I'm going to invite you to a  
14 Maniilaq board meeting the end of December and do a  
15 presentation. The more of us hear what's going on.

16

17 When you were in Buckland, I didn't get  
18 the real sense of urgency I hear you saying now. We  
19 were alarmed over there and we were already talking  
20 about that, but I'm kind of thinking that -- I'm  
21 alarmed, but the caribou just came in and they didn't  
22 get very many as of last week, the town. So I'm really  
23 concerned for the future and we make a plan. Whether  
24 we use the Western Arctic Caribou Plan, I want to make  
25 sure it's a plan that's going to fit all the way up to  
26 our regions and the other regions.

27

28 MR. DAU: I sure don't want to alarm  
29 people, but I think it's something we all need to be  
30 concerned about. The one thing we can't lose track of,  
31 at least as of two years ago, we still have 235,000  
32 caribou. We've got the biggest caribou herd in North  
33 America still right now, even with the decline.  
34 Because those other big herds have declined so much.  
35 So that's a good thing. We can't lose track of that.

36

37 At this point we're ahead of the par  
38 curve, especially when you think about what happened in  
39 the 1970s. Gosh, you know, nobody thought about  
40 anything until, oh my God, and you've got 75,000  
41 caribou. Last time we had 200,000 and it was a  
42 terrible, terrible time. That's not going to happen  
43 this time. We see things coming better. But you're  
44 absolutely right, everybody should be taking it serious  
45 because all these predictions that I've been showing  
46 you, it looks to me like things aren't going to get  
47 better right away. It's going to get a bit worse.

48

49 Anyway, I just need to point out we've  
50 still got a little time on this, but we need to be

1 thinking about it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.

4

5 MR. STONEY: Thank you. Hey, Jim, as  
6 we all know, the AC is a very important tool to manage  
7 something like this for declining caribou. I'll make a  
8 strong recommendation to you that we should run up to  
9 Upper and Lower Kobuk and meet in Kotzebue and start  
10 working on this plan for what we can do. That way we  
11 will get going someplace, no teleconference whatsoever.  
12 We'd like to see that, but I don't know when the next  
13 meeting schedule is or can it be like an emergency  
14 order if we had to make a plan for both Upper and Lower  
15 Kobuk?

16

17 MR. DAU: Well, I like your idea. The  
18 one thing, I guess, that we could think about doing is  
19 having a joint meeting where it's not just the Upper  
20 and Lower Kobuk, but maybe we should have all the ACs  
21 in Unit 23 come together in Kotzebue and include any  
22 RAC members that are not on an AC. But the one thing  
23 that would sort of bring all that together is, again,  
24 if the Board of Game grants Fish and Game this request  
25 to hear a proposal this winter. The Fish and Game has  
26 already been working on kind of a straw man proposal.  
27 We don't know how it's going to finalize.

28

29 Once we've got something to at least  
30 bounce off the public we could all get together and  
31 that would be something we could talk from and have --  
32 it would kill two birds with one stone and get us all  
33 together to start developing this regional position,  
34 but also it would give everybody a chance to comment on  
35 this proposal that could be considered as soon as  
36 February.

37

38 What do you guys think about that, kind  
39 of a regional meeting in Kotz?

40

41 MR. BALLOT: The reason why I said  
42 that, Jim, because the proposal has to go to the Board  
43 of Game and be introduced by the ACs and we have to be  
44 there strongly and present that to the Board of Game.  
45 Make sure it will work.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Melinda, you don't  
48 have to get excited about our travel because how many  
49 of us are ACs also that's in this board and also in the  
50 other villages. There's a lot of ACs that's Federal

1 Advisory, so don't get excited. It will cut your cost  
2 down. We'll depend on the State to pay the rest of  
3 their fares at Kotzebue.

4

5 MS. BURKE: Awesome.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So don't get excited.  
8 We should all be there together because if we're  
9 together from the State and the Federal Advisory and  
10 the ACs present this to the Board, they will see this  
11 coming together and we will address that we met  
12 together and this is what we came up with. Like I  
13 always say, we depend heavily on caribou. There's  
14 probably steps we need to take to protect the freezer  
15 so they could come back a lot faster. I don't want to  
16 see another disaster as to sheep.

17

18 Go ahead, Verne. You had your hand up?

19

20 MR. CLEVELAND: No.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Fine.

23

24 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do  
25 we have time for another question for Jim or two?

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, go ahead. We'll  
28 have a lot of time. Caribou is our thing.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. BROOKS: Through the Chair. Jim,  
33 thank you so much for the presentation. It was very  
34 interesting. I enjoyed it and I learned a lot. It  
35 sparked three questions for me. I wanted to ask them  
36 in this form.....

37

38 MR. DAU: He said one question.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. BROOKS: Excuse me. I'll make it a  
43 three-part question.

44

45 MR. DAU: There you go.

46

47 MR. BROOKS: I just wanted to ask them  
48 in the hopes that it would benefit the whole group here  
49 today, particularly the Council. One thing that struck  
50 me really as interesting is when you were talking about

1 the BLM habitat studies, it sort of sounded like some  
2 of the evidence showed the southern range was changing,  
3 but the northern range was still pretty healthy. Also  
4 that when the caribou are getting here are pretty fat.  
5 I'm just curious, does that healthy range up there and  
6 that amount of food have anything to do with them  
7 staying, maybe coming later, migrating down later?

8

9 MR. DAU: Yeah, I don't know. I think  
10 on the North Slope -- again, they just started that.  
11 The USGS and Park Service, they're just in their second  
12 year, so we don't know how it's changed. You know, I  
13 have to go back to what I've been told for 25 years  
14 from people down here, elders especially, that you can  
15 expect caribou coming down here after it gets cold and  
16 snowy up there.

17

18 I think caribou -- I've spent a number  
19 of years looking at that specific thing. In the  
20 springtime, the threshold temperature is about  
21 freezing, 32. When the temperatures start getting  
22 above that, man, they go. In the fall, it's not nearly  
23 that tight. So I think the elders are probably right.  
24 It's got to get cold and snowy up there, but I think  
25 there's other things that we still don't understand  
26 that are affecting when they come down.

27

28 The one thing I think we have seen  
29 though is in these really warm, long falls that -- the  
30 caribou aren't the ones that are kind of messed up.  
31 We're the ones with this expectation. Gosh, it's  
32 early, middle September, they should be here and the  
33 caribou, they're right on. They're saying, man, it's  
34 warm and in late August there's still bugs out.  
35 There's no reason to come down here and get in more  
36 bugs. Stay up there. So I think these warm summers  
37 that go into long warm falls, they not only don't come  
38 down here, they go farther north and east. So when  
39 they do finally come, they've got longer to go and they  
40 just show up late.

41

42 I can't tell you how things have  
43 changed on the north side over time because nobody has  
44 the data. I don't think anybody really has that.

45

46 MR. BROOKS: Thank you. The other part  
47 of the one question that I have is your mortality data.  
48 If I remember right, you showed that most of it was  
49 from predation. I was just curious, since it's based  
50 on radio-collared animals, which I assume you find dead

1 various places in the range, is there any data or idea  
2 if predation rates vary by part of the range?

3

4 MR. DAU: That's an excellent question.  
5 It's one of the things that I need to do for this  
6 feasibility assessment, is look at the pattern of  
7 mortality, spatial pattern. I have looked at it. I've  
8 monitored it seasonally. If you just look at the  
9 number of deaths per week, you standardize things. I'm  
10 not talking about total number that die in the winter.  
11 Just deaths per week.

12

13 For cows, it's not that different all  
14 through the year. There's some variation. You know,  
15 it's less in the summer, more in the winter, but it's  
16 pretty flat. But, man, with bulls in the fall, it's 10  
17 times higher in the fall than it is at any other time a  
18 year. The winter is real high too. It's lowest in the  
19 summer. But in the fall bulls are getting shot.

20

21 Also I think a lot of bulls get picked  
22 off by wolves and bears. I think when they're  
23 traveling, especially through these riparian  
24 corridors, I pick up an awful lot of collars that are  
25 down in riparian corridors and I think bears and wolves  
26 ambush them there. They can't see them. They're just  
27 like us. They get on a caribou trail and they wait and  
28 it's just a matter of time they're going to get  
29 something.

30

31 So I can't tell you exactly what the  
32 spatial pattern is, but hopefully in the next two  
33 months I'll be able to answer that.

34

35 MR. BROOKS: Thank you. One more, Mr.  
36 Chair, if you'll allow it. The other thing that I  
37 found interesting was, at least in recent times, the  
38 harvest is flat and if you look at the data points, it  
39 seems like it's going cyclical up and down, up and  
40 down, up and down, which explains the flat line. I  
41 just was wondering if you know why harvest goes up and  
42 down like that.

43

44 MR. DAU: We know some things, you  
45 know, why harvests go up and down. It has mostly to do  
46 with just distribution of the caribou. There's a lot  
47 of uncertainty. I didn't put the error bars in this,  
48 but what this is, I estimate harvest by year. We don't  
49 -- especially for subsistence hunters, I use a  
50 mathematical model that really uses only two criteria

1 to estimate what a village took. It takes the village  
2 population size and then it takes availability of  
3 caribou to that village and it's either low, medium or  
4 high. And I look at distribution of satellite collars  
5 and I say, oh, for Nome, it was average. For Ambler it  
6 was better than average or for Deering it was better  
7 than average. That's what drives this.

8  
9 So that spatial distribution -- you  
10 know, human population doesn't change all that much,  
11 but that distribution does. It's not a perfect system  
12 though. Our model needs to be updated. It's been over  
13 10 years since Unalakleet really had access to caribou.  
14 We had Unalakleet kids up there and I was talking to  
15 Jolene Nanouk and people are still getting caribou out  
16 of Unalakleet. They're driving all the way to Grand  
17 Mountain to get caribou. That's a long haul. But  
18 they're not getting caribou like they used to. I think  
19 our model overestimates what they take. So it's not  
20 perfect, but that's the main variable that affects  
21 these dips and rises.

22  
23 MR. BROOKS: Thank you. Again, the  
24 presentation was very useful. Appreciate it.

25  
26 MR. DAU: Thanks.

27  
28 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Jim, that was  
31 well. A really good presentation. I know it's scary.  
32 It's reality. It's going to happen.

33  
34 Go ahead, Percy. You have the floor.

35  
36 MR. BALLOT: I didn't enjoy it,  
37 but.....

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 MR. BALLOT: Who, Jim, would be willing  
42 to take the lead in regard to -- would November be too  
43 soon to try to get together?

44  
45 MR. DAU: I was thinking a little bit  
46 about that too. I don't think November is too soon. I  
47 don't know that we will have -- if the State will have  
48 a proposal to go to the Board of Game with by November,  
49 but we don't have to have that. As long as we've got  
50 something that we think is close enough to a final

1 product to get feedback on, I think that would be good  
2 to share that and get comments as soon as we can. So  
3 even if we're not done with the proposal.

4  
5 Realistically, we're never done with  
6 these proposals until the day you go and sing in front  
7 of the Board of Game. I've seen these proposals change  
8 the night before the meeting. But I think November  
9 would be fine. What do the rest of you guys think? We  
10 have the working group meeting coming up the middle of  
11 December. Would it be better to do this before the  
12 working group meeting so we could report to the working  
13 group the Unit 23 perspective?

14  
15 What do you think, Verne?

16  
17 MR. CLEVELAND: I think it would be  
18 better before the working group meeting. That way they  
19 can report and everybody will be there because we  
20 represent from North Slope all the way to the  
21 Kuskokwim. That was December 16-17?

22  
23 MS. BURKE: November. It's early this  
24 year.

25  
26 MR. DAU: The working group meeting?  
27 No, it's December.

28  
29 MS. BURKE: Is it December 16-17?

30  
31 MR. DAU: I know it's December.

32  
33 MR. CLEVELAND: 16-17.

34  
35 MR. DAU: I think it's like 16 through  
36 18.

37  
38 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.

39  
40 MR. DAU: And as far as who could -- I  
41 guess what I would probably do is -- we just got Carmen  
42 Daggett back. She's the Board's coordinator. She's  
43 been working on fish stuff all summer. I would let her  
44 communicate with all the advisory committees and see if  
45 she could pull together a date. I have to make sure I  
46 have enough money to bring you guys in because I know  
47 she doesn't have any money. I think they'll tell me,  
48 okay, if you want to spend your money that way, okay.  
49 This is important. I think we ought to do it, so I'm  
50 willing to spend the money.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: If there's anything --  
2 before we put the agenda together, I'd like to see  
3 something regarding the meeting.

4  
5 MR. DAU: First of all, I need to go  
6 back -- because I'm a little fish in Fish and Game. I  
7 need to go back and make sure that I've got support to  
8 do something like this. So let me first of all run  
9 this past the guys that step on my neck and make sure  
10 that they're all okay with it. Then once we do that  
11 we'll have Carmen -- we'll try and keep a real simple  
12 agenda. I think by that time hopefully everybody will  
13 have seen this, so I don't know that -- I don't think  
14 I'd spend the time to go through this all again. You  
15 guys will have all heard it.

16  
17 I think what we would probably focus on  
18 is just the last two or three slides when we're talking  
19 about this kind of stuff, you know, regulation options,  
20 how we should -- what should we propose to the Board of  
21 Game, what should we propose to the Federal Subsistence  
22 Board. So that's probably what I would see as  
23 comprising most of the agenda. What do you guys think?

24  
25 MR. BALLOT: I would think so. I think  
26 sharing that data again or any updates. I know our  
27 tribes are really interested and we'll send some  
28 representatives up there too when we have it. We have  
29 limited funds, but it's so important. You heard  
30 everybody say it's what we live on. So we're going to  
31 have a lot of our tribal reps there.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Jim, maybe you  
34 could go to NANA, Maniilaq, the Borough, Red Dog to see  
35 if they're willing to throw some money into the pie to  
36 bring the other people because they know -- this is  
37 their people. Maniilaq would never be there unless --  
38 it was put together because of the villages. NANA is  
39 in a bad situation, but they could throw in something.  
40 Probably auction off the jail or something and put some  
41 money together. The Borough should because this is  
42 their district and this is their people they're talking  
43 about.

44  
45 So instead of trying to take the whole  
46 bulk, maybe you could quickly ask Carmen or someone in  
47 your office and say what are they willing to contribute  
48 to this. We'll call it an emergency meeting because we  
49 all live on caribou. It's the whole Northwest Alaska,  
50 including all the way to Nome, but just worry about

1 Kotzebue. You could invite the others, but they've got  
2 to bring their own, like from North Slope and Nome.  
3 You know what I'm saying?

4

5 Okay, go ahead, Mike.

6

7 MR. KRAMER: I was just going to say  
8 that sometime coming up soon we should be having our  
9 Kotzebue Advisory Council meeting. I'm not too sure  
10 exactly when. I haven't gotten anything from Carmen  
11 all fall. I've been patiently waiting for a word from  
12 her as to when we're going to have it. That would be a  
13 good time to look at having it also.

14

15 MR. DAU: She just came back. I talked  
16 to her yesterday a little bit. Actually this morning  
17 before I came here. So she doesn't know either, but  
18 she's thinking the same thing. She'd like to have a  
19 training meeting for just how the ACs function. I'm  
20 not interested in that at all. I think we ought to get  
21 together and talk about this caribou stuff.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. DAU: That's what is the pressing  
26 issue. Anyway, she's still trying to get her head  
27 around this stuff too.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: To us, caribou is  
30 more important than anything else. You know that. We  
31 all say that. Try to make her understand. You know,  
32 just tell her. Say this is more important than a  
33 training. Caribou we can't -- it's going to hurt  
34 especially the elders, you know. So what's going to  
35 happen if elders say I'm going to die, I want a nice  
36 caribou before I go. If I know I'm going to go, I'm  
37 going to request it. At least it's good for the last  
38 week of my life. I'm going to request it under  
39 emergency order and you'll have to go get it for me. I  
40 won't ask nobody else except you to go get it for me  
41 because I know it would be legal.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: But you know what  
46 I'm saying. It's very important to me. That's an  
47 emergency right now, no matter what. All agencies  
48 should get together and we need this meeting bad, soon.  
49 We can't wait any longer, you guys. To me it's an  
50 emergency. If I get my limit with my retirement, there

1 goes my vacations. I have to start buying from AC and  
2 AC is going to laugh all the way to the bank. You know  
3 what I'm saying. It's getting harder and it's going to  
4 be hard. They'll jack their prices up. They know we  
5 need meat. I'll tell you that and it will put a  
6 hardship on a lot of people.

7

8                   Someone had their hand up. Percy, go  
9 ahead.

10

11                   MR. BALLOT: I had a suggestion. Would  
12 it be possible -- we're having a meeting next week, we  
13 have a lot of tribal reps and city reps there -- to  
14 have a little introduction or an idea thing or sharing  
15 thing at that meeting by you or by Verne, whoever is  
16 going to be there. They have, I think, energy safety  
17 or something like that on the agenda. This is so  
18 meaningful for us we need to get the word out as much  
19 as possible. I'm pretty sure they'll be hearing it by  
20 tonight, but this is a good place to get started on the  
21 idea of trying to gather funds or things to get  
22 together for that meeting.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go  
25 ahead, Calvin.

26

27                   MR. MOTO: I guess sometime in the last  
28 three months we've talked about caribou. I was  
29 wondering, I don't want to get caribou down in  
30 Skwentna, in that area. Are those part of the Western  
31 Arctic Herd or are they ones from Happy Valley place?

32

33                   MR. DAU: No, there's 30 different  
34 caribou herds in Alaska and some of them are really  
35 small. Just like 300 animals, 1,000 animals. The big  
36 herds, like this one -- well, the four northern herds I  
37 already told you about. The Mulchatna Herd was down by  
38 Dillingham. It's gone down. It was 200,000. It's  
39 like 32 or 35 now.

40

41                   Anyway, this herd hasn't really been  
42 going south of Shaktoolik for about the last five or 10  
43 years. That's as far south as they go. They haven't  
44 even made it to Koyukuk in years. They're really not  
45 going east of the Nulato Hills now. So the Upper  
46 Selawik. They've gotten as far as Huslia and that's  
47 been the edge of them. Then farther north they've  
48 gotten close to Bettles and Wiseman. They haven't gone  
49 east of that in recent years.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

2

3 MS. LOON: Jim, I read in Adak or one  
4 of the islands in the Aleutian Islands around that  
5 chain that they're going to decimate the caribou down  
6 there. Do you ever hear about that? What a waste.

7

8 MR. DAU: All I know probably is what  
9 you know, Hannah. I read it in the news too that the  
10 Refuge down there -- and Gene could probably speak to  
11 this, but a Refuge down there is really concerned about  
12 caribou from Adak swimming over to another Refuge and  
13 they don't want that to happen. I don't think they're  
14 talking about doing anything with the Adak animals.  
15 It's just the ones that would swim. So I think that's  
16 what been in the news recently.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.

19

20 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
21 Again I'll ask Jim, would you find out when the next  
22 scheduled meeting for the AC. Because I know some of  
23 this is going to have to come from the Advisory  
24 Council. It will go to all the organizations,  
25 including NANA, Borough and Maniilaq. So it would be  
26 nice to know when their scheduled meeting is for this  
27 proposal that we have to submit.

28

29 MR. DAU: Okay. Right now I can tell  
30 you, Raymond, there's nothing scheduled, there's no  
31 date. It's not that there's a date floating around and  
32 you don't know there's no date, but I think what -- you  
33 know, at least what we're talking about here, but the  
34 next meeting may be a joint meeting of all the -- you  
35 kind of started the conversation having the Upper and  
36 Lower Kobuk get together and then we started talking  
37 maybe we should just make it all Unit 23. So I think  
38 -- right now that's the only thing I know of is being  
39 discussed for the next meeting. I would say not only  
40 just the ACs but the RAC too. You've got one RAC. You  
41 may as well have them be part of this too.

42

43 I think it would be really good as much  
44 as possible to have the State and Federal systems kind  
45 of in agreement before we go to either one of these  
46 Boards if we can agree on a way to go. I don't know.  
47 Gene, maybe you want to talk about that too. Anyway,  
48 that's what we're talking about for the next meeting.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Are you guys

1 ready to wrap it up?

2

3 MS. LOON: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.

6

7 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One  
8 final question that I got with the Northwest Arctic  
9 Caribou Working Group. In the early '90s the Caribou  
10 Working Group submitted in their management program to  
11 do something if the caribou start declining. It's  
12 written on those big booklets that you've got in the  
13 Northwest Arctic Caribou Working Group. It will tell  
14 you exactly what steps to take just in case the caribou  
15 start declining. You'll find it, so it's something in  
16 your meeting you should look that up and present that  
17 to your Board.

18

19 MR. DAU: What he's referring to,  
20 that's Appendix 2 right there that's on the screen.  
21 That's what Raymond is talking about.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I hate to say  
24 thank you, Jim, but it's a hard burden we have to live  
25 with and we've got to go try to work around it.

26

27 Okay, Enoch, we'll make you last and  
28 then we'll go to Dale.

29

30 MR. DAU: About the only thing I want  
31 to say -- oh, he's got a question for me?

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

34

35 MR. MITCHELL: Real good presentation,  
36 Jim. I learned things from this presentation even  
37 though I watched it that first time. This is a more  
38 detailed one watching it the second time. More better.  
39 It really opened my eyes to something I didn't think  
40 would happen in my lifetime and that's hunting of  
41 caribou, closing it down.

42

43 I grew up hunting caribou. I grew up  
44 with caribou. When I was a kid I didn't really think  
45 about the population, the fat or the kind of caribou we  
46 hunt. I was just working and shooting and helping all  
47 the time. Nowadays I'm a parent and I see how  
48 important it is for me to have caribou on the table.  
49 It really helps out because employment is low and now  
50 we depend on this caribou.

1 I find it better than chicken or  
2 steaks. Caribou is better than that and I like it.  
3 The thing about this I wanted to point out is there's a  
4 lot of hunters in the villages that need to hear this  
5 too. When you went to Noatak, you noticed that there  
6 wasn't a lot of people there. I don't know, maybe it  
7 was like that for the other villages when you go to the  
8 other villages. Not all the hunters hear what you have  
9 to say. That's good, really important information  
10 right there.

11  
12 I was thinking, you know, if you put a  
13 door prize on a meeting like that, more people will  
14 attend. Or if you go to like in Noatak we have our  
15 general meeting in December and we have a lot of door  
16 prizes. Almost the whole town is there at the gym.  
17 Meetings like that, if you're there, you could present  
18 your presentation to them. They all have a lot of good  
19 ideas too. We just hear a few of them and a few  
20 concerns, but there's a lot more out there. If they  
21 realize what's going on with our caribou and the  
22 actions you have to take or realize maybe we won't have  
23 no caribou no more, maybe we're going to lose our  
24 caribou. If they realize we've got to do something.

25  
26 So we need to get this presentation out  
27 to as much people as possible. This is very good. I  
28 like it very much.

29  
30 MR. DAU: Thank you and thanks for  
31 having me. You know, Enoch is right. None of these  
32 villages have I had standing room only. Probably the  
33 most people in any village is Kivalina and that's  
34 because Red Dog was there to tell them something they  
35 didn't want to hear.

36  
37 So if you guys can help get the word  
38 out too, I'd appreciate it. If you've got an IRA  
39 meeting or something like that -- Buckland was a big  
40 turnout because we paired it with an IRA meeting.  
41 Anyway, Percy and Mona pulled off a great meeting.  
42 Anyway, if you've got something going on and you want  
43 me to come do this, I'd be glad to. I'm trying to get  
44 the word out to as many people as I can.

45  
46 Thanks for your time.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks for the  
49 headache, Jim.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Jim, thank you.  
4 Dale, I want you to say something. This is your town.  
5 You're a tribal administrator. We're getting close to  
6 closing.

7

8 MR. STOTTS: I appreciate the  
9 opportunity to speak again. I've been in and out of  
10 here the last -- well, since you all started meeting  
11 just because I've had to, but I really greatly  
12 appreciate the wisdom that I'm hearing from the Council  
13 and from the caribou expert Jim Dau and other  
14 observers.

15

16 I have three council members that are  
17 here; Thomas Jackson, who has been cooking for you,  
18 Raymond Stoney is a member and Ben Atoruk right behind  
19 me. It wouldn't surprise me if our council took an  
20 active role in addressing this, even on a government-  
21 to- government level through consultative process, but  
22 I think you're on the right track to act before things  
23 become chaotic.

24

25 People do get nervous, they get worried  
26 and rash things can happen under conditions of  
27 pressure. So I believe this community would support  
28 the actions that you feel are necessary to take. We're  
29 all the same kind of people and we know the resources  
30 are limited. As my friend Calvin likes to say, we're  
31 just borrowing from our children, so let's do the right  
32 thing.

33

34 If you let me, I'll go buy some bowls  
35 so we can have some soup.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Dale, thanks  
40 for hosting it. I would say before you go we've got to  
41 thank the cook for a job well done.

42

43 (Applause)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

46

47 MR. STOTTS: There's some tribal  
48 members here that have been very generous. Wilbur and  
49 Barbara Atoruk, you know, has donated turkey and  
50 brought tuttu meat. Our tribe, we collect fish to save

1 for the middle of winter and something that we do.  
2 There's other folks out there that have been  
3 contributing. So taikuu, Wilbur.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So back  
6 to the agenda, I think we're now on confirm date and  
7 location for the winter meeting, right?

8  
9 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. If Council  
10 members you would turn to the lovely calendars in the  
11 back of the book. Oh, just finishing off one last  
12 thing from the State. I've gotten an email. I was  
13 asked to pass around these letters, so if the Council  
14 could take one, pass it along and take that with you,  
15 that would be great.

16  
17 First, for winter 2015, this Council  
18 has selected March 9th and 10th to meet in Kotzebue.  
19 If there's no heartburn with those dates that you  
20 previously selected, we'll keep those. I need you to  
21 grab a pen and turn to the next page to the fall 2015.  
22 There's three Councils that have met before you this  
23 fall round and I need to let you know what dates  
24 they've selected.

25  
26 We've got September 14th and 15th  
27 Seward Pen is meeting then, 25th, 26th  
28 Kodiak/Aleutians, and 3rd and 4th of November is North  
29 Slope. Nobody has selected two meeting dates in one  
30 week, so it looks like the calendar is wide open so  
31 far, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

36  
37 MR. BALLOT: I'm just wondering about  
38 the regional, when is that going to be? Is that March  
39 9 and 10?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll tell you that  
42 right now, I don't even know. You mean the one in  
43 Kotzebue?

44  
45 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I don't know. You  
48 probably remember last year more than I do because last  
49 year I think I was out of town for the week.

50

1 MR. BALLOT: Can we get that date?  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I could get that date  
4 if we go to Kotzebue.  
5  
6 MR. BALLOT: And these are for  
7 consideration by email?  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, we could do  
10 that. We could say this is the date we could pick.  
11 We're talking about August meeting.  
12  
13 MS. BURKE: This is for fall 2015. We  
14 select a winter meeting date before and then this  
15 meeting we select a fall 2015. So this will be a year  
16 from now. I would definitely suggest following our  
17 Chairman's advice of at least selecting -- you know,  
18 putting your name down on a couple of days. That way  
19 if there isn't a problem, you're not waiting until all  
20 of the other seven Councils have met and then your  
21 dates that you want might be gone.  
22  
23 MR. KRAMER: October 7 and 8.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because, Percy, we  
26 already agreed for our February/March meeting is going  
27 to be March 9th and 10th.  
28  
29 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I know, but you say  
30 if there's any heartburn just speak it out, so that's  
31 why I'm speaking it out.  
32  
33 (Laughter)  
34  
35 MR. BALLOT: If there's a chance to  
36 change it to that week or whenever they're having the  
37 regional, we have Noorvik, we have Buckland, we have  
38 Noatak, we have Selawik. We all go there and it's a  
39 good time to meet.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.  
42  
43 MR. BALLOT: Just for consideration.  
44 If we can't, we can't.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. What you're  
47 saying is you'd rather go to the region than attend  
48 this meeting or you want to do both at once.  
49  
50 MR. BALLOT: The regionals are at

1 night, so we got business during the day.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Back to the  
4 winter meeting. Our winter meeting is March 9 and 10.  
5 Our fall meeting is open somewhere between August 24  
6 except for September's holiday to October.

7

8 MR. KRAMER: I suggest October 7th and  
9 8th. That way it's after hunting season, just like it  
10 is right now and more people are free.

11

12 MR. CLEVELAND: And after freeze-up.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

15

16 MS. LOON: I like October 6 and 7 when  
17 we travel on Monday and meet Tuesday and Wednesday and  
18 go back on the 8th.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'd like to travel  
21 October 12th because, tell you right now, I'd rather be  
22 hunting seals right now, but I'm here because I agreed  
23 to the dates last year because I thought it was going  
24 to freeze early. It's getting later. So it's up to  
25 you guys. If you guys really want to have it about the  
26 same time, I could live with it, but I've got to have  
27 my seal oil too. My first seal oil. I'm here and it's  
28 freezing. If I go home tomorrow, I've got to head down  
29 to Anchorage. You know what I'm saying. For your  
30 information, from Friday I'll be gone until the 16th  
31 and I'm going to be home one night and I'm going to  
32 attend another meeting again for two days until Tuesday  
33 the 18th or 19th. That's when I'll be back to  
34 Kotzebue.

35

36 MR. BALLOT: So you want October 12 and  
37 13?

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If it's okay with you  
40 guys. I mean we could throw these dates around.

41

42 MR. BALLOT: Hannah said 5 and 6.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And Hannah said 5 and  
45 6.

46

47 MS. LOON: 6 and 7, travel on 5,  
48 meeting 6 and 7, and go back 7 night or 8.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What's the majority

1 think? I'll just go with the majority of the Council  
2 that want to have.

3

4 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman. I make a  
5 motion to hold the next fall meeting October 6 and 7.

6

7 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: A motion has been  
10 made, second.

11

12 MS. BURKE: Do you want to select the  
13 community?

14

15 MS. LOON: A community? Percy had a  
16 suggestion.

17

18 MR. BALLOT: Huh?

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Where do you want to  
21 have your fall meeting?

22

23 MR. BALLOT: Anywhere you guys want to,  
24 any time. I just wanted March. I'll go with you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No. What Hannah is  
27 saying you wanted to have a meeting in Buckland.

28

29 MR. BALLOT: Oh, yeah. Buckland is  
30 good. I could defer that for a while because we're  
31 going to have a while. When things start getting  
32 harder on the caribou, we've got the next year.

33

34 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll tell you one  
37 thing, it's cheaper for us to have it in a village than  
38 in Kotzebue, I'll tell you that right now.

39

40 Go ahead, Melinda.

41

42 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We could leave  
43 the location to be announced and discuss it a little.  
44 We don't need to do that right now. And then going  
45 back to the winter 2015, Carl helpfully pointed out  
46 that if you wanted to move the meeting date, just keep  
47 in mind that any of the weeks that you see with two  
48 Councils already meeting is not a possibility. If you  
49 did want to move it, it would have to be at the very  
50 beginning of the window in the week of February 10th.

1 MR. BALLOT: Okay, I could drop it.  
2 See how easy I am?  
3  
4 MS. BURKE: Yep. So we have a motion.  
5 Call for question.  
6  
7 MR. MOTO: Call for question.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been  
10 called for. All in favor of travel October and return  
11 Thursday, meeting 6 and 7. All in favor of those two  
12 dates signify by saying aye.  
13  
14 IN UNISON: Aye.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, I will agree  
17 with it.  
18  
19 (Laughter)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: October 6 and 7.  
22 Most likely we'll have it in Kotzebue and I'll still  
23 get to hunt my seals. Okay. Now that said, any  
24 closing comments. If you guys are hungry, make it  
25 short. If you're not hungry, make it long.  
26  
27 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, I'll start. I  
28 would really like to thank Raymond for having patience  
29 with me in getting this meeting to Kiana. We had tried  
30 to do this last year. Mr. Peltola and the rest of the  
31 Staff realized that with the rural hearings that were  
32 happening and to get as much public participation as  
33 possible, we really needed to pull the meeting back  
34 into Kotzebue. Raymond, I really appreciate you and  
35 Kiana being patient with us so that we could get as  
36 much participation at that meeting. We really did have  
37 a good turnout there in Kotzebue, so we really  
38 appreciate that.  
39  
40 I appreciate so much this community.  
41 It's been really amazing what we've been able to pull  
42 off here and the tribe, the lodging, Raymond, it's been  
43 great. So I just thank the Council for your patience,  
44 thank this community. I hope to be able to plan a  
45 meeting out in one of your communities again sometime  
46 soon.  
47  
48 So from your coordinator, thank you so  
49 much.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Melinda.  
2  
3 Go ahead, Raymond.  
4  
5 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
6 It's been a great honor and my great pleasure to have  
7 all the board members here for this RAC meeting.  
8 Number two is our Staff, all the people that work for  
9 us. It's a great honor and I'm glad you guys are here  
10 and I hope you enjoyed staying in this dusty place.  
11 However, I'm so pleased and honored for all the  
12 agencies that are here for this meeting.  
13  
14 I wish you best of luck going home and  
15 God bless you. Thank you so much for being here.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.  
18  
19 Go ahead, Calvin.  
20  
21 MR. MOTO: Oh, comment time?  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Closing comments.  
24  
25 MR. MOTO: Okay. Next time I come I'll  
26 have two hearing aids, so I'll hear better.  
27  
28 (Laughter)  
29  
30 MR. MOTO: I want to thank Kiana for  
31 inviting us up here. I enjoyed my stay here. I hope I  
32 see you guys again July or August, October. I want to  
33 thank the Staff for finding us a place to stay and all  
34 that. It was good working with you people again. I  
35 hope to work with you again in the future. I have to  
36 put in my app for 2015.  
37  
38 Thank you.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. Anyone  
41 else.  
42  
43 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I  
44 thank Kiana for hosting this and I thank Raymond for  
45 bringing it over here. Our Staff did a lot of work.  
46 It's always good to know what we're going to have to be  
47 doing. It's a pleasure to see all the people we work  
48 with. Our friends over there, I see them every day and  
49 thank you for the turkey. I hope we get to meet in  
50 Buckland. It's good to see Gene again after, gee, 1999

1 when he was up here. I was around that long too, but  
2 mine just changed only four years. So don't believe  
3 that four years.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. BALLOT: I'm going to continue to  
8 be here, especially now that we know our resources are  
9 kind of in jeopardy. I thank Jim Dau for being blunt  
10 and putting out what he really thinks. I'm going to  
11 use that and talk to our tribal members and hopefully  
12 we go on a track that will be meaningful for our  
13 subsistence for our children and for ourselves in the  
14 coming years or so.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17

18 MR. MOTO: I forgot. Thank you,  
19 Thomas, for the good food.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else. If not,  
22 I would like to say thanks.....

23

24 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I started already.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I want to say thanks  
31 to Kiana for hosting this meeting and I would like to  
32 thank Melinda and Gene and OSM to have the meeting in  
33 Kiana and approve it. It's a pleasure to have the  
34 meeting. And now, when we have our meeting, we can  
35 always say, hey, it happened. It happened because of  
36 Melinda, Gene and the other OSM Staff.

37

38 I would like to thank the other  
39 agencies. I hate to rush, but due to time I have to.  
40 I'm not doing it because I'm trying to be mean, but the  
41 reality is if I didn't stop you, we'd be eating dinner  
42 at 7:00 o'clock.

43

44 REPORTER: Here, Enoch.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: She's been here  
47 longer than me attending these meetings. I know from  
48 way back. She's good. And I thank the agencies for  
49 reports well done. You guys are the experts and we  
50 depend on you guys to get results in the end and I

1 thank you guys so much. You guys, all of you, are  
2 needed and we need to hear.

3

4 I'll tell you one thing, if you go  
5 back, I will say they need monies for studies because  
6 these are things. You know where I'm coming from.  
7 Thank you all. I enjoy serving for you people.

8

9 Go ahead, Enoch or Mike.

10

11 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, if my grandmother  
12 was here, she'd say uqaqpaqtuq. That means talk too  
13 much. That's me. I think it's always a good thing to  
14 have our meetings in different villages. We not only  
15 get to bring our knowledge to the village, but we also  
16 get to hear from the village, their concerns and their  
17 problems they're having with subsistence users. It's  
18 always a privilege to go to villages.

19

20 Kiana is my other home town. I've got  
21 lots of relatives, including Mr. Jackson here and  
22 Morenas and a bunch of other people that I'm related to  
23 here in Kiana. It's good to be home. It's always good  
24 to come here and visit. It's always good to see people  
25 and meet people. I enjoy interacting with a lot of  
26 people and it's always good to meet different people  
27 that come in from the different agencies.

28

29 I wish one of these years that we'd  
30 absolutely do away with the telephonic thing and  
31 require them to be present, you know. It's better  
32 seeing people in person than it is hearing them over  
33 the phone. Ken.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. KRAMER: It's always a pleasure  
38 seeing Ken Adkisson. Hopefully next time you'll come  
39 back. The food is good, the company is good. It's  
40 always a pleasure being around all of you guys and  
41 thank you, guys.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: My fault, and I was  
44 going to thank -- and I wrote it down. Thank you Barb  
45 and Wilbur for giving me a place to stay. A nice  
46 place. I enjoyed the company. BS all night and still  
47 wake up early and start talking again, Wilbur and I.  
48 Wilbur, thank you. You know where I live if you go to  
49 Kotzebue.

50

1                               So thank you guys.  
2  
3                               Go ahead, Enoch.  
4  
5                               MR. MITCHELL: I thank Kiana for good  
6 hospitality. Thank Tom for good food, Wilbur.  
7 Everybody over here. Thank the Staff, thank Melinda.  
8 Good job on the paper. And all the agencies, thank you  
9 all. I learned something from each one of you. Thank  
10 you to the Chair. I learned another good saying, we're  
11 the eyes for our resources, and that's sticking with me  
12 for a long time. I'm going to take it back.  
13  
14                               (In Inupiaq)  
15  
16                               CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else.  
17 Verne.  
18  
19                               MR. CLEVELAND: I'll make mine very  
20 short.  
21  
22                               Thank you.  
23  
24                               (Laughter)  
25  
26                               CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Strong words. Okay.  
27 Everybody done?  
28  
29                               MR. CLEVELAND: Motion to adjourn.  
30  
31                               MS. LOON: Second it.  
32  
33                               CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. All in favor  
34 signify by saying aye.  
35  
36                               IN UNISON: Aye.  
37  
38                               (Off record)  
39  
40                               (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 123 through 292 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 9th day of October 2014 at Kiana, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 24th day of October 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18