

1 NORTH SLOPE/NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II
7 Egan Convention Center
8 October 19, 2011
9 9:00 a.m.

10
11
12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

13
14 NORTH SLOPE
15 Harry Brower, Chairman
16 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
17 Ray Koonuk
18 Lee Kayotuk
19 James Nageak
20 Roy Nageak

21
22
23 NORTHWEST ARCTIC
24 Peter Schaeffer, Chairman
25 Percy Ballot
26 Leslie Burns
27 Victor Karmun
28 Michael Kramer
29 Enoch Shiedt
30 Raymond Stoney
31 Austin Swan

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36 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 10/19/2011)

(On record)

CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Let's bring the meeting back to order. Where we left off last night was to review the agenda and I'd like to ask Donald and Helen to maybe give us some guidance on how to accomplish that.

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There was a lot of discussion yesterday, but there's plenty more action items that requires Council attention.

CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: We got reminded that we need to do something first. James, would you do an invocation, please.

MR. J. NAGEAK: (Invocation)

MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Helen will provide some guidance for the Councils to consider, but mainly we just need to get some action items completed. The Councils still have informational discussion on the effects of climate change, so maybe after all action items are completed we can get that back on the agenda. Helen.

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think Donald already said it very well. We need to pick up with what's number 9 on the original agenda and that's actually very brief. Then we have the proposals. I don't know how the Council wants to proceed, but I think Donald's suggestion is good to do the action items first and get those done. We have to do those, otherwise there are no recommendations to take forward to the Federal Subsistence Board. Then we would like to have more discussion -- some things came out, but on the discussion of number 13 on the affects of climate change. That's just information to us about what everyone is seeing. Then we have the agency reports and we need recommendations too on the SRC appointment. I don't know how you want to proceed, Mr. Chairs.

CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: That sounds fine. Let's do the action items first and then move on.

CO CHAIR BROWER: We concur with that decision as well. I think that's how we could proceed. Take care of our action items within the North Slope as

1 recommended by the Staff.
2
3 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.
6
7 MR. R. NAGEAK: I had a little problem
8 keeping up with the agenda with the numbers like 5A and
9 5B. If in the future somebody could put like 5A, B tab
10 or if there's any paperwork that is attached to that
11 agenda line item. I wouldn't want to be sitting here and
12 try to look all over the pages and get kind of confused,
13 but it would really be good to know where it is by tab.
14 If I could recommend that way, we'll be on the same page
15 instead of like us. It's kind of confusing if you try to
16 go all over the page and by the time you go to a page
17 that you're discussing it's past discussion. Maybe
18 somebody in the Federal government or someplace could get
19 better organized for us.
20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Are you meaning you
22 want instead of having only page numbers you want tabs in
23 here?
24
25 MR. R. NAGEAK: Yeah. Just like on item
26 7, there's nothing, there's no page.
27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There's nothing in the
29 book on that. That's why there's no page number.
30
31 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay. But that's what I
32 mean. The tabs would really be appreciated. If you had
33 like page 7 and there's nothing in it, then I wouldn't
34 even look at what needs to be considered there.
35
36 MR. J. NAGEAK: You're Council members.
37 That's your report.
38
39 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay. But do you know
40 what I mean?
41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think I understand.
43 All of the page numbers on the right side refer to a page
44 in the book and there's nothing on number 7 because
45 there's nothing in the book.
46
47 MR. R. NAGEAK: To make it more
48 organized, a lot of meetings I go to they put tabs in
49 there with a note.
50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
2
3 MR. J. NAGEAK: He went to Chamal (ph)
4 High School.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MR. R. NAGEAK: Right. I was brought up
9 by the BIA, Bureau of Indian Affairs, so it's well
10 organized. Instead of trying to look all over the page,
11 it's like a tab is easier for me.
12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'll take that request
14 forward. I'm not certain that they will be able to
15 accommodate it, but I will take it forward. I will put
16 that in the hopper.
17
18 MR. R. NAGEAK: But if you want us to be
19 confused and stuff like that, then I could see the point.
20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Your coordinator can
22 put in all the tabs. He can insert them by hand. All
23 right. Your point is heard. Thank you.
24
25 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.
26
27 CO CHAIR BROWER: Donald.
28
29 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Member
30 Nageak, your comments are noted. Mr. Chairs, we have new
31 people that came in that weren't here yesterday. If you
32 can allow them to introduce themselves, that would be great
33 for your benefit. Thank you.
34
35 CO CHAIR BROWER: I think we'll just go
36 around again and do the introductions over just to get
37 people familiar with names that were not here yesterday.
38 Where do we want to start. Start with James. Going
39 through introductions again.
40
41 MR. J. NAGEAK: Again?
42
43 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes.
44
45 MR. J. NAGEAK: My name is James Nageak.
46 I'm from Anaktuvuk Pass, byway of Barrow, Kaktovik. I
47 married into the community of Anaktuvuk Pass. There are
48 some concerns from our area and I think we'll have a
49 chance to talk more about it. I wanted to just say
50 something when we were talking about landscape

1 conservation yesterday and there's some areas that we
2 like to keep the way that they are instead of having a
3 road built from Galbraith to Umiat, you know, that kind
4 of thing. I'm glad I'm here for this meeting. Thank
5 you.

6

7 MR. R. NAGEAK: Roy Nageak, Sr. from
8 Barrow, Kaktovik, ANWR country. God made a beautiful
9 country and all those animals were made for us for food
10 and that's what we're fighting against, people that want
11 to stop us, our way of life, our subsistence way of life,
12 but God is on our side and we ask for forgiveness. Amen.

13

14 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Lee Kayotuk
15 from Kaktovik, Alaska.

16

17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak,
18 Barrow.

19

20 CO CHAIR BROWER: Harry Brower, Jr. of
21 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council and from Barrow
22 as well.

23

24 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Pete Schaeffer. I'm
25 Chair of the North Slope Arctic Regional Council.

26

27 MR. STONEY: Raymond Stoney. I'm from
28 Kiana.

29

30 MR. KRAMER: Mike Kramer. I'm from
31 Kotzebue.

32

33 MR. BURNS: Leslie Burns from Noatak.

34

35 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk from Kotzebue with
36 Maniilaq.

37

38 MR. SWAN: Austin Swan, Kivalina.

39

40 MR. KARMUN: Victor Karmun, Kotzebue.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews, subsistence
43 coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flats.

44

45 MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel, Bureau of Land
46 Management, Fairbanks.

47

48 MR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Brian
49 Brettschneider, SWCA environmental consultants.

50

1 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Fish and
2 Game, Subsistence Liaison Team. Good morning.
3
4 MR. JENNINGS: Tom Jennings, Fish and
5 Wildlife Service, Subsistence Management.
6
7 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning. Sandy
8 Rabinowitch, National Park Service and Staff Committee to
9 the Federal Board.
10
11 MR. ?: Virgil (indiscernible), Selawik.
12
13 MS. ?: (Indiscernible) from Selawik.
14
15 MS. OKADA: Good morning. Marcy Okada,
16 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.
17
18 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
19 Park Service, Western Arctic National Parklands.
20
21 MR. POURCHOT: Pat Pourchot, Office of
22 Secretary of Interior, Anchorage.
23
24 MR. HAYES: Good morning. Frank Hayes,
25 the superintendent of the Western Arctic Parklands up in
26 Kotzebue.
27
28 MS. GAMACHE: Good morning. My name is
29 Jean Gamache. I work at the National Park Service in the
30 Regional Office. I'm the Alaska Native Affairs liaison,
31 so I work with all the Parks in the state.
32
33 MS. DAVIS: Alicia Davis with Office of
34 Subsistence Management.
35
36 MS. BROWN: Good morning. Cole Brown
37 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Subsistence
38 Management.
39
40 CO CHAIR BROWER: Good morning, everyone.
41 Thank you for the introductions. I think we'll follow
42 with the recommendations of our OSM Staff and getting to
43 the action items that was mentioned this morning.
44 Discussion of the action items.
45
46 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.
47
48 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.
49
50 MR. R. NAGEAK: Before we get out of who

1 the people are here, I'm just curious who's here from
2 Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Agency because we had some
3 concerns with how our people are dealt with. I don't
4 know why they are not here because a lot of the concerns
5 that come from our people in our region are with
6 enforcement by Fish and Wildlife. I don't know why
7 they're not here. There's a lot of issues and concerns
8 that come out from these, why they're not being
9 represented or it's way above them to be with us or who
10 decides who comes on behalf of who from the Fish and
11 Wildlife. It behooves me to ask why Fish and Wildlife
12 Enforcement Agency is not here to at least hear some of
13 our issues.

14

15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong,
16 Office of Subsistence Management. It's not common that
17 they come to our meetings unless we have some particular
18 issue that they need to be hearing. I can certainly take
19 that forward, that that's a concern that you would like
20 to have somebody at the meeting. It's just not something
21 that has typically been done.

22

23 MR. R. NAGEAK: Any reason why?

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't think people
26 have ever felt -- raised it as something that people
27 wanted. I mean that quite honestly and I've been here
28 longer than anybody at OSM. Nobody has ever raised that
29 question before. There are issues sometimes on the Kenai
30 Peninsula we've had law enforcement at meetings when
31 there have been particular issues that needed to be dealt
32 with, then we've had somebody there, but I don't think
33 there have -- with the North Slope and the Northwest
34 Arctic I don't believe that there have been, with our
35 program, significant issues. There may be like with
36 migratory birds or something like that, but not with our
37 program. It hasn't come up before. But if you feel like
38 you would like to have a representative here, I can
39 certainly take that request forward.

40

41 MR. R. NAGEAK: Just curious because we
42 were talking about some issues last night and nobody here
43 and you guys don't have the ability to deal with them
44 because that's not your department. That's not the reason
45 then. Just like mute. Thank you.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We do involve law
48 enforcement. For example you're going to hear a little
49 bit later on Proposal 12-01. It was one with brown bear
50 handicraft using brown bear claws. They were involved in

1 that working group. So when we need to have their
2 involvement, we certainly do involve them. They are part
3 of our agency and we do work with them, but in terms of
4 having a representative at a meeting we do it on kind of
5 a case-by-case basis. I don't know that the issues that
6 are before us today on the agenda were such that anyone
7 saw it necessary to invite them to come. In the future,
8 we can certainly look at that more carefully if you'd
9 like us to for sure.

10

11 MR. R. NAGEAK: Thank you.

12

13 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Donald.

14

15 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
16 Council can add it to their annual report items to bring
17 forward if that's the wish of the Council. I'll just
18 outline the issues and we'll submit it as an annual
19 report or the Council can submit it as an annual report
20 item. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CO CHAIR BROWER: I'm just staring at my
23 agenda trying to figure out -- do we start from number 9?
24 Pete, do you have any preference in terms of order on
25 this?

26

27 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Not really. I just
28 think we need to get those done one way or another.

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 Number 9 on the agenda is the reports on tribal and ANCSA
32 corporation consultation teleconferences. I don't
33 believe there's anybody from BIA. Somebody was raising
34 their hand here to report on that. You'll hear more when
35 we give our briefing on this. Go ahead, I'll let you
36 speak.

37

38 MS. GAMACHE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 My name is Jean Gamache. I'm with the National Park
40 Service. I didn't see anyone else who's been on the
41 committee and would be able to report, so I'm kind of
42 jumping in here to try to provide information and an
43 update on the activities that have been occurring related
44 to consultation.

45

46 As you're probably familiar, the Federal
47 Subsistence Board adopted two interim protocols for
48 consultation with tribes, one for consultation with
49 tribes, one for consultation with corporations. Those
50 protocols have been -- we've been implementing those

1 protocols over the last few months holding teleconference
2 calls where tribes could call in and provide guidance and
3 feedback on the proposals for the 2012-2014 regulatory
4 cycle.

5

6 For the ANCSA corporations we held two
7 teleconference calls, we looked at all the proposals on
8 a statewide basis. I don't believe there was any
9 information that would have touched on your
10 considerations here today.

11

12 For the tribal consultation, for the
13 Northwest Arctic area, we scheduled one -- and this is
14 one thing that we would like additional feedback on, is
15 how to get the word out effectively to make sure that
16 tribes are aware that this is occurring. When we held
17 the Northwest Arctic region tribal consultation, there
18 were no tribes that participated in that call, so there's
19 nothing to report out on. There was no feedback given to
20 us.

21

22 There's still opportunity for tribes and
23 ANCSA corporations to provide feedback on these proposals
24 as well as the protocols. These were interim protocols.
25 So tomorrow afternoon at 1:00 o'clock here at the Egan
26 Convention Center we're going to be taking feedback from
27 ANCSA corporations on the interim protocol for consulting
28 with ANCSA corporations. Then during the BIA Tribal
29 Providers Conference on December 1st there's going to be
30 another consultation with tribes where we would
31 definitely be interested in hearing feedback on the
32 interim protocol and on the final protocol that we'll be
33 putting forward to the Federal Subsistence Board in
34 January for their consideration and then hopefully
35 adoption at the next meeting.

36

37 So those are kind of the high points. If
38 anyone has questions, I'd be happy to try to respond.

39

40 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

43

44 MR. R. NAGEAK: There's nothing in the
45 paper then referring to Item No. 9?

46

47 MS. GAMACHE: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CO CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead.

50

1 MS. GAMACHE: I am not sure what
2 information was included in the packets, Donald, if the
3 interim protocols were included or if other information
4 was added.

5
6 MR. MIKE: What page would reference No.
7 9?

8
9 MR. R. NAGEAK: There's nothing in there.
10 What I would have been interested in is whether the
11 letters were made for our regional tribal councils or the
12 regional village corporation that assured us that
13 communication was made to these tribes within the
14 Northwest and within the North Slope to assure us that
15 communication was made. When there's no responses, then
16 it behooves us -- then that would be our responsibility,
17 but if you say that you had communicated with them and I
18 don't see no letter in reference to that line item, then
19 it says we'll take it by word. But that was some of the
20 questions that we asked. If there was an Item No. 9 and
21 the tab with it, then your letter asking the tribal
22 members or the tribal councils and the ANCSA corporations
23 on issues -- on proposals that are in here, right, the
24 ones that we're supposed to act on?

25
26 MR. GAMACHE: Correct.

27
28 MR. R. NAGEAK: And that communication
29 was made then.

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I don't
32 think -- I think that probably is the fault of the Office
33 of Subsistence Management for not putting the letter in.
34 It wasn't something that honestly occurred to anybody to
35 include it. I will also say that this whole tribal
36 consultation process, because it's happening quickly,
37 it's something new, we've been scrambling to keep on top
38 of it. But your comment is noted. It came later in the
39 agenda, but on page 149 there's a briefing on tribal
40 consultation and the draft protocols are in there. We
41 did not include the letter. I don't know that we saw
42 that it was necessary to include the letter, but if
43 that's something you would have liked to have seen in the
44 book, then we can consider doing something like that at
45 another point.

46
47 CO CHAIR BROWER: Helen, on the info you
48 just provided, I think that providing them to the Council
49 members in terms of what you have in terms of
50 documentations, in terms of the correspondence or

1 telecommunications, that type of information would be
2 helpful to the Council members. Communications going
3 back and forth to see which way our ANCSA corporations
4 are leaning towards in terms of this consultation
5 process. It's correct that we're kind of shooting in the
6 blank when we don't have that background information.
7 Thank you.

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So noted. Would you
10 like us to get copies so you can see them in the
11 afternoon? We can call over to the office and have copies
12 brought of the letters that were sent.

13

14 CO CHAIR BROWER: That's okay. The
15 process is verbally hearing rather than seeing the letter
16 and the communication part was a big concern when tribal
17 members like one from ICAS from my area, some of the
18 proposals sat in front of them that they haven't been
19 communicated to them, especially the regional tribal
20 council.

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Your concerns have
23 been noted. Thank you.

24

25 MS. GAMACHE: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, go ahead.

28

29 MS. GAMACHE: Thank you. I would like to
30 add my thanks to the Council members for your comments.
31 This is really important. We're taking it very
32 seriously. As was commented earlier, this is a process
33 that's moving forward fairly quickly and so we're trying
34 to make sure that we do the things that are necessary and
35 effective to make sure that everyone has information that
36 they need and are aware of the steps that we've been
37 taking to create this consultation policy. We would
38 welcome comments and suggestions on how to make this more
39 effective for tribes and for ANCSA corporations. Any
40 suggestions that you have in terms of how to communicate
41 the information and how we could structure the
42 consultation meetings themselves, we definitely want that
43 information. It helps us as we're trying to structure
44 these things. So I want to add my thanks as well for
45 your comments.

46

47 CO CHAIR BROWER: I've got a concern I'd
48 like to voice as well in terms of the processes. I'm not
49 sure how up to par you all are in terms of some of the
50 post offices being taken out of the equation and the

1 snail mail being snails, really slow moving. When we're
2 being told to consider something in a short term, I think
3 those steps need to be considered as well. It's within
4 a Federal program, it's within our Federal government and
5 when we're being asked to take something in a short term,
6 that short term needs to consider being redefined in
7 terms of what we have to deal with in the rural villages.
8 Our mail is a month behind. We send something out of
9 Anchorage, it could be three weeks before we receive it
10 in Barrow. These are the things I think need to be
11 considered in trying to deal with something in the short
12 term or in a short time frame.

13

14 I brought the information as I was
15 getting ready to go board the aircraft to come to this
16 meeting. I just happened to glance through my mailbox at
17 work and I found this paperwork and I said how come I
18 didn't receive these two weeks ago. I could have at
19 least shared it with our Council members. Like I said,
20 I found it in my mailbox the day I was leaving. So that
21 I didn't even get to disseminate on my own part as a
22 Chair.

23

24 I think the timing needs to be lengthened
25 in terms of I see the dates and the places of the
26 meetings where you indicated are going to be happening.
27 Just as Roy said, we don't find it in our packets, we're
28 going to be acting on hearsay. It's not appropriate for
29 us to be taking action or making decisions just on
30 hearsay. That's a concern that needs to be brought
31 forth. Thank you.

32

33 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I'd like to add our
34 perspective. The way information like this normally goes
35 through our region is that we get the information and we
36 share it amongst the organizations because we have
37 Maniilaq Association that has a subsistence division. We
38 have NANA Regional Corporation that has its people to
39 take care of some of this stuff, but the way it normally
40 works is that we get the information and then kick it
41 around and share it with the other organizations,
42 including the elders, and then something like
43 consultation I think is important where we need the time
44 to kind of digest it, which kind of brings us to another
45 issue and that is attending these kinds of meetings and
46 then like the Board of Game meeting in Barrow here in
47 November.

48

49 When you have our inter-region working
50 groups and people make a decision on any particular

1 issue, particularly regulations, we have to point out to
2 the Board of Game on several occasions that there was a
3 certain intent in the regulatory proposal that we were
4 submitting and that we were not in much of a position to
5 negotiate the compromise because of all the work that
6 went into authorizing our representatives to attend the
7 Board of Game meeting to support or oppose different
8 regulations seem to have gotten lost in the shuffle of
9 how things work within those authorities.

10

11 When we have the time to digest something
12 as important as this takes a while in addition to the
13 post office problems, it's something that we need to
14 carefully consider in terms of how we're going to be
15 responding to it. I guess just to let you know how our
16 processes work to give you some idea as to what happens
17 when we get something like this. If we get it late,
18 obviously we can't respond to it meaningfully because
19 we're not really authorized as tribal members to do such
20 a thing in the middle of everything else happening.

21

22 MS. GAMACHE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 Again, I appreciate your comments in helping us to
24 understand your process and what would be most effective
25 in terms of getting information to you so that you have
26 opportunity to consider what's moving forward. One of
27 the things I would like to mention is that we recognize
28 that in the workgroup that developed the interim
29 protocols, one of the issues that we did recognize and
30 discuss was that it was moving forward fairly quickly, so
31 we wanted to make sure that there's opportunity for
32 people to weigh in over the next several months. So
33 there's opportunities for tribes, for shareholders or
34 corporations to provide feedback to us. We welcome any
35 kind of comments. I believe we'll be getting the letters
36 to you this afternoon.

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think they said that
39 was okay. Did I misunderstand? I thought you said that
40 was -- you were okay with not getting letters or do you
41 want the letters? I just need to be clear, I guess.

42

43 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, it would be
44 helpful if we could disseminate that information while
45 we're here.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. We'll do that.

48

49 CO CHAIR BROWER: And then we can bring
50 it back and look at the contents.

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Absolutely.

2

3 MS. GAMACHE: And one of the other things
4 is that because we are interested in the tribal
5 representatives who were on the workgroup, on the
6 drafting committee, felt very strongly that we needed to
7 make sure that we had opportunity in the future to
8 revisit the process. It's an ongoing process. We're
9 going to revisit what we've put into place. We'll be
10 consistently assessing how effective it is and what we
11 can do to help fine tune and make it a better process.

12

13 So we set a date for assessing the
14 process sometime next year, so this is not the end of the
15 discussion. This is definitely not the end of developing
16 the process. We want to make sure it works as
17 effectively as we can possibly make it. Even though we'll
18 have an interim protocol and then we'll have a final
19 adoptive protocol, we intend to build into the cycle an
20 assessment so that we can take a look at it and make sure
21 it works effectively.

22

23 So it's an ongoing process and we
24 definitely are interested in hearing back from you on how
25 to make it work more effectively and so your comments
26 will help us -- your comments today will definitely help
27 us in terms of distributing information, who do we need
28 to add to the mailing list, who do we need to add to the
29 mailing list, who do we need to get email addresses from
30 so we can hopefully bypass the snail mail to some degree,
31 and getting the information out to you so that you can
32 consider it fully and have the discussions that you need
33 to have.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Attamuk.

38

39 MR. SHIEDT: I greatly appreciate that
40 we're heading towards that direction because yesterday we
41 had earlier comments in regards to the agencies that
42 promotes a lot of these rules and regulations for
43 subsistence and how there needs to be a website from the
44 Federal government to get comments on issues throughout
45 the state and how there's no coordination between regions
46 or how to communicate with each other and how the
47 diminishing dollars don't allow Federal people to go out
48 and ask for comments or requests for comments or how well
49 these rules and regulations impact the subsistence out
50 there.

1 With a website, almost like Facebook,
2 you'll get a lot of comments from all over the state if
3 the Federal government, with the rules and regulations
4 that impact the people out there, just open up. Just
5 allow people to make comments and see how they feel. I
6 know it might be derogatory or a lot of things might be
7 bad, but if you start getting the sense of what you
8 really need and what the sense is out there.

9
10 Right now we really don't know on a
11 statewide basis what the sense is out there because we
12 get it from you guys at these meetings it seems like.
13 It's real minimal on proposals and rules and regulations
14 that might impact our subsistence hunters and it's like
15 right now there's no comments on the proposals that we're
16 supposed to act on.

17
18 So I think issues like these I think the
19 Federal government could act and open up the government
20 aspects of how things are -- rules or regulations are
21 made, especially the people that are going to be
22 impacted. There's no avenue other than through here and
23 we get no comments on proposals.

24
25 Attamuk.

26
27 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, Enoch Attamuk here
28 with Maniilaq. This is the first time I heard it. It's
29 like they're saying. If you try and mail it to us, that
30 takes forever. I'll give you an example. I sent out
31 some paperwork from Kotzebue to Anchorage. It took three
32 weeks for them to receive it. Vice versa. Email is the
33 process now and I need -- because I represent from
34 Maniilaq all my villages in Northwest Alaska, including
35 Pete, Raymond, and we get nothing from the corporation.
36 I'll tell you that right now. The corporation has their
37 own agenda what they want to do. They're out to make
38 money for me.

39
40 My job is to protect my subsistence and
41 see in these consultations. I never hear nothing about
42 it. I have to get input from my people which directions
43 they want me to go. I can't agree to nothing here or I
44 can't oppose anything here because I get nothing from my
45 tribe saying this is the direction you go.

46
47 You say it's a rush deal. I thought the
48 agencies has so long in putting in the Federal Register
49 before they rush things together. If you want to work
50 with us as a team, advise us early and we have time to

1 look at it, observe it and talk to the people. These
2 guys know I get a lot of phone calls from my village. I
3 get a lot of input what's going on, especially not
4 getting caribou, they're getting caribou, they're not
5 getting this and that. I get a lot of that and I have to
6 make time to talk to them. That's why it will be hard
7 for me to say. I'm not trying to put you guys down, but
8 when you're going to get a hold of us, please do not rush
9 it because these are things that are going to affect our
10 culture completely. Thank you.

11

12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CO CHAIR BROWER: Rosemary.

15

16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I've been involved in
17 the process for these meetings. They've been very
18 informative having the people involved and bringing the
19 various ways of discussing these issues in the process.
20 I really appreciated what I've learned being involved in
21 the process, working with agency people and also
22 listening to the tribal people that came and participated
23 in the meeting that we had here.

24

25 There is a lot of difficulty in trying to
26 move business through in the villages in a rapid way.
27 It's not done good with the delays in the timeline to do
28 things. The other people we need to bring up is we are
29 living councils and they are evolving. ICAS just went
30 through an election process, so there's a follow up that
31 needs to be done with that. The Native Village of Barrow
32 will be going through election process next month, so
33 those are things that are good things to bring in, a
34 positive means to this process. New council members, new
35 communication process.

36

37 This process has gone through a lot to
38 try to bring it out to the villages, but it's also been
39 difficult to get the responses back from the villages.
40 So us being involved in the ways that we are it's really
41 important that we bring these communications to our
42 people and let them know that these documents are out
43 there and try to get some communications back about what
44 we've tried to do in this process.

45

46 It's been a really involved process.
47 When we were looking at these documents, there was a lot
48 of discussions on words that were used and thoughts about
49 why choosing various words versus not, so it's good to
50 get the feedback from everyone that's going to be living

1 with these processes that are out there. Thank you.

2

3 MS. GAMACHE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 Just one last comment. Thank you, Rosemary and Enoch for
5 your comments. I appreciate them. I've been taking
6 notes. We'll definitely be revisiting many of these
7 things as we continue our discussions on these protocols.

8

9 One of the things that I find frustrating
10 being in the Federal government is we kind of get thrown
11 these grenades and we have to react right now and move
12 things forward and I think to some extent -- I don't know
13 if Pat would like to describe what actually occurred, but
14 there was action taken back in D.C. that kind of lit the
15 fire under this one and gave it a certain timeframe, so
16 we needed to make it happen for the 2012-2014 regulatory
17 cycle. So that's been driving it.

18

19 So I understand your frustration because
20 many of us share the same frustration, so we try to make
21 sure we do what we can to get the information out
22 effectively so that you, again, have that time to be able
23 to have the conversations that you need. I apologize for
24 taking up so much time. I know you have a very full
25 agenda, but thank you for your attention here.

26

27 CO CHAIR BROWER: Any other items need to
28 be provided in regards to this agenda item.

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: (Shakes head
31 negatively)

32

33 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there are none, we
34 can move on to our next agenda item.

35

36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. The coffee
37 is ready. If you want to take a break so everybody can
38 get coffee, keep people happy. There's some bagels back
39 there.

40

41 CO CHAIR BROWER: Sounds good to me.

42

43 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Let's take a short
44 break, 10 minutes.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Council review and

1 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board. Helen.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Before we get into the proposals, I have a couple things
5 I just wanted to make you aware of. Some members, their
6 positions on the Council are up and they need to make
7 sure they reapply. I think Donald has applications.
8 Have you already given them to people?

9

10 MR. MIKE: Ms. Armstrong, Mr. Chair.
11 There's some applications that I provided for some
12 members that their terms are expiring in 2012, but I was
13 going to bring that issue up towards the end of the
14 meeting under other business. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 I'll just remind the Council again.

16

17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Also, in addition for
18 people to apply, I would really encourage those of you
19 who are on the Council you are our best resource for
20 getting other people to apply. It works probably best by
21 word of mouth. So if you can encourage other people to
22 apply to be on the Council.

23

24 And then there's also the position for
25 being on the Federal Subsistence Board that Pat Pourchot
26 talked about and we've asked for copies of the -- there's
27 a one-page informational item and it has the email
28 address, the fax, how to submit your interest in being on
29 the Federal Subsistence Board and I really want to
30 encourage people to do that as well or if you know people
31 out in your regions who you think would be really good on
32 the Federal Subsistence Board. This is an opportunity to
33 get those two rural seats or the two seats for
34 subsistence users on that Board. So we want to encourage
35 you to do a little bit of PR work, encouraging those
36 people you know. You know best who would be good on that
37 Federal Subsistence Board.

38

39 Then the third item I just wanted to --
40 I didn't want to forget about is I wanted to let people
41 know that we are going to be hiring -- filling Carl
42 Jack's position as the Native liaison. I don't know when
43 that will be advertised, but it will be going out. We're
44 hoping within the next month or so. Sometimes hiring can
45 be a little slow with the Federal government. The
46 position description has been rewritten and it is a
47 fairly high level position. It's a GS-12/13. But if you
48 know of people who might be interested, it's based in
49 Anchorage in our office. I think with the new tribal
50 consultation that we're doing it's going to be a position

1 that's going to be quite busy. It will be involved in
2 that as well. I think the Native liaison will also work
3 closely with the Federal Board members who are
4 subsistence users.

5
6 So if you know of anybody who might be
7 interested and you want to give me their names and their
8 contact information, I can let them know when that
9 position becomes open. That's all for the information
10 stuff I didn't want to forget.

11
12 So we're now turning to wildlife
13 proposals and they begin on Page 55 of your book. It's
14 WP12-01. There's an executive summary and then the draft
15 analysis. For those of you who are new on the Council,
16 this is your opportunity to make recommendations to the
17 Federal Subsistence Board. They do take very seriously
18 what the Councils recommend. They probably support the
19 Council recommendations about 98 percent of the time, so
20 it's important for you to make your recommendations and
21 to also make sure that you have good justification on the
22 record as to why you are supporting or opposing any
23 particular proposal.

24
25 This proposal was submitted by the Brown Bear
26 Claw Handicraft Working Group. It requests that prior to
27 selling a handicraft incorporating a brown bear claw or
28 claws, the hide or claws not attached to a hide, must be
29 sealed by an authorized Alaska Department of Fish and
30 Game representative and that a copy of the ADF&G sealing
31 certificate would then accompany the handicraft when
32 sold.

33
34 Those of you who have been on the Council
35 for a while know that this has been a long-standing issue
36 that's come before the Council a number of times. The
37 proposal is a compromise that was reached by the members
38 of the Brown Bear Claw Handicraft Working Group, which
39 included Council representatives from nine Councils,
40 State and Federal agency representatives and law
41 enforcement. Both State and Federal law enforcement had
42 representatives at these meetings. The representative
43 from the Northwest Arctic is no longer on the Council and
44 his name is escaping me at the moment, but James Nageak
45 was the representative for the North Slope.

46
47 The proposal addresses concerns
48 originally raised by the State of Alaska with Federal
49 regulations that allow the sale of handicrafts that
50 include brown bear claws from bears that are taken under

1 Federal subsistence regulations. The working group
2 suggested that deferred proposals WP08-05 and WP10-02 be
3 opposed. After we get done with this proposal, we'll be
4 addressing WP10-02, and that this proposal be submitted
5 instead.

6
7 The intent of the proposal is to protect
8 subsistence users who incorporate brown bear claws into
9 handicrafts for sale by providing proof that the claws
10 are from brown bears that were harvested by Federally
11 qualified subsistence users. Having this proof could
12 provide added value to the handicraft, as it would
13 clearly identify that the claws are from a legally
14 harvested brown bear.

15
16 Requiring that a copy of the sealing
17 certificate accompany the handicraft would provide a
18 method of tracking legally harvested brown bears and it
19 would also require some modification to the sealing
20 certificate, which is managed by the State of Alaska, to
21 include a place on the certificate indicating that the
22 bear was harvested by a Federally qualified subsistence
23 user.

24
25 If you look in your book on Page 57 is
26 the existing regulation and you can see with the existing
27 regulation that -- this regulation doesn't apply
28 everywhere in the state. It has been one that has been
29 repeatedly revisited by different Regional Councils. So
30 there have been some areas that have opted not to be
31 included. These regions are included. Unit 23 and Unit
32 26 are both included in the regulation that allows
33 selling handicrafts made by the skin, hide, pelt or fur,
34 including claws of a brown bear. So this is something
35 that does affect your regions.

36
37 The proposed regulation then on Page 58,
38 the bolded part is the new part and that's the part that
39 I just went through. We also included the State
40 regulations so you can see what the State regulations
41 are. This is not something that is allowed under State
42 regulations just as an aside, I guess.

43
44 The issue of selling handicrafts from
45 bear parts has been before this Board since 2002 in a
46 variety of forms. It's often been a very heated
47 discussion that we've had at Federal Subsistence Board
48 meetings on this. The Board has provided for the sale of
49 handicrafts made from the skin, hide, pelt, fur, claws,
50 bones, teeth, sinew or skulls of brown bears by Federally

1 qualified subsistence users where required. It has not
2 been the intent of the Board to create a commercial
3 incentive to harvest bears based on the sale of bear
4 handicrafts. The intent of the Board has been to allow
5 a traditional practice that people have had in being able
6 to make handicrafts and then to sell them, but not with
7 the idea of creating some enormous commercial market.

8

9 On Page 59 of your books there's a
10 timeline of regulatory actions taken by the Board
11 regarding the sale of handicrafts from bear parts. I'm
12 not going to go through that, but if you're interested in
13 looking at the whole history or if you have any
14 questions, let me know.

15

16 The working group met several times
17 between 2009 and 2011 and it recommends that the Board
18 reject deferred Proposal WP10-02 and submitting this new
19 proposal. The new proposal requires sealing a brown bear
20 only if the subsistence user intends to sell a handicraft
21 incorporating brown bear claws. The results of the 2010
22 meeting were taken to nine of the ten Councils during the
23 fall of 2010 to seek input from the Councils. The
24 Councils comments and suggestions were brought back to
25 the working group for their consideration prior to
26 finalizing this proposal that's before you today.

27

28 The final proposal WP12-01 requests that
29 prior to selling a handicraft incorporating a brown bear
30 claw, the hide or claws not attached to a hide, must be
31 sealed by an authorized ADF&G representative as I
32 explained previously.

33

34 I want to make a comment too that we had
35 a lot of discussion at the Council meetings last year
36 when this proposal was taken just for comment from the
37 Councils about the fact that where the sealing has to
38 occur. Right now the way the regs are written the
39 sealing occurs in particular places, like for example
40 Barrow. We were assured by Larry Van Daele that ADF&G is
41 open to having the sealing be done perhaps at the village
42 level by other -- we didn't come to any conclusion on
43 this, but there was open discussion about being more
44 flexible and maybe it could be in a tribal office or
45 maybe a Park Service office or some other way so that
46 people didn't have to travel a long distance in order to
47 get the hide sealed to make it more user friendly.

48

49 I think there is a fair amount of
50 flexibility on the State side already. It's kind of you

1 call up and you say, hey, I've got this brown bear hide
2 but I can't get into Kodiak for another eight weeks and,
3 okay, just bring it in then, that sort of thing. So I
4 think there is flexibility there.

5
6 Adopting the proposal would provide some
7 protection to subsistence users who incorporate brown
8 bear claws into handicrafts for sale by providing proof
9 that the claws are from brown bears that were harvested
10 by Federally qualified subsistence users. It would,
11 however, also add additional paperwork requirements to
12 those subsistence users wishing to sell handicrafts
13 incorporating brown bear claws. It is possible
14 that having proof that the claws are from a
15 subsistence-harvested brown bear could provide added
16 value to a handicraft, as it would identify that the
17 claws are from a legally-harvested bear.

18
19 There is no known evidence to indicate
20 that current Federal subsistence regulations adversely
21 affect brown bear populations, nor that Federal
22 subsistence regulations have led to an increased legal or
23 illegal harvest of brown bears.

24
25 For all of those reasons stated above,
26 the OSM preliminary conclusion is to support Proposal
27 WP12-01. For those people who are kind of new to the
28 process too, we do have on Page 2 at the top is the
29 procedure for proposals, so we go through a step-by-step
30 procedure of getting the comments from everyone, all of
31 the people who might be wanting to comment.

32
33 Because this is a statewide proposal,
34 should I just say here what the other Councils have
35 commented? Okay. You are the last Councils to meet, so
36 we have all of the other Councils how they voted on this
37 proposal. I thought you might be interested in knowing
38 how the other Councils have voted.

39
40 Southeast was opposed. Southcentral was
41 in support. Kodiak-Aleutian opposed. I would like to
42 note that Kodiak-Aleutians actually doesn't allow the
43 sale of handicrafts in their region, so they opposed it
44 on that principal. Bristol Bay supported the proposal.
45 Y-K Delta opposed it. Western Interior didn't take it
46 up. They deferred to the Board because they don't
47 discuss brown bears in that region. Seward Peninsula
48 supported it. Eastern Interior supported it with a
49 modification that the sealing form include identification
50 that the harvester is or is not an Alaska Native and/or

1 Federally qualified subsistence user.
2
3 Essentially the Councils are pretty split
4 on this. The other eight proposals we had, four in
5 support and three oppose.
6
7 MR. R. NAGEAK: So, Helen,
8 Kodiak/Aleutians supports according to this log, but you
9 say they opposed it.
10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They opposed it. I'm
12 not sure why that's on there. That was my understanding
13 from Cole Brown, who was at that meeting. I also wanted
14 to note that Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta opposed it, but it
15 doesn't apply in their region either. Not that they
16 can't support or oppose it. I'm just -- it doesn't apply
17 there.
18
19 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.
20
21 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.
22
23 MR. R. NAGEAK: I'm looking at my agenda
24 book and 55 and 56 is where you gave a summary here, an
25 updated one that you passed out?
26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's correct. This
28 book was put -- we try to do the book well in advance to
29 get it out in the mail to get it to you and a lot of
30 Council meetings have happened since then, so Donald
31 passed out to you the list, but there was a correction on
32 that that Kodiak/Aleutian opposed the proposal.
33
34 Any questions on the proposal or the
35 analysis for me?
36
37 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: So next in the
38 process is ADF&G.
39
40 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair. Barbara, I have
41 a question.
42
43 CO CHAIR BROWER: You mean Helen? To
44 Barbara? This is Helen.
45
46 MR. KOONUK: Helen. You were talking
47 about advancing all information to the Council. You
48 advance that to the tribes and the city council itself?
49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You mean the.....

1 MR. KOONUK: Are you talking about two or
2 three week advance notice of the information that needs
3 to be looked at or a month, two months or what?
4
5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I believe the
6 guideline is that we try to get the Council books in the
7 mail to you three weeks in advance. Did everybody get
8 their book in time?
9
10 MR. KOONUK: No. I got mine the day
11 before I left.
12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's definitely an
14 increasing problem I think with the mail system.
15
16 MR. KOONUK: That seems to be a problem.
17
18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We're going to have
19 some discussions in our office about it. We do post it
20 online, but I know that that's not a satisfactory answer
21 for everyone either. This mail issue is a big one. I
22 think it's getting worse, am I right?
23
24 MR. KOONUK: Are you going to blame the
25 mail or Staff?
26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, no, I'm not -- no,
28 no blames.
29
30 MR. KOONUK: Gee whiz, you know, you guys
31 work for the government. We know how government works
32 and they're slow.
33
34 MR. J. NAGEAK: We already talked about
35 this stuff this morning before you came. Next time come
36 in early and on time. We already talked about this stuff.
37 I don't want to go back to it again.
38
39 MR. R. NAGEAK: Maybe an update, Barbara.
40
41 CO CHAIR BROWER: It's Helen.
42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm going to have to
44 tell Barbara I'm still her sister.
45
46 (Laughter)
47
48 CO CHAIR BROWER: Did that help with your
49 concern, Ray?
50

1 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. Thank you, James.
2
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: We'll move on to our
4 next.
5
6 MR. R. NAGEAK: Barbara -- I mean
7 Helen.....
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MR. R. NAGEAK:on the agenda page
12 2 with your presentation procedure for proposals, knowing
13 that we only meet twice a year, is there any way to get
14 a timeframe in regards to the proposals that we need to
15 address in our one or two meetings a year on the
16 presentation procedure for proposals? Is there any way
17 for you guys to set up deadlines so that this could allow
18 us to look at the proposals and when the letters are sent
19 out to the consultation agencies and stuff or is this
20 wide open or is it crunched to a minute timeframe?
21 Because when we meet once or twice a year, the time
22 tables would be very helpful for introduction of proposal
23 and analysis, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
24 comments, other Federal and State agency comments, tribal
25 comments, Interagency Staff Committee comments,
26 Subsistence Resource -- somehow put that into a timeframe
27 that would allow us to look at these proposals in a
28 timely manner or get comments in a timely manner so that
29 it would be available to us and we could look at it right
30 before we decide, like right now.
31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you for your
33 comments. The proposal book -- what happens is we go out
34 and ask what regulations need to be changed and then
35 proposals come in and they come in from the Councils.
36 We'll be asking you at the winter meeting do you have
37 proposals that you want to make. One year it's fish, one
38 year it's wildlife. And then the Councils will make
39 proposals. A large number of our proposals come from the
40 Councils. They look at the regs and they say this needs
41 to change, maybe the caribou are migrating later or
42 something, we need a different season. So then all the
43 proposals come in. They also can come in from
44 individuals. We can get something from somebody in
45 Hawaii. I'm kind of exaggerating, but anyone can submit
46 a proposal. Any individual, any agency, any organization
47 and we look at them all.
48
49 So then they go into a proposal book and
50 that book goes out in May. That goes out to everybody.

1 It's online and then people can make comments. We do
2 have a timeline on that. I wasn't prepared to give you
3 those specific dates, but there are dates where that goes
4 out. You'll see as we go through the proposals where we
5 have a place where summary of written public comments.
6 So if we got public comments, then we provide those to
7 you here at this meeting. So that's the process.

8

9 MR. KOONUK: So is that what we were
10 talking about earlier?

11

12 MR. R. NAGEAK: Along those lines.

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Okay?

15

16 MR. R. NAGEAK: I'm glad that you
17 mentioned that anybody, even this group or any Native
18 village could come out with a proposal that is -- well,
19 why don't you change rules and regulations and I think
20 through that process the brown bear harassment and those
21 could be changed so that our people could be safer in a
22 sense and they won't be charged with harassment. Thank
23 you.

24

25 Now I'm starting to get the picture, but
26 I need to get an idea of the timeframe so that when
27 proposals are being requested by we need to change the
28 rules and regulations that we comply with or they force
29 on us, then those are the things that we need to put out
30 in the open and make sure that it's for the betterment of
31 the Federal government and for the betterment of us.
32 Thank you.

33

34 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ray.

35

36 MR. KRAMER: I know in the past that in
37 the Northwest Arctic we've had problems with having
38 animals sealed in the villages. For instance, a good
39 friend of mine got a wolverine, brought it down here to
40 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and got it confiscated
41 because it had a temporary tag on it from one of the
42 villages. Took an arm and a leg to get that wolverine
43 back. There needs to be some leverage here where we have
44 some leeway here up in the villages because they don't
45 have people who are qualified to seal animals in the
46 villages.

47

48 Then the other thing, I was looking in
49 the subsistence harvest book here, I know that a lot of
50 things that come to mind is the destruction of trophy

1 value. That's the claws, skulls of bears. I was trying
2 to look for it in here. I was just wondering, is there
3 any kind of -- if it was taken legally for subsistence,
4 will they take the skull and hide or the claws, you know,
5 the trophy destruction of the claws and skull from the
6 grizzly bear?

7

8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: There's nothing in
9 Federal regulation that requires destruction of the
10 claws. You're allowed to keep them and you're allowed to
11 use them in handicraft and you're allowed to sell them as
12 part of that handicraft.

13

14 MR. KRAMER: Okay. Thank you.

15

16 CO CHAIR BROWER: If we could just remind
17 the Council members we have a procedure on the proposals
18 that we'll follow through and then we have Regional
19 Council deliberations. At that time we can raise more
20 questions and comments when we get down to that segment
21 of the procedures. We just heard the proposal and
22 analysis from OSM. We'll move on down with our next
23 procedure to hear from the Alaska Department of Fish and
24 Game.

25

26 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, Ray.

29

30 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, this should have been
31 done the first day we met and keeping it in order.

32

33 CO CHAIR BROWER: We are following the
34 agenda, Ray. We are following the agenda as we approved
35 it, so we're following it in that sense. I'm just
36 reminding the Council what we have in our proposal
37 packets. Thank you. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

38

39 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Chairman
40 Schaeffer, Chairman Brower and the members of both of the
41 Councils. My name is Jennifer Yuhas and I'm with the
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This is my first
43 North Slope or Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council
44 meeting.

45

46 Our printed comments have been in the
47 proposal book since it was sent. I know some of you
48 didn't get much time for it, but in the interest of
49 respecting your process and allowing as much time for you
50 to deliberate, I've made my verbal comments to most of

1 the RACs quite concise and simply tried to answer the
2 questions the best I could knowing that our written
3 comments are printed. I just ask those to be entered
4 into the record.

5
6 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
7 also supports this proposal. This one was written after
8 two years of collaboration with the Bear Claw Handicrafts
9 Working Group. It's not the same as the one we put in in
10 2010 that was originally our preference. We lost a few
11 things when this whole consensus process of working
12 together for two years. But we're supporting this
13 proposal instead of the one we originally submitted.
14 After two years worth of working together and coming to
15 a consensus, we intend to withdraw the proposal that
16 you'll be taking up after this in support of the working
17 group proposal.

18
19 *****
20 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
21 *****

22
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
24 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council
25

26 Wildlife Proposal WP12-01: Develop a
27 tracking program for federal subsistence harvested bear
28 claws that are made into in to handicrafts for sale by
29 federally qualified users.

30
31 Introduction:
32

33 This proposal was a consensus outcome of
34 the Brown Bear claw handicraft working group. The
35 proposal requests all federal subsistence harvested brown
36 bear claws, which are incorporated into handicrafts for
37 sale, be tracked through use of the current department
38 brown bear sealing program. If adopted, federal
39 subsistence users who intend on selling brown bear claws
40 incorporated into handicrafts will be required to have
41 the bear hide sealed by the department. If adopted, a
42 copy of the bear sealing document will be required to
43 accompany the bear claw handicrafts when sold.

44
45 Sales of handicrafts made from brown bear
46 claws, teeth, skulls, and bones present a particular
47 problem, because these are potentially high value items,
48 and allowing sales creates market incentives for illegal
49 harvest in Alaska and other states. Adoption of this
50 proposal will protect federal subsistence craftsmen and

1 their clients by providing proof and a means of
2 documenting their handicrafts were legally taken, legal
3 to sale by federally qualified users only, and are legal
4 to own by any customer. Additionally, if this proposal
5 is adopted, the customers who purchase brown bear claw
6 handicrafts from federally qualified users will have the
7 security of written proof certifying the handicraft came
8 from a legally harvested Alaskan brown bear, legally
9 authorized harvester, and legally authorized artesian.

10

11 Changing federal regulation to provide
12 documents which support the legal sales of federal
13 subsistence harvested brown bear claw handicrafts should
14 help eliminate illegal commercial markets and the masking
15 of illegal sales in Alaska and elsewhere.

16

17 Impact on Subsistence Users:

18

19 The Federal Subsistence Board s current
20 allowance of brown bear handicraft sales was not based
21 upon a determination that such sales are customary and
22 traditional but instead upon the Board s unsupported
23 argument that the Board can authorize any use if the take
24 is customary and traditional (see e.g., January 2, 2006,
25 letter from Chairman Demientieff to Commissioner
26 Campbell). Therefore, adoption of this proposal will not
27 impact customary and traditional subsistence activities.

28

29 Adoption of this proposal will not
30 interfere with continuing to allow federally qualified
31 subsistence users to obtain such handicrafts for
32 ceremonial, religious, and cultural purposes.

33

34 If adopted, federally qualified
35 subsistence users who plan on selling handicrafts made
36 from legally harvested brown bear claws will be required
37 to have the hide sealed by the department, retain copies
38 of the sealing certificate, and provide copies of the
39 certificate to customers.

40

41 Opportunity Provided by State:

42

43 Under 5 AAC 92.200, handicrafts made with
44 bear fur may be sold to anyone, but sales of handicrafts
45 made with claws, skulls, teeth, and bones are prohibited.
46 Whole bear skins, with claws attached, taken in certain
47 predator control areas may be sold under 5 AAC 92.031,
48 but only after sealing and under terms of a permit issued
49 for that bear skin.

50

1 Conservation Issues:

2

3 The Federal Subsistence Board created a
4 new market for bear claws and other high value bear parts
5 which could readily mask illegal sales, thereby
6 compounding problems with the international trade of
7 Endangered Species and contributing to the illegal
8 harvest, overharvest, and waste of bears in other states
9 and countries, as well as Alaska. Markets for high value
10 bear handicrafts create a conservation concern because
11 brown bears are protected under the Endangered Species
12 Act in other states and Mexico, and the origin of brown
13 bear products cannot be determined by visual inspection.
14 Brown bears are also listed on Appendix II of the
15 Convention International Trade of Endangered Species
16 (CITES).

17

18 In Alaska, economic incentives associated
19 with harvesting brown bears to make handicrafts create
20 conservation concerns because brown bears develop slowly
21 and have a low reproductive rate, making small
22 populations extremely susceptible to overharvest.
23 Allowing widespread sale of high value bear parts without
24 any kind of tracking mechanism is an invitation to
25 illegal harvests. Further, the existing regulations are
26 unenforceable and inconsistent with sound wildlife
27 management principles.

28

29 Enforcement Issues:

30

31 This proposal will reduce enforcement
32 issues created by the existing federal regulation by
33 creating a tracking system which provides documents to
34 accompany brown bear claws used for making handicrafts
35 legally taken, utilized, and sold under federal
36 subsistence regulations. Further, adoption of this
37 proposal will significantly reduce the likelihood that
38 federally-qualified subsistence users will face state
39 prosecution for engaging in sales that are prohibited
40 under state law when they occur on state or private
41 lands.

42

43 Jurisdiction Issues:

44

45 The Federal Subsistence Board lacks
46 jurisdiction to allow sales of any wildlife handicrafts
47 when and where such sales are not customary and
48 traditional. In the past, the Federal Board has rejected
49 this argument, asserting that if any use is customary and
50 traditional then the Board can authorize any other use.

1 The Board s argument is inconsistent with its litigation
2 stance in the Chistochina Unit 12 moose case where it
3 argued that customary and traditional use is related to
4 how resources are used after they are taken, and not to
5 or a prerequisite condition for the taking itself. State
6 v. Fleagle, (Case 3:06-cv-00107-HRH) Doc. 32 at 22.

7

8 Other Comments:

9

10 The department appreciates the
11 cooperative work the brown bear claw work group completed
12 over the last two years. Providing for tracking would be
13 an important first step to addressing some of the
14 Department s concerns regarding conservation and
15 enforcement. If brown bear harvests can be tracked over
16 time, and bear parts or handicrafts can be traced to
17 reported legal harvests, conservation concerns will be
18 less likely to arise and managers will be better able to
19 determine if or when legal sales are contributing to
20 illegal sales or otherwise creating conservation
21 concerns.

22

23 Recommendation: Support.

24

25 MR. R. NAGEAK: So your comments are on
26 Page 64?

27

28 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. That is
29 correct.

30

31 MR. R. NAGEAK: I'll find that on my own.

32

33 CO CHAIR BROWER: Okay, Roy, thank you.
34 Any questions in regard to the Alaska Department of Fish
35 and Game's comments.

36

37 MR. R. NAGEAK: What was the processes
38 that made you change your mind from the original proposal
39 that was in 2010? For that matter, why did you make the
40 decision to put this out? Was it from people who wanted
41 to use claws as parts?

42

43 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chairman. That
44 is correct. We heard from lots of users who wanted to,
45 in fact, sell. There's no prohibition on gifting, but
46 they couldn't sell without a new regulation to keep them
47 from being harassed, as you've been saying several times
48 the last two days. In order to sell, we needed a new
49 regulation. So we wrote one a few years ago in 2008 and
50 it got deferred, so we tried it again in 2010 and

1 everybody still wasn't happy with it, so we got a working
2 group together for the last two years.

3
4 We listened to the people who would want
5 to sell these things, we listened to the people who would
6 have to enforce these things. We had everybody working
7 together. I only came in for the last three meetings.
8 I can't say I participated. I can just say I respectfully
9 listened to their conversations. We walked through a lot
10 of hypothetical scenarios. Like the person bringing the
11 wolverine all the way down. How long have you had it and
12 what would enforcement be like.

13
14 The proposal in front of you leaves a lot
15 of room and doesn't address exact specifics, which is one
16 of the things that we lost in the original proposal and
17 we're okay with that, but it talks about the copy of the
18 certificate, but it doesn't say what the certificate has
19 to look like, so there's room to work with the artist and
20 the people. We don't know if that will only be a Xeroxed
21 copy of the original certificate or if that will be a
22 tear-off sheet. There was talk from some of the
23 different artists that it would be okay to put a
24 microchip in the claw or to inscribe on the back of it
25 and others said it would be offensive to their art, they
26 would never do that, so we had to listen to ideas that
27 would be acceptable to people and leave a little bit of
28 room.

29
30 We listened to how hard it is to get
31 something sealed and whether there's a sealer in your
32 village. At the Eastern Interior RAC last week, the
33 Chairwoman is actually one of the sealers. She got a
34 certification. She can seal and her neighbors come over
35 and get things sealed with her. In other places we know
36 there's no one around for many miles to do the sealing
37 and or enforcement officers who participated in the
38 working group said we have to work with that. Maybe
39 someone could call up and say I have a need for sealing
40 and then they have to make a log of that and say don't
41 bother this person, they've called us, we know it's not
42 sealed yet, but they intend to get it sealed. So there's
43 a lot of discussion about how could you work with people.

44
45 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

48
49 MR. R. NAGEAK: Sealing is only done by
50 the State or it's done by Federal Wildlife too?

1 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. It simply
2 says we need to have a representative of the State. So
3 just like vendors who sell the hunting and fishing
4 licenses, it doesn't have to be in a State office.
5
6 CO CHAIR BROWER: That would be like
7 Geoff Carroll in Barrow. He's our area biologist for the
8 State. If you were to take a brown bear and you need it
9 sealed, you'd have to meet with Geoff to make that
10 arrangement.
11
12 MR. KOONUK: In Point Hope area, Unit 22,
13 we'd go through Kotzebue, right, to get that sealed?
14
15 CO CHAIR BROWER: Both ways, Kotzebue or
16 Barrow.
17
18 MR. KOONUK: Mention another
19 representative we have, not just one way. I have a
20 question. When you say you have a working group, who's
21 the working group that finalized or distributed the
22 information as far as what you're presenting here?
23
24 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. Helen
25 Armstrong may have the full list. She was one of the co-
26 chairs. Larry Van Daele with Fish and Game was the other
27 co-chair. Helen, did you have about 30 participants?
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I don't think it was
30 quite that many. We had a representative from each of
31 the Councils except for Western Interior, which chose not
32 to participate, and then we had members from law
33 enforcement from the State and Federal side. And then
34 there were people who -- there was somebody from the
35 State side who dealt with regulations. I would say that
36 the Council representatives led a lot of the discussion
37 and we didn't move forward in consensus until the Council
38 representatives were satisfied.
39
40 James, would you say that's accurate? I
41 mean everyone had to agree, but the Councils were the
42 driving force in that discussion, I think.
43
44 CO CHAIR BROWER: Did that help with your
45 question, Ray?
46
47 MR. KOONUK: Yeah, it helped, Mr. Chair.
48 Thank you.
49
50 CO CHAIR BROWER: Any other questions or

1 comments for the State.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there are no other
6 items for the State, we'll move down our agenda. Other
7 Federal and State agency comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there are no other
12 comments, we'll move right on down to number 4, tribal
13 comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CO CHAIR BROWER: Nobody.

18

19 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.

22

23 MR. KOONUK: Too bad we don't have
24 tribal. Like we stated yesterday, teleconferencing would
25 be a help as far as wanting to hear from the outlying
26 villages that have no ways of getting here and discussing
27 some issues that are real important in our communities.
28 The motion passed yesterday to make sure that we
29 communicate outside with our people.

30

31 There's a lot of important issues that we
32 talk about and I don't think we ever air anything out to
33 KBRW or KOTZ in regards to our meeting because we only
34 meet twice a year. There's issues that affect our
35 hunters and our hunters need to know what's going on as
36 far as what's being regulated by the Board and passed on
37 to the Federal itself. There's a lot of questions.
38 Who's representing who.

39

40 Myself, being right in the middle of 26
41 and 23, it's really complicated, you know. I have to
42 travel to Barrow to go to the meetings and I have nothing
43 to do with 26 here. All my hunting is in Unit 23. So
44 this needs to be recognized to the Federal side in
45 distributing issues that's being discussed. I know this
46 issue has been brought up back when Larry Kinguk (ph) was
47 our Fish and Game person. That was almost 40, 50 years
48 ago. He recognized that. He said we're not Unit 26,
49 we're Unit 23. What are we doing here? Why are we going
50 to meetings up in Barrow? We should be going to meetings

1 in Kotzebue. It's still going on and I'm still sitting
2 here and recognizing that issue. I just wanted to bring
3 that issue up again and make sure it's recognized. It's
4 probably going to happen every year until it's
5 straightened out. No results, no nothing yet. Thank
6 you.

7

8 CO CHAIR BROWER: There's improvements
9 being made in terms of what we just read, in terms of
10 that tribal communication consultation and ANCSA
11 corporation communications. That's in the works. It's
12 not sitting still. It's still in the works. It's still
13 ongoing. I hear your concern, Roy.

14

15 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair. It's been a
16 voice that's been said for years.

17

18 CO CHAIR BROWER: That's what I mean.
19 It's ongoing.

20

21 MR. KOONUK: It's not just me. The next
22 generation or next person that's going to sit here I hope
23 they voice it out if it still exists. Thank you.

24

25 CO CHAIR BROWER: Helen.

26

27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Mr. Koonuk, I do want to thank you for your comments.
29 I'd like the Councils to know that we do do news releases
30 on all of our Council meetings. We do have
31 teleconferencing capability. We have teleconference here
32 that's open if someone wants to call in. We have, as an
33 agency, made the decision to have teleconferencing
34 available at all of our meetings so that people can call
35 in if they would like to. The problem with doing news
36 releases is we send them, but that doesn't guarantee that
37 the information gets put out there. It's up to the
38 particular newspaper or radio station if they want to
39 actually put something out. We get those out in advance.
40 We have our website. We're doing what we can, I think,
41 to try to get people to be involved and to get public at
42 the meetings and that's one reason why we like to have
43 the meetings in the region as well.

44

45 I do want to make a comment on the issue
46 of Point Hope. I've been involved in this process since
47 before the program even began when we did the EIS.
48 Originally Point Hope was included in the Northwest
49 Arctic, but the comments we got from people in Point Hope
50 was that they wanted to be included in the North Slope

1 because that's where they had their affinity. I think if
2 that feeling has changed, I don't know why the Board
3 couldn't revisit those lines. I mean I don't know that
4 that -- I think it's something I can raise, that this is
5 something you repeatedly bring up and maybe they need to
6 look at that.

7

8 The same issue with Anaktuvuk Pass. They
9 were originally in the Western Interior Council and you
10 petitioned as a community to please be part of the North
11 Slope Council, so they changed the boundary line. Those
12 two boundary lines did get changed from Point Hope and
13 Anaktuvuk Pass because of the request from the community,
14 so it wasn't something that we had imposed as a program.
15 I assume Anaktuvuk Pass is quite happy with being part of
16 North Slope, but if you think that the people of Point
17 Hope would like to be considered part of Northwest
18 Arctic, I'll take that back to our managers.

19

20 MR. KOONUK: You need to present that to
21 the tribal council in a letter form and you just stated
22 you have documentation as far as Point Hope wanting to be
23 with North Slope Borough, I want to see that in writing.

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'll see if I can dig
26 it up in the admin record. I think the best approach
27 would be for the tribal council to submit a letter to the
28 Federal Board requesting that it be changed. If it's
29 your request that you'd like it to be changed.

30

31 MR. KOONUK: No, I want to see something
32 that you have. You said that you had something that the
33 people wanted to stick with North Slope, then I want to
34 see that document.

35

36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I will look for it.

37

38 MR. KOONUK: And signed by the DOI.

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I will look for it.

41

42 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Did that
43 help with your concern, Ray?

44

45 MR. KOONUK: Yes.

46

47 CO CHAIR BROWER: We'll move on with our
48 next agenda item. InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there are no
2 InterAgency Staff Committee comments, we'll move down to
3 number 6. Subsistence Resource Commission comments
4 regarding this proposal. Marcy.
5
6 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, National Park
7 Service, Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
8 Commission supported this proposal with no justification.
9
10 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.
11
12 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.
13
14 CO CHAIR BROWER: Donald.
15
16 MR. MIKE: I handed out a copy and these
17 were mailed out also from the Lake Clark Subsistence
18 Resource Commission. They commented on statewide Proposal
19 1. Lake Clark SRC did not take a position. Thank you,
20 Mr. Chair.
21
22 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for sharing
23 that, Donald. Moving on down to number 7, Fish and Game
24 Advisory Committee comments.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Number 8, summary of
29 written public comments.
30
31 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There were no
32 written public comments. The written comments were from
33 the SRCs. Thank you.
34
35 CO CHAIR BROWER: Number 9, public
36 testimony on the proposal.
37
38 MS. NORTON: Good morning. Dolly Norton,
39 Cully Corporation, president/CEO. Number 4 says tribal
40 comments, but I'm ANCSA. I want to support WP12-01 for
41 sale of claws and skins. However, in regards to Kramer's
42 comment regarding a person available to seal their catch,
43 I think because the North Slope is so spread out and it
44 is difficult to get seals to each village, I think that
45 this Council should support having at least two sealers,
46 one for the Northwest Arctic Borough and one for the
47 North Slope Borough and make it known via public
48 announcement, village council meetings and spread the
49 word out that way. That way we won't get our claws taken
50 from us.

1 I think this subsistence board is very
2 vital to our nature of living. I'm very adamant about
3 supporting my village for subsistence whaling, hunting,
4 fishing. I do what I can to help them. You know, our
5 corporation can't do it alone and we need the backing of
6 the support of the subsistence board and I'm very
7 grateful to be here and all that you guys do for our
8 people and I just want to say thank you.
9
10 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Any other
11 public comments.
12 (No comments)
13
14 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there are no further
15 public comments we'll move down to number 10, Regional
16 Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.
17 What is the wish of the Council.
18
19 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. I move to
20 support.
21
22 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy. Motion
23 on the floor to support the proposal as presented.
24
25 MR. J. NAGEAK: I'll second that motion
26 for discussion.
27
28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by James.
29 Further discussion on the proposal.
30
31 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.
32
33 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.
34
35 MR. KOONUK: There's no conflict?
36
37 CO CHAIR BROWER: Excuse me?
38
39 MR. KOONUK: There's no conflict?
40
41 CO CHAIR BROWER: Conflict between?
42
43 MR. KOONUK: Motion one and motion two.
44
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: There's one motion and
46 a second.
47
48 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: We'll do our vote
49 after you.
50

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: Are you talking about
2 conflict of interest, two brothers making the same.....
3
4 MR. KOONUK: Yeah. That's all right.
5 There's no conflict.
6
7 CO CHAIR BROWER: You need to look into
8 the OSM in terms of our representation. One is
9 representing from Barrow and the other is Anaktuvuk Pass.
10
11 MR. KOONUK: There's no conflict? A
12 question.
13
14 MR. J. NAGEAK: I want to make a comment.
15 That's why I seconded, because I wanted to make a comment
16 on this. Authorize ADF&G representative. I thought we
17 were making it clear that a person like you said, what's
18 the name, Al from Anaktuvuk, representing the National
19 Park Service, would be a representative in which that
20 person would be authorized -- not so much -- yeah, not
21 authorized but be a representative of an authorized ADF&G
22 representative, so there would be a designated person.
23 I think you mentioned tribal council member too, in being
24 a representative of the authorized ADF&G representative
25 to seal those. That was the understanding we had in
26 putting this together.
27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's correct, Mr.
29 Nageak. That was my understanding. It's not in the
30 regulation because that's not something we put in
31 regulation, but that we had a commitment from ADF&G, from
32 Larry VanDaele that they would certainly be more
33 flexible. Then I was pleased to hear from Jennifer Yuhas
34 that the Chair of the Eastern Interior Council is a
35 certified sealer. So I don't know. It's a State
36 process. I don't know what that entails to be a sealer,
37 but they were very open to making it more available to
38 people so that there wouldn't be that hardship.
39
40 Right now what it says in our reg book,
41 I looked it up because there was some comment about it,
42 it's on Page 20 towards the bottom, the second to the
43 last bullet on the left, it says that for the North Slope
44 the sealer currently is in Barrow and in Northwest Arctic
45 it's in Kotzebue. Those are the ADF&G offices. My
46 understanding is there's nothing in their regulation that
47 says it has to be an ADF&G employee. It can be, as you
48 said, a representative of ADF&G who does the sealing.
49
50 That was definitely a concern of that

1 working group was how are we going to make sure that
2 people if they have to seal they don't have to travel all
3 the way to Barrow in order to be able to do that.

4

5 MR. J. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CO CHAIR BROWER: James.

8

9 MR. J. NAGEAK: I'd like to see paperwork
10 not so much as a regulation here, but background because
11 the people that make these decisions change and if they
12 change, then there needs to be some kind of historical
13 background on saying that a tribal person or National
14 Park Service person could represent that ADF&G
15 representative.

16

17 CO CHAIR BROWER: State your name for the
18 record.

19

20 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The
22 place that record would be contained at this point in
23 time is the minutes from the working group and that
24 discussion took place on the record.

25

26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And we have our
27 transcript from this meeting as well, so we have it in
28 writing.

29

30 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

33

34 MR. R. NAGEAK: I'm glad that sealing
35 could be done. For example in Barrow we have three
36 places where things where things could be clipped or
37 sealed, North Slope Borough, Native Village of Barrow and
38 then the Fish and Wildlife Geoff Carroll.

39

40 CO CHAIR BROWER: Area biologist.

41

42 MR. R. NAGEAK: Area biologist. That's
43 a working relationship. And now more people are willing
44 to get their items sealed and they're more open. They're
45 not hiding things anymore. That relationship with the
46 tribal government is something that the Federal and the
47 State could work with and designated people within their
48 villages to be sealers and that could open up more of the
49 positive relationship that is needed when things like
50 this are happening. I believe that we could include

1 rather than ADF&G but Native tribal representatives to be
2 sealers because that opens up the willingness to come
3 forward with what they catch. Thank you.

4

5 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy.
6 Rosemary, before I recognize you I just want to get back
7 to Helen in regards to what Ray was voicing, his concern
8 regarding if there's no conflict between the two
9 brothers. I looked at OSM. You are the agency that
10 appointed the representatives from the communities to
11 answer Ray's concern.

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Actually it's the
14 Secretary of Interior. I have to say I haven't heard this
15 one before.

16

17 MR. J. NAGEAK: Barbara was concerned
18 about that.

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Barbara was concerned
21 about that? I don't know if -- that process of
22 appointing Council members is very private. I'm not
23 privy to any of the discussions that go on at the Federal
24 Subsistence Board or the Secretary of Interior because
25 it's considered like a personnel matter. So I can't even
26 say whether the issue of them being brothers was even
27 brought up. I don't know. I don't know if Pat Pourchot
28 -- is he here still? I don't know if he knows anything.
29 Maybe Donald knows something. I don't.

30

31 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Donald.

32

33 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As far
34 as the brothers on the Council, this meeting is a public
35 process. It's published in our Federal Register for
36 public meetings. These Council members are public and
37 representing the public. So what's on the table is
38 already part of the record and each Council member has
39 the opportunity to make a motion on the table that's
40 open. We do not have disclosures anymore, but if
41 individual Council members feel that they have a conflict
42 of interest, they can always abstain from voting. Thank
43 you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Donald.

46

47 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, Ray.

50

1 MR. KOONUK: Well, that's something new
2 that I want to hear because it's been a question on my
3 mind as far as who represents what village and the
4 relationships, getting brother, brother, sister, father,
5 father-in-law. If it's documented to say there's no
6 conflict and they represent the village as is and the
7 Department of Interior has documented it, I want to see
8 that in writing to where there's no conflict. Thank you,
9 Mr. Chair.

10
11 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ray.
12 Donald.

13
14 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's
15 noted. We'll look into it further, but each Council
16 member's criteria is they are from the region. The only
17 criteria is that the representatives are from within the
18 region. Thank you. But, Mr. Koonuk, we'll do more
19 research and get back with you on the issue of
20 relationship on a Council. Thank you.

21
22 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Donald.
23 Rosemary.

24
25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm toiling with this
26 proposal on my mind. Without this proposal our people
27 doing our traditional activities, taking our traditional
28 harvest and working within the means of creating
29 opportunities, such as crafting from these items is not
30 illegal. Moving forward with this document we're putting
31 our people at risk for repercussions because we don't
32 have a good process outside of Barrow to get the sealing
33 done. We've had trouble with getting permits and licenses
34 in the village and we're creating risks for our people to
35 become illegal because they don't have legal access to
36 requirements of documentation in our local communities or
37 at our fish camps where we're doing these activities.

38
39 I know some of our people go out to our
40 camps and they spend weeks out there at our camps. The
41 way activities are changing in our communities, we're
42 having activities on our waters where we have people
43 visiting our fish camps and we have opportunities to work
44 with preparing our crafts as well as selling them out at
45 our fish camps.

46
47 These are concerns when we're putting a
48 proposal on there and we don't have adequate access to
49 keep our people legal to provide documentation for needs,
50 for other people's uses. For our people to be

1 traditional and harvesting in our traditional areas and
2 harvesting and preparing our traditional foods and our
3 animals in the ways that we use them, we're not illegal
4 at this point, but moving forward with this proposal
5 we're putting our people at risk.

6
7 We've already had repercussions related
8 to other regulatory efforts and people being put in jail
9 and having to fight through these processes. Some of our
10 people are not illegal, but people who are coming in who
11 don't understand who and what we are and what we're doing
12 in our activities perceive them as being illegal. These
13 conflicts have raised tremendous discussions throughout
14 our state and issues related to our lands and waters.
15 It's not something feel comfortable moving forward with
16 supporting.

17
18 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your
19 comments, Rosemary. I'll recognize the question if
20 there's no further discussion on the proposal. The
21 motion was to support the proposal as presented.

22
23 MR. KOONUK: Question called.

24
25 CO CHAIR BROWER: All in favor of the
26 motion supporting the proposal as presented signify by
27 saying aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CO CHAIR BROWER: Opposed say nay.

32
33 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Nay.

34
35 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion carries. We
36 have one opposition to the motion. Thank you.

37
38 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: For the Northwest
39 Arctic, we need to entertain a motion to support or
40 oppose. Attamuk.

41
42 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I had an intent to
43 support this. They need to.....

44
45 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Point of order.
46 This is not a comment period, this is a motion to move to
47 second for discussion.

48
49 MR. SHIEDT: I move to support this
50 proposal.

1 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you. Attamuk
2 does support WP12-01. Is there a second.
3
4 MR. STONEY: Second.
5
6 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Ray.
7 We're now to discussion.
8
9 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I support this except
10 I would like to see taggers in every village in Northwest
11 Alaska to make it easier for our people not to be
12 illegal. You could work with the State together to put
13 taggers with the IRA or the city council or both to make
14 it easier so that nothing will be illegal. I'm putting
15 myself, my people on the line supporting this. If
16 there's no taggers, they could be cited and I don't want
17 to see that where they're cited. So I would like to see
18 the office with the State make an extra effort to put in
19 taggers as soon as possible on some paperwork you process
20 and rush it. So please rush this. Thanks.
21
22 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any further
23 discussion on the motion.
24
25 MR. SWAN: Yes, I would like to support
26 Attamuk on that. Make it the responsibility of the
27 State, Federal or State programs to supply tags, taggers,
28 whatever. Not creating an expense to the hunter.
29
30 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Austin.
31 I assure you that if it becomes a problem we would lean
32 on the proper department. Any further discussion.
33
34 MR. KOONUK: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. I'm
35 in Unit 23. Do I have the authorization to say
36 something?
37
38 CO CHAIR BROWER: You're considered under
39 the North Slope at this time, Ray.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any further
44 discussion. Attamuk.
45
46 MR. SHIEDT: On my comment, I should
47 stress that make it up to the IRA or the city or somebody
48 in each village to appoint someone due to someone might
49 decide to move on and it will take a while. Make it the
50 responsibility of the village to keep a tagger in the

1 village. Let me rephrase that a little. Not you guys
2 choose one and that guy move on. So make it the
3 responsibility of IRA and the city. That way if someone
4 quits, they would automatically appoint someone from
5 their council.

6
7 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any further
8 discussion.

9
10 MR. KOONUK: Off the record. Within Unit
11 23 and the boundaries between 26 and 23, you know where
12 I sit and how I battle between 26 and 23. I want to say
13 something in regards to Unit 23, but I have to sit in
14 Unit 26 to answer questions or raise questions, so that's
15 where I sit and I want to let the Department of Interior
16 know where Point Hope stands now. There's a big conflict
17 as far as what unit we sit in there. So keep that in
18 mind. Thank you.

19
20 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any further
21 discussion on the motion.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Hearing none. All
26 those in favor of the approval of WP12-01 signify by
27 saying aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any opposed same
32 sign.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Note that it's
37 unanimous.

38
39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 We're moving on then to Proposal WP10-02. It's on Page
41 67. This proposal has been deferred. It was deferred
42 previously from this one WP08-05. The proposals were
43 deferred pending the recommendations of the Brown Bear
44 Claw Handicraft Working Group.

45
46 As you know, the working group comprised
47 on the proposed regulation that you just addressed, WP12-
48 01. The recommendation of the working group is to oppose
49 Proposals WP08-05 and WP10-02 and for the Board to
50 consider Proposal WP12-01 in place of these proposals.

1 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to take no action on
2 WP10-02.

3
4 In terms of what the other Councils
5 voted, you have the log in front of you. They were mixed
6 between taking no action and opposing. Southeast,
7 Southcentral, Y-K Delta, Western Interior, Eastern
8 Interior took no action. Kodiak/Aleutians, Bristol Bay
9 and Seward Peninsula opposed.

10
11 Now when I was at the Seward Peninsula
12 Council meeting we had a lot of discussion on the
13 difference between take no action and oppose. I would
14 imagine that maybe other Councils thought about that as
15 well. Essentially taking no action can be seen as
16 opposing. We actually had a lot of discussion in our
17 office as well where we wanted to land on it.

18
19 I think we were sort of hoping that if
20 everyone took no action and the State took no action,
21 then it wouldn't even have to be brought up at the Board
22 meeting, but when there's a disagreement between Councils
23 as to what should happen, then it has to go before the
24 Board. It's my understanding the State will address this
25 as they are planning on requesting from the Federal Board
26 to withdraw this proposal at the Board meeting. That's
27 all I have to say. Thanks.

28
29 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy, go ahead.

32
33 MR. R. NAGEAK: So the Federal government
34 will comply with State recommendations? What are you
35 saying then?

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, this proposal
38 dealt with the brown bear claw issue. At the Federal
39 Subsistence Board meeting two years ago the Board decided
40 to defer to the Brown Bear Claw Handicraft Working Group.
41 That working group came up with the proposal you just
42 heard, the new proposed regulation. So this becomes
43 moot. So we're saying take no action or oppose it
44 because it's no longer relevant.

45
46 MR. R. NAGEAK: So the brown bear is
47 something the State regulates then.

48
49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No.

50

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy, you're confusing
2 the two situations.
3 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay. Maybe I'm just
4 confused.
5
6 CO CHAIR BROWER: We're under a Federal
7 management program.
8
9 MR. R. NAGEAK: Yes.
10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The State has
12 regulations for brown bears and the Federal program has
13 regulations for brown bears and they're not the same,
14 which has been part of the controversy with the State.
15 They haven't been happy with what we've done by allowing
16 the selling of handicrafts made from brown bear parts,
17 especially the claws. So that's why they brought up this
18 Proposal WP10-02. They submitted that proposal that
19 would have changed our regulations, so the Federal
20 Subsistence Board had a working group to have people iron
21 it out and figure out what's a solution to this problem
22 and then we came up with the new regulation that you just
23 supported. Okay? It's complicated, I know.
24
25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. I'd like
26 to make a motion to take no action on WP10-02.
27
28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Point of order here,
29 Rosemary. We have to go through our procedures here in
30 terms of the proposals. So each of these proposals we
31 have to follow these 10 procedures to hear each of the
32 entities.
33
34 MR. J. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.
35
36 CO CHAIR BROWER: James.
37
38 MR. J. NAGEAK: Before we go any further
39 I like the way that Rosemary stated that we are putting
40 our people at risk. I want them to be reading up for
41 this earlier one because she voted no. I want it written
42 up so that we know that's why she voted no. That's all
43 I wanted to point out.
44
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, James.
46 We'll get back to where we are now. We're on discussion
47 of WP10-02. We just heard the introduction of the
48 proposal and analysis from OSM. Alaska Department of
49 Fish and Game comments.
50

1 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Our
3 comments can be found on Page 81, but we're asking that
4 you take no action on this proposal. Our original intent
5 was to withdraw it, to answer some of the members'
6 questions. This is the older proposal. This is the one
7 we original liked and not enough other people liked it,
8 so we're willing to take it off the table in light of the
9 one you just passed.

10
11 With the Chairman's permission, the
12 schedule addresses this proposal before us. I'd like to
13 address two of the questions that came up in your
14 previous deliberations.

15
16 CO CHAIR BROWER: Continue.

17
18 MS. YUHAS: One of those questions was
19 the at risk. For the record, the proposal only addresses
20 sale, which is not allowable right now. Making
21 handicrafts, trading them, bartering them is all
22 allowable, but this was written because some people
23 wanted to sell and they can't right now.

24
25 With regards to the tribal sealing, I
26 wanted to make a note for the record and for the members
27 so that hopefully you can solicit some people that is
28 something we're hoping to have happen. We had testimony
29 at the Eastern Interior RAC. Any entity can be a sealer.
30 They just need to get the proper paperwork on file. So
31 whether that's at the city level, the tribal level, the
32 corporation level, someone in your area who you would
33 like to go have your things sealed by simply needs to be
34 authorized to be a sealer.

35
36 I see George Pappas running up to the
37 microphone.

38
39 CO CHAIR BROWER: George.

40
41 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, good day. George
42 Pappas, Fish and Game. At the Seward Peninsula, the same
43 concern came up. I live in Wales, how am I going to get
44 something sealed. It's going to cost me \$1,000 to
45 charter a plane to get a bear skin back and forth. We
46 invited him to talk to the area manager. Within hours he
47 was a designated sealer and had a bag of seals to go back
48 to his village. So the idea here is to be flexible on
49 the Department side. So if you are interested in
50 becoming a sealer in your area, talk to your area manager

1 with the State and see what the procedure is. Thank you,
2 Mr. Chair.
3
4 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for sharing
5 that information. Any other comments in regards to.....
6
7 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.
8
9 CO CHAIR BROWER:WP10-02 from the
10 State.
11
12 MS. YUHAS: I just wanted to let you know
13 I've made some notes here as you folks have been talking
14 and should the proposal be adopted by the full Federal
15 Subsistence Board, I'll be working within our department
16 to do the best advertising and soliciting that we can to
17 make sure that as many people as possible know how easy
18 it would be to be a sealer.
19
20 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Ray.
21
22 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair. Earlier we
23 talked about climate change as far as bears coming in and
24 out and the climate is changing. So will there be any
25 changes in the future as far as hunting bears? That's
26 something I think should be brought up because we're
27 talking about climate change and things are appearing
28 earlier and migrating later.
29
30 CO CHAIR BROWER: So what happened to the
31 discussion on that subject here at a later time once we
32 get done with the action items?
33
34 MR. KOONUK: But still it's in regards to
35 the claws and crafts. This question needs to be at least
36 looked at and thought about for future.
37
38 CO CHAIR BROWER: So, Ray, we made some
39 comments earlier on this morning in terms of coming back
40 to discussing climate change and effects from climate
41 change on subsistence users.
42
43 MR. KOONUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: So we'll have this
46 discussion later this afternoon. Any other comments in
47 regards to WP10-02 from the State.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Going on
2 down to number 3, Other Federal and State agency
3 comments.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 CO CHAIR BROWER: If no further comments,
8 we'll move down to number 4, tribal comments.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there are no tribal
13 comments at this time, we'll move to number 5,
14 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CO CHAIR BROWER: None to be noted.
19 Number 6, Subsistence Resource Commission comments.
20
21 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There are no SRC
22 comments on this proposal. Thank you.
23
24 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Donald.
25 Number 7, Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 CO CHAIR BROWER: There are no Fish and
30 Game Advisory Committee comments. Number 8, summary of
31 written public comments.
32
33 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There are no
34 written comments for the record. Thank you.
35
36 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Donald.
37 Number 9 is public testimony. Dolly.
38
39 MS. NORTON: Good morning. Dolly Norton,
40 Cully Corporation. This is a deferred proposal and it
41 was requested to be pulled from the table, do you think
42 we should be making a motion on it to pull it? That's my
43 question. Thank you.
44
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: We'll consider taking
46 Council action at the time. Helen.
47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Just a clarification.
49 Procedurally, the only group that can request pulling a
50 proposal is the group that submitted the proposal and the

1 way we have the process set up is that if it's already
2 gone to the Councils, which it did because it's deferred
3 and the Councils have already made a recommendation on
4 it, which they did the last time around, then it has to
5 go to the Federal Board because we want the public
6 process to be followed. So then at the Board meeting the
7 State has the ability to request withdrawing the
8 proposal.

9

10 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for that
11 clarification. Number 10, Council deliberation,
12 recommendation and justification. Rosemary.

13

14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to make a
15 motion to take no action on WP10-02.

16

17 MR. R. NAGEAK: Second for discussion.

18

19 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion and seconded
20 regarding WP10-02. Under discussion. Roy.

21

22 MR. R. NAGEAK: Brown bear and grizzly
23 bear are the same, right?

24

25 CO CHAIR BROWER: Sometimes. It depends
26 on where you're hunting.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CO CHAIR BROWER: Man, that looked like
31 a brown bear.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. R. NAGEAK: I never knew the
36 difference because we hardly get brown bear or grizzly
37 bear in our region. So what's brown bear? What's the
38 category? Like grizzly bear or brown bear or Kodiak
39 bear.

40

41 CO CHAIR BROWER: Helen.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Grizzly bears and
44 brown bears are all the same. It's just kind of what
45 people call them. Kind of like chinook and king salmon
46 are the same, just different names.

47

48 MR. R. NAGEAK: Irish, Swedish, German.
49 Just kidding.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Further discussion on
4 the motion regarding WP10-02.
5
6 MR. R. NAGEAK: Call for the question.
7
8 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion was to defer.
9
10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: To take no action.
11
12 CO CHAIR BROWER: Take no action on
13 Proposal WP10-02. All in favor of the motion signify by
14 saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 CO CHAIR BROWER: Opposed say no.
19
20 (No opposing votes)
21
22 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Pete.
23
24 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Harry.
25 For the Northwest Arctic RAC, we've already gone through
26 1 through 10 as participants. There's no need to go
27 through it again, I believe. At this time, what is the
28 wish of the Northwest Arctic Advisory Council.
29
30 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chair. I'll make a motion
31 that the Northwest Arctic board take no action. I just
32 love it when we unclutter our rules and regulations.
33
34 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Austin.
35
36 MR. SHIEDT: I second.
37
38 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Seconded by Attamuk.
39 Discussion.
40
41 MR. SHIEDT: I just got a quick question
42 to Helen. So if we take no action on this, how long will
43 it take before it completely dies and disappears from the
44 paperwork? I mean do we have to go through this over and
45 over every year?
46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: This will go before
48 the Federal Subsistence Board in January 2012 and my
49 guess would be that it will die then.
50

1 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chairman. We encounter
2 brown bears and I'm really sad to not say my piece for my
3 people because the ladies that go out picking berries
4 encounter brown bears in our area and it's sad that I
5 don't have no input as far as to protect our people from
6 these bears because they come right close to the village.
7 Being in Unit 26, it's different, but Unit 23 -- you
8 know, I have to say and talk in regards to subsistence
9 and to protect not just the people but whatever we have
10 out there because we hunt the same animals out there
11 within Unit 23. Thank you.

12
13 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Ray. Any
14 further discussion on the motion.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MR. KARMUN: Question.

19
20 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: The question has
21 been called. All those in support of no action on WP10-
22 02 signify by saying aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any opposed.

27
28 (No opposing votes)

29
30 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: None noted.

31
32 CO CHAIR BROWER: Move on to Number 3,
33 WP12-02.

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 WP12-02 is found on Page 83 of your books. This is
37 another statewide proposal. This proposal was submitted
38 by Michael Cronk and it requests that only people 60
39 years of age or older, or disabled, be allowed to
40 designate their harvest limit to another person. This
41 regulation change would apply to the entire state. This
42 was his request that it be statewide.

43
44 The Federal Subsistence Board established
45 a statewide designated hunter system in 2003. The
46 statewide designated hunter regulation includes these
47 points. This is only for Federal regulations. It's
48 different from the State regulations.

49
50 The designator must be a Federally

1 qualified subsistence user, the designator may designate
2 another Federally qualified subsistence user to take
3 deer, moose and caribou on his or her behalf, the
4 designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit
5 and must return a completed harvest report. The
6 designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients
7 but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her
8 possession at any one time unless they have been modified
9 in unit-specific
10 regulations.

11
12 It's important to note that several
13 Regional Councils have supported and the Board has
14 adopted regulations modifying the designated hunter
15 system in specific management units.

16
17 The purpose of designated hunter rules is
18 to recognize the customary and traditional practices of
19 sharing and redistribution of harvest in rural Alaska.
20 For example, the designated hunter system legalizes a
21 traditional practice that is ongoing in much of rural
22 Alaska. With individual harvest limits, some hunters
23 cannot harvest enough meat to meet the needs of their own
24 household as well as the needs of the people with whom
25 they share.

26
27 The designated hunter system allows
28 hunters to harvest moose, caribou and deer expressly for
29 sharing. Households may contain members who are unable
30 to or choose not to harvest for themselves. All hunters
31 do not possess equal skills, abilities and aptitudes.
32 Each community has a minority of good hunters, trappers
33 and fishers.

34
35 If this proposal were adopted, the extent
36 of impacts on subsistence users cannot be measured
37 exactly because statistics were only partially gathered
38 to describe the age of those designating a hunter and not
39 whether the user was disabled. So we don't collect that
40 information about disability, so we don't know what the
41 effect would be. We do know that, and this is on Table
42 3 in your books, that in 2009 and 2010 77 percent of
43 those people designating a hunter were under 60 years
44 old. So if this proposal were to be adopted, 77 percent
45 of the people who use this designated hunter permit would
46 not be allowed to do that.

47
48 In conclusion, the proponent raises
49 issues regarding the designated hunter system for the
50 entire state. The harvest by designated hunters

1 generally has been a small portion, less than 2 percent
2 of all harvest, including Federally qualified users,
3 non-Federally qualified users, and non-residents. Only
4 2 percent of the total harvest by all hunters is
5 designated hunter permit.

6

7 Therefore, a statewide provision
8 restricting the use of the designated hunter system is
9 not supported. In circumstances where evidence is
10 available to clearly warrant, unit-specific restrictions
11 could be proposed.

12

13 Therefore, the OSM preliminary conclusion
14 is to oppose WP12-02. That concludes my presentation. If
15 there are any questions on the analysis, I'm happy to
16 answer them. Thank you, Mr. Chairs and members of the
17 Council.

18

19 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.

20

21 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair. So moved to
22 oppose. I have a question. Discuss it on question.

23

24 CO CHAIR BROWER: We have to follow our
25 procedures on Page 2 of the booklet, Ray. We're at the
26 bottom of the list, so we'll have to wait and follow the
27 procedures again. We have 10 steps to follow through.

28

29 MR. KOONUK: Yes, sir.

30

31 CO CHAIR BROWER: Any questions to Helen
32 while she's got the floor at this time in regards to the
33 introduction of the proposal and the analysis.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CO CHAIR BROWER: If not, we'll move on.
38 Thank you, Helen. To Alaska Department of Fish and Game
39 comments.

40

41 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We
43 find no conservation issue with this proposal. However,
44 if these bodies decide to move forward with a statewide
45 regulation, we suggest that you change the language so
46 that it would match both the State regulation and what
47 the Federal Subsistence Board has already adopted for
48 Unit 6 so that we're reducing user confusion. That
49 language can be found at three places in your book. Page
50 84, Page 83 at the top and Page 96 at the bottom. That

1 language would make sure that beneficiaries are blind, 65
2 years old or older, at least 70 percent disabled,
3 temporarily disabled, and that we modify the possession
4 limit to one bag limit at a time.

5
6 *****
7 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
8 *****
9

10 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
11 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

12
13 Wildlife Proposal WP12-02:

14
15 Change federal subsistence designated
16 hunter regulations.

17
18 Introduction:

19
20 This proposal seeks to change the
21 statewide federal subsistence designated hunter
22 regulation by specifying the qualifications for the
23 recipient of harvest. The proposal requests federal
24 regulations be changed to require that federal
25 subsistence designated hunters only harvest for federally
26 qualified recipients 60 years of age or older or for a
27 person who is disabled.

28
29 The proponent indicates the federal
30 subsistence designated hunter program has diverged from
31 the original intent of the Federal Subsistence Board by
32 allowing designated hunting to provide for elders and
33 others that were unable to hunt for themselves. The
34 proponent indicates the designated hunter program is
35 currently an uncontrolled system. The proponent
36 indicates some federal subsistence users are abusing this
37 regulation and are harvesting as many animals as numbers
38 of permits they can obtain which may lead to detrimental
39 impacts to game populations and subsistence hunting in
40 general.

41
42 Impact on Subsistence Users:

43
44 If adopted, federally qualified
45 subsistence designated hunters could harvest animal for
46 federally qualified users 60 years of age or older or are
47 disabled. If adopted, some federally qualified
48 subsistence super harvesters may expend additional time
49 locating and obtaining game tags from qualified
50 designated hunter beneficiaries. If adopted, designated

1 hunters who cannot locate federally qualified users 60 or
2 over or are disabled may harvest fewer animals per year.

3

4 Opportunity Provided by State:

5

6 Proxy hunting for big game is authorized
7 in state hunting regulation. State proxy hunting is
8 allowed for moose, caribou, and deer. The state proxy
9 hunting beneficiary requirements include being a resident
10 of Alaska who is blind, 70% physically disabled, or 65
11 years of age or older. Proxy hunters may not proxy hunt
12 for more than one beneficiary at a time and may have only
13 one Proxy Authorization with them in the field at a time.

14

15 Conservation Issues:

16

17 Undetermined at this time. If this
18 proposal is adopted without modifications many more
19 animals may be harvested than anticipated.

20

21 Enforcement Issues:

22

23 If adopted, this proposal would bring
24 federal and state regulations closer to alignment.

25

26 Recommendation:

27

28 Support with modification.

29 Adopt the proposal with modification to establish
30 designated hunter beneficiary qualifications equal to
31 those approved by the Federal Subsistence Board for Unit
32 6. The State recommends modifying this proposal to
33 require beneficiaries of the federal subsistence
34 designated hunters be blind, 65 years old or older, at
35 least 70% disabled, or temporarily disabled. The State
36 also recommends modifying this proposal to reflect the
37 Unit 6 designated hunter possession limit adopted by the
38 Federal Subsistence Board which to limits designated
39 hunters to possession of only one bag limit at a time.
40 Adoption of these recommended proposal modification will
41 bring regulatory consistency to Units 1 through 6 and
42 make federal and state regulations more parallel.

43

44 CO CHAIR BROWER: Any other comments.

45

46 MS. YUHAS: If you don't move forward
47 with the statewide proposal, there would be no need to
48 change any language.

49

50 CO CHAIR BROWER: Questions or comments

1 from the Council regarding the State's comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CO CHAIR BROWER: None. Thank you.

6 We'll move to number 3, other Federal or State agency
7 comments.

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chairs to the
10 Council members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.
11 Western Arctic National Parklands does not support this
12 proposal. In accordance with the Staff analysis, our
13 position is that the restrictions identified on physical
14 ability or age are unnecessarily restrictive, run counter
15 to traditional and customary practices in the
16 communities, work against those communities in their
17 efforts to secure their subsistence needs.

18

19 Additionally, we have had no indication
20 of problems with the designated hunter programs in Units
21 22 and 23. Also believe that the Regional Advisory
22 Councils and agencies can work together with communities
23 if problems do arise and use the existing regulatory
24 authority to make adjustments on a regional basis by
25 species and things that will keep the program
26 functioning. Thank you.

27

28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ken. Any
29 questions or comments to Ken while he's here from the
30 Council.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ken. Tribal
35 comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CO CHAIR BROWER: None. Number 5,
40 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CO CHAIR BROWER: None. Number 6,
45 Subsistence Resource Commission comments. Sandy.

46

47 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning. I'm
48 Sandy Rabinowitch with the National Park Service. If I
49 could get you to look at Page 97 of your book. I just
50 want to clarify this comment. Donald Mike, as he's been

1 doing, if there are other SRC letters that you have,
2 Donald can read those in.

3
4 On Page 97.....

5
6 CO CHAIR BROWER: Include windows?

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's the first thing
11 I'm going to comment on is that I believe there's a typo
12 here where it says to include windows, that should be
13 widows. Widows. That's just a typo that crept into the
14 book.

15
16 The other comment and really the more
17 important one is that the National Park Service is going
18 to take this proposal back before the Gates of the Arctic
19 Subsistence Resource Commission in November. This was
20 heard, I think it was in May. It was kind of rushed and
21 there's several of us in the Park Service that think that
22 we probably didn't do a very good job explaining it
23 because this comment sort of doesn't make sense to some
24 of us. It is a correct comment. This is what's in the
25 letter that was transmitted.

26
27 But we're going to take it back and
28 review it again
29 and make sure the SRC is clear and then if they have a
30 different opinion there will be another letter generated
31 and that updated opinion would come to the Board. If
32 they don't, then this comment would stand. So I don't
33 want to put words in their mouth, but we'll give it a
34 careful look again. So that's all I wanted to make
35 clear. Thank you.

36
37 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Sandy.
38 Donald.

39
40 MR. MIKE: The Lake Clark Subsistence
41 Resource Commission on Proposal 12-02, support with
42 modification and they're recommending that qualified
43 hunters be allowed to hunt for individuals who are blind
44 or physically disabled. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 MR. R. NAGEAK: Clarification, Mr. Chair.
47 Where's the comments made by ASRC?

48
49 CO CHAIR BROWER: SRC. Subsistence
50 Resource Commission.

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: Oh, I thought they said
2 the ASRC.
3
4 CO CHAIR BROWER: Donald, maybe just read
5 who the letter is from.
6
7 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I had copies
8 made for all the Council members and this is from the
9 Lake Clark National Park Subsistence Resource Commission.
10
11 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy, did that help.
12 Number 7, Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CO CHAIR BROWER: 8, summary of written
17 public comments.
18
19 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the
20 same handout, the Ahtna Subsistence Committee comments on
21 Proposal 12-02 and they oppose 12-02 and summarizing
22 that, if the designated hunter regulation was changed,
23 they would not have anyone to hunt for them. The family
24 members would not have someone to hunt for him or her
25 too.
26
27 The Sitka Tribe of Alaska commented on
28 WP12-02 and the tribe feels that it's too restrictive and
29 would prevent those who qualify for subsistence from
30 meeting their subsistence needs.
31
32 That's all for written public comments,
33 Mr. Chair. Thank you.
34
35 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Donald.
36 Public testimony.
37
38 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair. My name is
39 Pat Petrivelli with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and I'm
40 up here with Dolly Norton because we're reporting on the
41 ANCSA corporation consultation that was held September
42 15th. Actually there were two corporation
43 teleconferences held on September 7th and one on
44 September 15th.
45
46 Four corporations participated both
47 times, but on the 7th was Kwethluk, Point Lay, Hoonah
48 Corporation and Ahtna. Then on the 15th it was Kwethluk,
49 Incorporated, Cully Corporation and NANA, but the only
50 comments that were made on proposals were on -- well,

1 that we're reporting on right now is just Proposal No. 02
2 and I'm going to report on the Kwethluk one and then
3 Dolly is going to do the Cully Corporation. The others
4 were just listening only and Ahtna submitted theirs in
5 writing.

6
7 From Kwethluk Corporation, Sandra Nicori
8 commented that the proposed restrictions limiting
9 designated hunting permits to the people over 60 could
10 cause problems for the subsistence households where the
11 household head is a widow or single mother under 60 years
12 of age and this proposal should not pass.

13
14 I forgot to say the Federal Board members
15 participated in the teleconference also and there were
16 Federal Staff listening. We typed up summaries of these
17 consultations and I was supposed to bring them this
18 morning, but I didn't go by the office, so I'll have them
19 after lunch and I'll have a copy of each consultation for
20 all of you after lunch. I'll let Cully Corporation make
21 their comments.

22
23 MS. NORTON: Good morning. In this
24 meeting, September 15th, regarding Proposal 12-02, there
25 were some Federal people there and I mentioned the
26 coastal zone management in this meeting and they referred
27 me to Bomray (ph). It's in the written notes that you
28 will get this afternoon, so I won't state on it.

29
30 For the Proposal 12-02, we are concerned
31 about this proposal because hunters need to be able to
32 use a designated hunter provision to support subsistence
33 uses of the resource available. Hunters need to be able
34 to teach their children and other young hunters where and
35 how to hunt according to traditional cultural values. So
36 this designated hunter would totally ignore that fact,
37 that you guys are teaching your young kids to be hunters.
38 You know, we need to be able to teach our young how to
39 hunt and this designated hunter would eliminate that and
40 Cully Corporation opposes this proposal. Thank you.

41
42 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your
43 comments.

44
45 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.

48
49 MR. KOONUK: Could I get your name and
50 who you represent or what are you?

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm the subsistence
2 anthropologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. My name
3 is Patricia Petrivelli and I work for the Bureau of
4 Indian Affairs.
5
6 MR. KOONUK: Okay.
7
8 MS. PETRIVELLI: BIA.
9
10 MR. KOONUK: Oh. Now I understand.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah, BIA subsistence.
15
16 CO CHAIR BROWER: Did that help, Ray?
17 Thank you. If there are no further public testimony,
18 we'll move on down to Agenda Item 10, Regional Council
19 deliberation, recommendation and justification. Ray.
20
21 MR. KOONUK: Chair. It's always been our
22 tradition. It's always been our practice as far as how
23 we're being raised traditionally in regards to where
24 we're living and what we catch and we always provide for
25 our elders. Like I stated yesterday, hunters know no
26 law, and that's what we were brought. To help and feed
27 our community and our people and I sure hate the comments
28 of the Federal and State trying to tell us what to do now
29 and try to regulate our way of life, which already has
30 been there. That's my comment I wanted to make and I'm
31 going to stand by it.
32
33 CO CHAIR BROWER: Are you going to make
34 that motion?
35
36 MR. KOONUK: I make that motion 199
37 percent.
38
39 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion to oppose.
40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Second.
42
43 CO CHAIR BROWER: Second by Rosemary.
44 Discussion. James.
45
46 MR. J. NAGEAK: Question called for.
47
48 CO CHAIR BROWER: The question has been
49 called on the motion. The motion is to oppose the
50 proposal WP12-02. All in favor of the motion signify by

1 saying aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CO CHAIR BROWER: Opposed, say no.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Motion to
10 oppose the proposal passes. Pete.
11
12 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: For the Northwest
13 Arctic, what's the wish of the RAC.
14
15 MR. KRAMER: Make a motion to oppose with
16 one comment on it. I don't think we should be able to
17 discriminate.....
18
19 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Let's just make the
20 motion now and then do it in discussion, Mike. Thank
21 you. Is there a second.
22
23 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.
24
25 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Attamuk.
26 Discussion.
27
28 MR. KRAMER: You know, I think it's
29 pretty bad that they discriminate against our elders that
30 they have to be 75 percent disabled, blind, you know.
31 Any mother, any grandmother should be an elder. If they
32 don't have nobody to provide for them, they should be
33 able to get the necessary animals, food, meat, whatever,
34 berries given to them. There should be never a
35 limitation as to an elder. You should be able to provide
36 for any elder. With this right here, limiting an elder,
37 would that elder be able to cook for herself being blind,
38 71 percent disabled? No. Come on now, let's get real.
39 There should never ever be a limitation on an elder.
40 Thank you.
41
42 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any further comments
43 on the motion. Attamuk.
44
45 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Along the same line
46 and if I could recommend a little modification. They
47 should have no discrimination. How about the guy in the
48 wheelchair that's 20 years old due to an accident? I
49 mean he'd like to eat sheep. you know, he might. Age
50 limit puts a damper on it. For some reason or the other,

1 bad arthritis, somebody will get disabled one way or the
2 other. I will oppose it, but with modification that if
3 we're going to get a designated hunter it should be
4 someone from the village to hunt for them, which is okay,
5 but the system, I'm scared it's going to be abused. One
6 guy say I will get my grandma to say let's go hunt sheep
7 for them. I'm talking only about the trophy type hunts.

8

9

10 If you're going to get a designated
11 hunter, devalue. Anything have to do with trophy hunt
12 because I've seen that and I heard the talk in Kotzebue
13 where someone say I will get my grandmother to say we
14 could hunt sheep. These are the things when we make a
15 regulation in place could be tweaked and bent by the
16 locals. I just don't want to see someone be cited. I
17 hate to see that because I heard that at my office. I get
18 a call on it. So I will oppose this due to the age and
19 stuff like that because there's a way they can abuse it.

20

21 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Attamuk.
22 Any other comments.

23

24 MR. SWAN: Austin Swan, Kivalina. We've
25 always had this system in our community, the whole
26 Inupiat community, probably most anywhere of sharing. I
27 feel like this proposal is just trying to regulate our
28 sharing system. I'm going to oppose this too. It's
29 something we've always done. We've always hunted for the
30 elders, the needy. I don't think that will ever change.
31 We don't need any regulations concerning that.

32

33 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Austin.
34 Any further comments on the motion.

35

36 MR. SHIEDT: Yes. Just for my train of
37 thought. Yeah, any regulation as for the rest of us need
38 to be in place. The more regulation we put in place, the
39 more chance they get to cite us. Like Austin say, we
40 always hunted for the elders.

41

42 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any further
43 discussion on the motion WP12-02.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Hearing none. All
48 those in opposition of WP12-02 signify by saying aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Anyone feel
2 otherwise, same sign.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you.
7
8 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.
9
10 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.
11
12 MR. KOONUK: I feel guilty here, you
13 know. I'm in Unit 23 and I'm concerned about my people.
14 I feel like disregarded or disregarding my people as far
15 as being in the unit, like I'm abandoning my vote and my
16 say for the people. I sure want this to be clarified.
17 I sure want this to be resolved, period. Thank you.
18
19 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your
20 comment, Ray. Helen.
21
22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 We'll move on now to the last statewide proposal. This
24 is WP12-03. It begins on Page 99 in your books. This
25 proposal was submitted by the Orutsararmiut Native
26 Council out of Bethel and they would require that
27 trappers move a trap that incidentally harvests a moose,
28 caribou or deer at least 300 feet for the remainder of
29 the regulatory year. The proposed regulation would apply
30 to the entire state.
31
32 Under State of Alaska wildlife
33 regulations there's a provision that a trapper is
34 prohibited from placing a trap or snare within 300 feet
35 of the site at which a moose, caribou or deer was taken
36 using a trap or snare. The prohibition applies for the
37 duration of the regulatory year in which the moose,
38 caribou or deer was taken using the trap or snare. In
39 addition, the animal must be salvaged and its parts
40 cannot be used for bait.
41
42 Moving the trap from the site of the
43 incidental harvest denies the trappers the benefit of
44 continuing to set a trap at a kill site which may attract
45 furbearers.
46
47 The proponent wants a similar provision
48 in Federal regulations, specifically to better inform
49 State and Federal enforcement officers that the
50 prohibition applies during the same regulatory year, not

1 the same calendar year because it was reported that an
2 enforcement officer was confused. There had been a
3 citation which then got clarified later on, but it had
4 been a citation because it had been -- the enforcement
5 officer thought that it was a calendar year and it's not.
6 It's regulatory year.

7
8 Currently Federal regulations require
9 that wildlife caught incidental to trapping furbearers
10 must be salvaged. The hide, skin, viscera, head or bones
11 may be used for bait under Federal regulations.

12
13 The use of traps to harvest caribou,
14 moose and deer is prohibited in State and Federal
15 wildlife regulations primarily because traps set for
16 moose, caribou and deer do not discriminate between
17 animals such as cows, bulls and fawns. A good estimate
18 of how often moose, caribou or deer are caught in traps
19 set for furbearers statewide or by region is not known.

20
21
22 The State and Federal Staff generally
23 assume low levels of incidental harvest occur and are
24 ongoing. The snare height above ground, trap location,
25 bait type, location of trail snares, et cetera, are
26 effective techniques to select for targeted furbearers
27 and against non-targeted animals. Occasionally,
28 non-targeted animals are caught, but trappers use
29 techniques to avoid them, and that is one reason there
30 are low levels of incidental harvests.

31
32 If this proposal is adopted, Federal
33 subsistence users would be required to move a trap for
34 the remainder of the regulatory year when it has taken a
35 moose, caribou, or deer incidental to trapping
36 furbearers. This would be required if the incidental
37 harvest occurred on Federal public lands using Federal
38 trapping
39 regulations.

40
41 The clear intent of the proponent is to
42 import State wildlife regulations into Federal wildlife
43 regulations and to clarify their intent to law
44 enforcement officers so that other trappers who comply
45 with State regulations are not cited. However, requiring
46 a trapper to move a trap would be a hardship for
47 subsistence users that would not conserve caribou, moose
48 or deer.

49
50 The State s concern is ungulates being

1 used as bait and it is not in the interest of Federal
2 subsistence users to impose this regulation on them.
3 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to oppose Proposal WP12-
4 03.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chairs, members of the
7 Council. That concludes my presentation if there are any
8 questions.

9
10 CO CHAIR BROWER: Any question to Helen.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CO CHAIR BROWER: None. Thank you,
15 Helen. Down to number 2, Alaska Department of Fish and
16 Game.

17
18 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairmen.
19 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The
20 Department also opposes this proposal, finding it
21 unnecessary. There was an unfortunate incident with an
22 enforcement officer who was confused. He's since been
23 educated. All of the RACs have been educated by having
24 to discuss this proposal and we've confirmed with the
25 Solicitor's Office that without adoption of this proposal
26 the State regulation already applies, so we see no need
27 for duplication in this instance.

28
29 We often come before you asking you to
30 adopt a duplicate where it doesn't apply, but since it
31 applies we don't see a need for the duplication.

32
33 *****

34 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
35 *****

36
37 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
38 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

39
40 Wildlife Proposal WP12-03:

41
42 Incidental harvest requires moving traps
43 for regulatory year. This proposal was submitted by the
44 Orutsararmiut Native Council.

45
46 Introduction:

47
48 The proposer seeks to require trappers to
49 move a trap that incidentally harvests a moose, caribou,
50 or deer at least 300 feet for the remainder of the

1 regulatory year. Trappers would also be required to
2 salvage the edible meat and turn it over to the Federal
3 inseason wildlife manager.

4

5 Impact on Subsistence Users:

6

7 Federal subsistence users would be
8 required to move a trap when it has taken a moose,
9 caribou, or deer incidental to trapping furbearers for
10 the remainder of the regulatory year, and surrender their
11 meat specifically to the Federal inseason wildlife
12 manager.

13

14 Opportunity Provided by State:

15

16 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking
17 big game; exceptions The following methods and means of
18 taking big game are prohibited in addition to the
19 prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080: (6) with the use of a trap
20 or snare . . . 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking
21 furbearers; exceptions a) The following methods and means
22 of taking furbearers under a trapping license are
23 prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC
24 92.080: (12) by placing or leaving an active trap or
25 snare set on land that is within 300 feet of the site at
26 which a moose, caribou, or deer was taken using a trap or
27 snare; this prohibition applies for the duration of the
28 regulatory year in which the moose, caribou, or deer was
29 taken using the trap or snare.

30

31 Conservation Issues:

32

33 None identified nor solved by adoption of
34 this proposal.

35

36 Enforcement Issues:

37

38 This proposal is purported to have been
39 submitted in response to previous confusion by
40 enforcement personnel. The state understands local
41 enforcement personnel have received updated training as
42 a result of reported events surrounding this issue.
43 Failure to adopt this proposal is not expected to
44 contribute to continued enforcement issues.

45

46 Other Comments:

47

48 This proposal is likely unnecessary given
49 that if this proposal is not adopted, Federally qualified
50 subsistence users would continue to be required to comply

1 with the State regulations requiring that when a caribou,
2 moose, or deer are harvested incidentally, the trap must
3 be moved at least 300 feet for the remainder of the
4 regulatory year, or risk receiving a State citation.

5
6 Recommendation: Oppose

7
8 CO CHAIR BROWER: Questions or comments
9 from the Council.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CO CHAIR BROWER: We have none. Thank
14 you. Helen.

15
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: My apologies. I
17 neglected to state what the other Councils have
18 recommended since this was statewide. There were six
19 councils opposing this proposal, one no action and one
20 support and that was in the Y-K Delta and that was the
21 region from which this proposal came. Thank you.

22
23 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Helen. Any
24 other questions or comments.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Moving down to number
29 3, other Federal and State agency comments.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CO CHAIR BROWER: Down to number 4,
34 tribal comments.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CO CHAIR BROWER: There are no tribal
39 comments. Number 5, InterAgency Staff Committee
40 comments.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. Number 6,
45 Subsistence Resource Commission comments.

46
47 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There are no
48 comments from the SRC. Thank you.

49
50 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Donald.

1 Number 7, Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CO CHAIR BROWER: We have none. We'll
6 move on to number 8, summary of written public comments.
7
8 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There are no
9 written public comments on this proposal, although we got
10 a comment from the Ahtna Subsistence Committee commenting
11 to oppose it, stating that there should not be a
12 statewide regulatory change. The citations for non-
13 targeted species caught in a trap are not a problem
14 within our region. Thank you.
15
16 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for those
17 comments. Number 9, public testimony.
18
19 MS. NORTON: Good morning, Chairman
20 Brower. Cully Corporation is opposed to this.
21
22 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. If there
23 are no further public testimony, we'll move onto number
24 10, Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
25 justification. What is the wish of the Council.
26
27 MR. J. NAGEAK: Mr. Chairman.
28
29 CO CHAIR BROWER: James.
30
31 MR. J. NAGEAK: Where in the heck is
32 Orutsararmiut?
33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That's Bethel.
35
36 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. That's Bethel. I
37 don't know who they actually represent, but I think they
38 represent the communities surrounding the Bethel area.
39 Thank you.
40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to oppose WP12-
42 03.
43
44 MR. J. NAGEAK: Second that motion.
45
46 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion by Rosemary to
47 oppose Proposal WP12-03, seconded by James. Further
48 discussion on the motion.
49
50 MR. R. NAGEAK: Call for the question.

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: The question has been
2 called to oppose the proposal WP12-03. Signify by saying
3 aye.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 CO CHAIR BROWER: Opposed say no.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. Thank you.
12 Pete.
13
14 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Harry.
15 What's the wish of the Northwest Arctic RAC. Attamuk.
16
17 MR. SHIEDT: Propose to oppose WP12-03.
18
19 MR. KARMUN: I'll second.
20
21 MR. KRAMER: Second.
22
23 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I think Vic beat you
24 by a hair there, Mike. Seconded by Vic, moved by
25 Attamuk. Any discussion on Proposal WP12-03.
26
27 MR. KARMUN: Question.
28
29 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: The question has
30 been called. All those opposing WP12-03 signify by
31 saying aye.
32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.
34
35 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: In support of, same
36 sign.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: It's unanimous.
41 Thank you.
42
43 CO CHAIR BROWER: We're down to 10B,
44 North Slope proposals. WP12-82. Helen.
45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. This is
47 the point at which these are only North Slope proposals.
48 I mean the Northwest Arctic Council, of course, is
49 welcome to stay, but since we are close to lunch time I
50 didn't know what the wishes of the Northwest Arctic

1 Council were to take a longer lunch. We try to finish
2 these up before 12 and then we all get back together
3 after lunch. I don't know the wish of the Councils, but
4 I did want them to know that they don't have to vote on
5 the next three proposals.
6
7 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: What we'll do is
8 take a hike.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 CO CHAIR BROWER: We'll wait a couple
13 minutes.
14
15 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: What time do we come
16 back? We're going to be an hour and a half. 1:00
17 o'clock?
18
19 CO CHAIR BROWER: 1:15? We'll cut in the
20 middle, 1:15.
21
22 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay, thanks.
23
24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you guys.
25
26 CO CHAIR BROWER: So we'll continue at
27 10B, North Slope proposals. WP12-82. Helen or Cole.
28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong.
30 WP12-82. This proposal was submitted by this Council.
31 It requests extending the Federal brown bear season in
32 Unit 26A a month later, from May 31 to June 30. That
33 gives a year-round season. We had a lot of discussion
34 about brown bears yesterday. In Unit 26B, it opens the
35 season six days earlier, changing it from September 1 to
36 August 25.
37
38 Right now the State regulations are more
39 liberal than the Federal regulations. It's not a
40 situation that we want. We want the Federal regulations
41 to be either the same or more liberal. So that's why
42 this proposal came out, because the State had changed
43 their regulations a year or so ago. Geoff Carroll had
44 brought that up to this Council.
45
46 There's not any conservation concern that
47 we're aware of. Most of the brown bear habitat in Unit
48 26A and 26B is assumed to be undisturbed and has
49 supported a fairly large and growing population of bears.
50 Harvest occurs opportunistically when people encounter

1 brown bears incidentally while hunting for other wildlife
2 or fishing. The brown bear harvest has remained well
3 under the harvestable surplus.

4

5 If this proposal is adopted, it would
6 provide Federal subsistence users with more opportunity
7 to harvest brown bears and would align the Federal brown
8 bear seasons with the State brown bear seasons in Unit
9 26A and 26B.

10

11 For all these reasons, OSM's preliminary
12 conclusion is to support the North Slope Regional
13 Council's proposal WP12-82. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That
14 concludes that.

15

16 CO CHAIR BROWER: Questions for Helen
17 regarding the introduction.

18

19 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.

22

23 MR. KOONUK: We encounter brown bears in
24 Point Hope. It's just sad that I have nothing to say as
25 far as what is being discussed. I don't know why I'm
26 sitting here. I want to represent, but I feel like I'm
27 not representing anybody in regards to issues like this.
28 We're encountering a lot of brown bears now. Getting
29 closer and closer to the village and damaging our camps
30 and whatnot and to defend themselves, especially the
31 ladies out there picking berries. We had one lady that
32 had to defend herself because that brown bear was
33 attacking her. Lucky she had a rifle and she shot it.
34 I feel I have no say-so in regards to what North Slope is
35 discussing and issues that are vital to our area because
36 we're in the North Slope.

37

38 That's all I have to say. I've been
39 saying it all morning.

40

41 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ray. We
42 hear your concern, but we have to follow through with
43 what we have. If there are no further questions or
44 comments in regards to the presentation and introduction
45 of the proposal, move to number 2, Alaska Department of
46 Fish and Game comments.

47

48 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We
50 support the proposal and the OSM analysis. The only

1 change we would like to see made is that the language for
2 26A reads the calendar dates, but it's open all year, so
3 we'd like to see that say no closed season. We think
4 that's clearer to the users.

5
6 *****
7 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
8 *****
9

10 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
11 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council
12

13 Wildlife Proposal WP12-82:
14

15 Adjust federal subsistence brown bear
16 hunting season to match state seasons in Units 26A and
17 26B.
18

19 Introduction:
20

21 This proposal was submitted to align the
22 federal subsistence brown bear hunting seasons with the
23 state brown bear seasons in Units 26A and 26B. The
24 current federal subsistence brown bear hunting seasons is
25 July 1 through May 31 in Units 26A and September 1
26 through May 31 in 26B. The proposed federal subsistence
27 seasons are July 1 through June 30 for Unit 26A and
28 August 25 through May 31 in 26B.
29

30 Impact on Subsistence Users:
31

32 If adopted as proposed, federal
33 subsistence hunters would be able to hunt during the same
34 season dates as the hunters under state brown bear
35 hunting regulations in Unit 26A, but not in Unit 26B
36 because the state season was recently modified. If the
37 proposal was amended to align with the current state
38 season in Unit 26B, consistency would be achieved and
39 confusion of differing season dates between state and
40 federal subsistence hunting regulations in Unit 26A and
41 26B would be eliminated.
42

43 Opportunity Provided by State:
44

45 The state brown bear hunting season for
46 Unit 26A is no closed season (same as proposed July 1
47 through June 30 season) with a bag limit of one bear
48 every regulatory year. The state brown bear hunting
49 season for unit 26B is as follows:
50

1 That portion of Unit 26B including the
2 Kadleroshilik River drainage south and east of the
3 Prudhoe Bay Closed Area, and including that portion of
4 the Echooka, Ivishak Lupine, and Ribdon river drainages
5 and the Accomplishment Creek drainage north of a line
6 beginning at 69 degrees 08.97 minutes North latitude, 146
7 degrees 50.36 minutes West longitude on the divide
8 between the Echooka and Shaviovik river drainages and
9 ending at 68 degrees 35.71 minutes North latitude, 148
10 degrees 29.64 minutes West longitude, excluding the
11 Accomplishment Creek drainage southwest of a line
12 following the west bank of Accomplishment Creek from 68
13 degrees 35.71 minutes North latitude, 148 degrees 29.64
14 minutes West longitude to the confluence of
15 Accomplishment Creek and the Sagavanirktok River at 68
16 degrees 42.19 minutes North latitude, 148 degrees, 54.47
17 minutes West longitude, and including that portion of the
18 Sagavanirktok river drainage south of the Prudhoe Bay
19 Closed Area and north of 68 degrees 42.19 minutes North
20 latitude (crossing the Dalton highway near milepost 300),
21 and including that portion of the Kuparuk and Toolik
22 river drainages south of the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area and
23 north of a line at 68 degrees 42.19 minutes, North
24 latitude, excluding tributary drainages flowing into the
25 Kuparuk River north of the confluence of the Kuparuk and
26 Toolik rivers and west of the west bank of the Kuparuk
27 River. RB988 July 1 December 31 or RB989 January 1 June
28 30, one bear every regulatory year.

29

30 Remainder of Unit 26B, September 1 May
31 31, one bear every regulatory year.

32

33 Enforcement Issues:

34

35 Adoption of this proposal should
36 eliminate confusion by federal subsistence users because
37 the state and federal subsistence brown bear hunting
38 seasons will be aligned.

39

40 Recommendation:

41

42 Support as modified. The department
43 recommends the Federal Subsistence Board use the
44 regulatory language describing the season in Unit 26A as
45 no closed season instead of the proposed language of
46 July 1 through June 30 and use the regulatory language
47 describing the season in Unit 26B as described above.

48

49 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. A question
50 for the Department.

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray -- Roy, I'm sorry.
2
3 MR. R. NAGEAK: Is there going to be a
4 recommendation for an increase of the brown bears too for
5 take?
6
7 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. I believe
8 that's what this proposal does and we're supporting that.
9
10 MR. R. NAGEAK: Increase the amount of
11 bears that will be taken.
12
13 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. If there's
14 no further.....
15
16 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chairman. Since
17 the proposal was put in by this body to match the more
18 liberal season that the State has, it doesn't say more
19 numbers will be taken. The season is longer hoping more
20 numbers will be taken.
21
22 MR. R. NAGEAK: Yeah.
23
24 CO CHAIR BROWER: So that's what the
25 approach was, opening it up for more opportunity in terms
26 of the season.
27
28 MS. YUHAS: So we're doing what we can
29 here and it's up to the hunters now if you adopt this.
30
31 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes. Thank you. Does
32 that help, Roy?
33
34 MR. R. NAGEAK: Yes. Thank you.
35
36 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.
37
38 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.
39
40 MR. KOONUK: Define season.
41
42 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair.....
43
44 MR. KOONUK: The reason is -- you know,
45 like I say there climate change and bears are coming out
46 early and going back late, so define it, please.
47
48 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. Member
49 Koonuk has brought this up several times over the last
50 two days and the seasons for this proposal are defined in

1 the proposal. I can read them if you like, but season
2 26A May 31st to June 30th, for 26B September 1st to
3 August 25th for 26B. As the seasons change, this body
4 has the opportunity to change the seasons, so it's up to
5 these members and this Council to make recommendations to
6 the Federal Subsistence Board. As the climate warms, as
7 things change, as animals move in and animals move out,
8 animals populations boost and decline, this body changes
9 those regulations.

10

11 So the question as to whether or not the
12 seasons will change and the harvest limits will change is
13 for this body. You make those changes.

14

15 CO CHAIR BROWER: Did that help, Ray?

16

17 MR. KOONUK: No.

18

19 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. If there's
20 no further comments in regard to the State, we'll move
21 down to the next, number 3, other Federal and State
22 agency comments.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. It's Vince
25 Mathews, subsistence coordinator for Arctic Refuge.
26 Arctic Refuge covers parts of Unit 26B and 26C, so one of
27 my duties is to track both the Board of Game and Board of
28 Fish, as well as the Federal Subsistence Board. I don't
29 know your policy on looking at Board of Game proposals,
30 but I want to make you aware that there is a Proposal 181
31 before the Board of Game and that proposal would extend
32 the 26B, the brown bear registration hunt, to encompass
33 all of Unit 26B. It will result in a year-round season.
34 I'm sure there's other Staff here that could give you
35 more information on that proposal. Your earlier
36 discussion was concern about the level of bears present
37 in 26. I don't know if a year-round season would
38 increase that, but it would increase the opportunity.
39 That's all I have to say at this time. Thank you.

40

41 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Vincent.

42

43 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. Interesting
44 point. This issue is in front of the Federal subsistence
45 regional committee and it's for subsistence hunters.
46 Interesting point that if this is open for 26B because of
47 the Haul Road and there has been a tremendous increase in
48 the summertime with the Federal -- with the Haul Road
49 being utilized by people with trucks, four-wheelers,
50 boats, so this will open up to people from the rest of

1 the state on the road system to go up during that season
2 to get all the brown bears.

3

4 CO CHAIR BROWER: It depends on how it
5 reads. Vince, maybe you could clarify it.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: This is a proposal that the
8 Board of Game will be taking up. Yes, it would increase.
9 I mean it would be an opportunity. I don't know if it
10 will increase the amount of hunters going there. That
11 would have to be something -- I don't know when you're
12 going to meet next. I don't know if Staff are ready to
13 address that issue. I just wanted to make you aware of
14 it. Other Councils that I work with they do deal with
15 Board of Game proposals and that was the only reason was
16 to make it aware.

17

18 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Helen.

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I've just checked with
21 one of our Staff Committee members to make sure that
22 procedurally this would be okay, but when you get to the
23 point of making a motion, if you so chose because -- I
24 mean this is assuming that that Board of Game proposal
25 gets adopted, but you could say that you wanted to
26 support your proposal with a modification to give a year-
27 round season in 26B to align it with the State
28 regulation. By the time
29 the Federal Subsistence Board meets in January, we'll
30 know whether or not this proposal passes because that
31 Board of Game meeting is in November.

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: No, this Board of Game
34 meeting would be March 2nd through the 11th.

35

36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, I'm sorry.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Because 26B and C, and
39 State can correct me, are within the Interior Region,
40 Region 3.

41

42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: My correction. So
43 there are two ways you can go. You can just stick with
44 what you have and wait and see what happens with the
45 State and then do another proposal next time around that
46 might be cleaner. It's up to you.

47

48 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.

49

50 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. I've got no

1 problem with hunters coming through the Haul Road to hunt
2 bears, brown bears, because that affects the caribou
3 population. This is one area where it's good to have
4 other hunters.

5
6 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy, we'll have other
7 discussions during Regional Council deliberations if you
8 want to bring that up in terms of concerns.

9
10 MR. R. NAGEAK: Thank you.

11
12 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there's no further
13 comments for other Federal agencies or State agencies,
14 we'll move on to number 4, tribal comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there are no
19 comments under the tribal comments, we'll move to number
20 5, InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. We'll move
25 on to number 6, Subsistence Resource Commission comments.

26
27 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There are no
28 comments from the SRC.

29
30 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, National Park
31 Service. Gates of the Arctic SRC supports this proposal.
32 It puts Federal subsistence regulation in line with the
33 State. There's been an increase in nuisance bears on
34 North Slope. Shifts from having to register nuisance
35 bears as property of the State and gives people the
36 opportunity to harvest and utilize the bears, so it is
37 advantageous for subsistence users to use the resource.

38
39 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.

40
41 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.

44
45 MR. KOONUK: Who do you represent?

46
47 MS. OKADA: Gates of the Arctic, National
48 Park and Preserve. I just gave a comment from our SRC.
49 Thank you.

50

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: Did that help, Ray.
2
3 MR. KOONUK: Yeah.
4
5 CO CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Moving on to
6 number 7, Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there are no Fish
11 and Game Advisory Committee comments, number 8, summary
12 of written public comments. Donald.
13
14 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There are no
15 written comments provided, thank you.
16
17 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Donald.
18 Number 9, public testimony. Dolly.
19
20 MS. NORTON: Good morning, Chairman
21 Brower. Cully Corporation in support of this WP12-82
22 proposal.
23
24 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. If there is
25 no further public testimony, we'll move to number 10,
26 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
27 justification. Rosemary.
28
29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to make a
30 motion to support WP12-82 and also recommend a
31 modification to change the 26B to year-round, July 1st
32 through June 30th.
33
34 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion on the floor.
35
36 MR. R. NAGEAK: Second.
37
38 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion on the floor to
39 support the proposal with the modification, in 26B July
40 1 to June 30th, support the year-round harvest in 26B.
41 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.
44
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: Opposed say no.
46
47 (No opposing votes)
48
49 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. Thank you.
50 We're now to WP12-83.

1 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair. Before we go on.
2 Whoever supports or oppose, I'd like to see that in
3 writing from the Native villages or the corporations or
4 the city governments. Not verbally. That way it's for
5 us to review and it's recorded in our documents here to
6 have something in writing. Thank you.

7
8 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for your
9 comments, Ray. We'll definitely move that forward.
10 We're down to agenda item 10B, North Slope proposal WP12-
11 83. Your name, please.

12
13 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Members of the Council. I'm Cole Brown with Office of
15 Subsistence Management. WP12-83 begins on Page 115 of
16 your Council books. Proposal WP12-83 was submitted by
17 Defenders of Wildlife. The proposal would close the Unit
18 26 wolf hunting season in August, September, October and
19 April and would reduce the harvest limit from 15 to 5
20 wolves.

21
22 The Alaska Wildlife Alliance submitted
23 proposals requesting this same regulatory change two
24 years ago. Those proposals were opposed by this Council
25 and rejected by the Federal Subsistence Board.

26
27 Densities in Unit 26 have doubled in this
28 area since 1998 from 5.7 wolves per 1,000 square miles to
29 11.4 wolves per 1,000 square miles in 2008.

30
31 Even if this proposal is adopted by the
32 Federal Subsistence Board, hunters would still be able to
33 take wolves on Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land
34 Management, and Gates of the Arctic National Preserve
35 public lands during August, September,
36 October, and April under State regulations. Adoption of
37 proposal WP12-83 would not have the effect sought by the
38 proponent.

39
40 In addition, the wolf population in Unit
41 26 is very healthy and there's no conservation concern.
42 Therefore, the OSM preliminary conclusion is to oppose
43 WP12-83. Thank you.

44
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Cole. Any
46 questions in regard to introduction of the proposal and
47 analysis.

48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. We'll move
2 on to number 2, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
3 comments.

4
5 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Our
7 written comments can be found on Page 122. The
8 Department also opposes this proposal, finding it
9 unnecessary.

10
11 *****
12 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
13 *****

14
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
16 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

17
18 Wildlife Proposal WP12-83:

19
20 This proposal requests reducing the
21 federal subsistence Unit 26 wolf hunting season from
22 August 10 through April 30 to November 1 through March 31
23 and the bag limit reduced from 15 to 5 wolves.

24
25 Introduction:

26
27 The proponent requests the federal
28 subsistence wolf hunting season be reduced by 113 days
29 and the bag limit be reduced by 66% in order to maintain
30 a sustainable population, result in higher wolf
31 populations, and produce higher quality hide harvests.
32 The proposer wants to shorten the wolf hunting season
33 because of concern about population numbers, harvesting
34 technique, harvesting wolves when hides are low quality,
35 harvesting females during late pregnancy in spring, and
36 harvesting females before pups are weaned in fall.
37 Spring seasons allow subsistence users the opportunity to
38 take wolves when milder weather, daylight, and snow
39 conditions allow for safer travel. Hide value depends on
40 use intended for the wolf hide. Hides of wolves taken in
41 early fall and late spring are suitable for home use and
42 for sale, consistent with subsistence use of wolves.

43
44 Opportunity Provided by State:

45
46 In Unit 26, the following wolf hunting
47 regulations were effective in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012:
48 Ten wolves; residents and nonresidents; season August 10
49 through April 30; tag required for nonresidents; hide
50 must be sealed within 30 days of kill.

1 Conservation Issues:

2

3 None. Within Unit 26A, wolf populations
4 are estimated using wolf track surveys, and wolf
5 sightings are recorded during aerial surveys for moose.
6 Densities have doubled in the study area since 1998 when
7 2.2 wolves per 1,000km² were observed compared to 4.4
8 wolves per 1,000km² in 2008. Wolf sighting rates have
9 changed from 0.11 wolves per hour in 2002 to 1.78 wolves
10 per hour in 2008. The current federal subsistence season
11 (August 10 through April 30) allows for maximum
12 opportunity within areas that do not have predator
13 management programs. Among federal subsistence
14 hunters/trappers taking wolves, no individual has reached
15 the total bag limit of 15 wolves per season. In November
16 2009, the Alaska Board of Game rejected a similar
17 proposal to change the hunting season.

18

19 Other Comments:

20

21 Adult wolves have learned to avoid man
22 through experience and are the most difficult pack
23 members to harvest, while younger wolves are the most
24 vulnerable pack members. These populations can sustain
25 the small reduction in pups born by the taking of a few
26 pregnant females. Wolves have evolved and thrived under
27 natural conditions where adult mortality occurs regularly
28 through intraspecific competition. Also, it is the
29 mature adults, including pregnant and lactating females,
30 that do the killing of large prey, thus are subject to
31 injury and death during attempted predation. In cases of
32 natural adult mortality, the pack social structure
33 provides support to pups.

34

35 Recommendation: Oppose.

36

37 CO CHAIR BROWER: Questions or comments
38 from the Council.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
43 Jennifer. Number 3, other Federal and State agency
44 comments.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. Number 4,
49 tribal comments.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Hearing none. Number
4 5, InterAgency Staff Committee comments.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CO CHAIR BROWER: None presented. Number
9 6, Subsistence Resource Commission comments. Marcy.
10
11 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, National Park
12 Service. Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
13 SRC opposed this proposal. Justification was this
14 proposal actually negates what the SRC has done to work
15 toward a bag limit that would accommodate customary and
16 traditional use. The March 31st closure date does not
17 reflect customary and traditional uses. Going out in
18 April and going around looking for wolves when there's
19 good light, good conditions in conjunction with other
20 subsistence activities, like fishing and hunting caribou.
21 In regards to the early harvest date of August 10th,
22 subsistence hunters typically don't take unprime wolf
23 pelts. Thank you.
24
25 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.
26 Number 7, Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 CO CHAIR BROWER: None presented. Number
31 8, summary of written public comments. Donald.
32
33 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There are no
34 written comments provided. Thank you.
35
36 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Number 9,
37 public testimony.
38
39 MS. NORTON: Good morning, Chairman
40 Brower. Cully Corporation, in defense of the ANCSA
41 corporation to Mr. Koonuk's statement about written
42 comments. We had ANCSA tribal council meetings. It is
43 written in their minutes and notes and she will bring
44 that this afternoon. So all that I've said today I said
45 in those meetings as well. Just to clarify from your
46 comment earlier, okay.
47
48 As far as 12-83 is concerned, minimizing
49 the Unit 26 wolves from 15 to 5, I'm opposed to that.
50 Cully Corporation is opposed to that. Keeping the dates

1 -- I mean no one wants to hunt young wolves. I mean come
2 on. So Cully Corporation is opposed to that. Thank you.
3
4 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Dolly. If
5 we have no other public testimony, we'll move on to
6 number 10, Regional Council deliberation, recommendation
7 and justification. What's the wish of the Council.
8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. WP12-83
10 motion to oppose.
11
12 MR. J. NAGEAK: Second that motion.
13
14 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion on the floor by
15 Rosemary and seconded by James to oppose the proposal.
16 All in favor of the motion.....
17
18 MR. R. NAGEAK: Call for the question.
19
20 MR. KOONUK: Discussion.
21
22 CO CHAIR BROWER: Under discussion.
23
24 MR. KOONUK: Yes, Mr. Chair. I want to
25 thank Cully Corp. for responding and making sure that we
26 get something in writing. It's not just the corporations
27 but the tribes and cities and other individuals that want
28 to represent or say something in regards to the proposals
29 we have. Make sure we have them in writing for us to
30 review. Thank you.
31
32 CO CHAIR BROWER: Any further discussion
33 on the proposal.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MR. R. NAGEAK: Call for the question.
38
39 CO CHAIR BROWER: The question has been
40 called on the motion to oppose the proposal. All in
41 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.
44
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: Opposed say no.
46
47 (No opposed votes)
48
49 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. Thank you,
50 Council members. We're now down to item 10C. North

1 Slope cross regional proposal.
2 Cole.

3

4 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Members of the Council. WP12-76 is a cross-over
6 proposal. It was submitted by the Eastern Interior
7 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and you're
8 hearing it today because in Unit 25A residents of
9 Kaktovik have a positive customary and traditional use
10 determination for this area.

11

12 WP12-76 begins on Page 124 of your book.
13 As stated earlier, it was submitted by the Eastern
14 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and
15 requests that the Red Sheep and Cane Creek drainages be
16 closed to non-Federally qualified users during the August
17 10th through September 20th portion of the season in the
18 Arctic Village Sheep Management Area.

19

20 The proponent states that the Red Sheep
21 Creek and Cane Creek drainages are important subsistence
22 and cultural areas for residents of Arctic Village and
23 that the influx of non-Federally qualified hunters into
24 these drainages has interfered with the traditional uses
25 and practices of Arctic Village residents.

26

27 Title VIII, Section .815(3) of ANILCA
28 states authorizing a restriction on the take of fish and
29 wildlife for nonsubsistence uses on the public lands,
30 other than national parks and park monuments, unless
31 necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of
32 fish and wildlife, for the reasons set forth in Section
33 .816, to continue subsistence uses of such populations,
34 or pursuant to other applicable law.

35

36 Other sheep densities in the area are low
37 relative to other areas in the state. This is probably
38 a reflection of poor habitat quality. The most recent
39 population surveys in 2007 and 2008 showed a sheep
40 density of .8 sheep per square mile and a ratio of 59
41 lambs per 100 ewes, which suggests good productivity.

42

43 Data on the use of the Arctic Village
44 Sheep Management Area by Federally-qualified users is
45 lacking; therefore, it is not clear how many sheep have
46 actually been harvested by local users. Six Federal
47 permits for this area were issued between 1991 and 2004
48 and none were returned. 27 permits were issued from 2005
49 to 2007 and of those four sheep were known to be
50 harvested and 23 did not report hunting. No permits were

1 issued in 2008 and 2009 and no information is currently
2 available for 2010.

3

4 Harvest success by non-Federally
5 qualified hunters averaged 69 percent from 2006 to 2009.
6 Since the area was reopened in 2006, a total of 18 rams
7 have been harvested through 2009. While Red Sheep Creek
8 and Cane Creek drainages are culturally important to the
9 people of Arctic Village and this is a longstanding issue
10 for the people of Arctic Village, reinstating the Federal
11 closure is not supported by the available biological data
12 or formal harvest.

13

14 Reinstating this closure is not necessary
15 to meet the continued use of the clause of Section
16 .815(3) of ANILCA.

17 Despite past closures to non-Federally qualified hunters
18 and a more liberal subsistence harvest limit, there has
19 been relatively little hunting reported in the Red Sheep
20 and Cane Creek drainages by Arctic Village and other
21 Federally qualified communities.

22

23 Therefore, the OSM preliminary conclusion
24 is to oppose this proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
25 I should also state that the Eastern Interior RAC
26 supported their proposal. Thank you.

27

28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Any
29 questions from the Council.

30

31 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

34

35 MR. R. NAGEAK: 25A is for the Arctic
36 Village Sheep Management Area and it falls in the
37 boundaries of the North Slope Borough too? That's why
38 we're considering this?

39

40 MS. BROWN: Through the Chair. You're
41 considering this proposal because in Unit 25A the
42 residents of Kaktovik have a positive customary and
43 traditional use for this area. So while it's outside
44 your unit, the residents of Kaktovik have a positive and
45 customary use determination for that area. Therefore, it
46 would bring it in front of this Council. Thank you.

47

48 CO CHAIR BROWER: Did that help with your
49 question, Roy?

50

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: Yes.

2

3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Cole. Any
4 further questions in regards to the introduction of the
5 proposal and analysis.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. We'll move
10 on to the next, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
11 comments.

12

13 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Jennifer Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I've
15 been pretty concise with most of my comments throughout
16 your meeting, but I have to let you know this was a hard
17 one. We come to these meetings representing an agency or
18 a department or another group and we're bound by certain
19 things when we do that, but we come to these meetings and
20 we're still human beings when we come and listen to
21 testimony.

22

23 I was very offended for the people who
24 came to testify at the Eastern Interior RAC meeting last
25 week. They had a lot of stories of people disrespecting
26 their land and using their land without their permission
27 and I could see why they wanted to have a proposal like
28 this.

29

30 Because we're bound to the sections of
31 ANILCA in making these determinations at this Board, it's
32 bureaucratic. I don't mean that in a bad way, but I work
33 for a department and it's part of a bureaucracy. This
34 RAC is part of the bureaucracy that makes up the Federal
35 Subsistence Board and Office of Subsistence Management
36 and the way we proceed with those things.

37

38 The Department can't support closing a
39 sheep season if there's not a conservation issue, so that
40 really left me with very little I could do for the people
41 that were testifying at that meeting. I see why they
42 want this proposal, but we can't support it and we have
43 to oppose it based on the conservation issues.

44

45 At that meeting, I did provide testimony
46 that there's possibly some other avenues we could work
47 through. Maybe the Citizen's Advisory Council for
48 Federal Areas, Stan Leaphart, is the person who
49 represents the State for that issue. The land is
50 adjacent to private allotments and the issue seems to be

1 the land and the way people are using it rather than the
2 conservation for the sheep.

3

4 It's a hard one to have to bring to you,
5 Mr. Chairman, but we do oppose the proposal.

6

7

8

STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

9

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

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13

14

Wildlife Proposal WP12-76:

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Opportunity Provided by State:

State sheep hunting regulations for 25A
east of the Middle Fork of the Chandalar River follow:

1 Unit 25A - One ram with full curl horn or
2 larger with a harvest ticket between August 10 and
3 September 20. Nonresident hunters must be accompanied by
4 a registered guide. or Three sheep by permit RS595
5 available online or in person in Fairbanks and Kaktovik
6 beginning September 21 for season between October 1 and
7 April 30. The use of aircraft for access to hunt sheep
8 and transport harvested sheep is prohibited in this hunt
9 except into and out of Arctic Village and Kaktovik
10 airports. No motorized access from Dalton Highway.

11

12 Conservation Issues: None

13

14 Enforcement Issues:

15

16 If this proposal is adopted, federal
17 agencies will be responsible for enforcement of this
18 closure.

19

20 Other Comments:

21

22 Section 815(3) of ANLICA authorized a
23 restriction of taking of fish and fish and wildlife for
24 nonsubsistence uses on the public lands (other than
25 national parks and park monuments) unless necessary for
26 the conservation of healthy populations of fish and
27 wildlife, for the reason set forth in section 816, to
28 continue subsistence uses of such populations, or
29 pursuant to other applicable law. The sheep populations
30 in Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages are healthy
31 and can support harvest of both federally qualified and
32 non-federally qualified users. This closure is not
33 necessary for continuation of subsistence users for the
34 residents of Arctic Village.

35

36 Recommendation: Oppose.

37

38 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Any
39 questions to Jennifer from the Council at this time in
40 regards to the proposal. Roy and then Rosemary.

41

42 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. Let me get
43 this straight. The people are saying there's too much
44 hunting there and want outside people not to come in and
45 hunt the sheep that they want to hunt?

46

47 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chairman. Most
48 of the testimony centered around disrespectful use of
49 their land when people were coming to hunt sheep. People
50 had found trash on their land. People had found

1 campsites on their land. Nobody had asked to use it.

2

3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Did that help, Roy?

4

5 MR. R. NAGEAK: Because there's a
6 relationship from way back that they opposed us using
7 ANWR around Kaktovik and now it's the other way around.
8 Well, that's what happens when people are opposing
9 outside of their countries things that are being done.
10 Like in ANWR where we want to open and then they oppose
11 it and now things are happening in their country that --
12 what comes around goes around.

13

14 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy.
15 Rosemary.

16

17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Can you give us a
18 quantity of how many people were providing comments.

19

20 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. I didn't
21 write down the number, but I know there was about 10
22 people on teleconference that gave very passionate
23 testimony and about 10 people in the room. Somewhere
24 around 20 people.

25

26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

27

28 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there's no further
29 questions, thank you, Jennifer.

30

31 MR. KOONUK: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.

34

35 MR. KOONUK: These are lands that we
36 lived. These are traditional life that we, you know,
37 encounter and given to us to keep and to hunt. These are
38 private. If we were downstate, man, things would be
39 different. We're human beings too and we have that right
40 to protect our lands and protect our way of life. That's
41 been our tradition. I don't want to see that change. No
42 way. Thanks.

43

44 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Ray. If
45 there's no further questions to the State. Thank you.
46 We'll move on to number 3, other Federal and State
47 comments. Vincent.

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Vince Mathews, subsistence coordinator for Arctic

1 National Wildlife Refuge. Jennifer did bring out there
2 was a lot of testimony that came in during that meeting
3 both by teleconference and others. There was also
4 discussions about displacement from the area, about the
5 fact that it's very expensive and takes a lot of time and
6 energy to get to that area. So there was that discussion
7 and it's in the transcripts when they come out.

8

9 There was also concern about the amount
10 of aircraft traffic in the area. So those were some of
11 the comments in addition to others. This issue has been
12 on the Refuge's radar screen for many years. It
13 resurfaced pretty strongly in the CCP process, the
14 Comprehensive Conservation Plan, and that was one of the
15 main issues brought up when they met in Arctic Village,
16 was concern about that area.

17

18 So with that also you'll note that -- I
19 don't remember what page, but it's in the analysis. The
20 Refuge would support the community harvest system if that
21 was agreed to by the Eastern Interior. Let me get the
22 exact wording. If the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
23 Council, Arctic Village residents, and the Arctic Refuge
24 support this alternative.

25

26 When I bring up the alternatives, the
27 reason I bring those up is that the Eastern Interior were
28 exposed to those alternatives. This was not an easy
29 proposal for them to go through even though it was
30 submitted by them. They did look at the alternatives and
31 decided to stay with reclosing the area. So that needs
32 to be clear to you. They did know of the alternatives,
33 but they stayed with getting the area reclosed.

34

35 Anyway, you can see the three
36 alternatives there. The Refuge would support a community
37 harvest system. We do have a refuge information
38 technician in Arctic Village and we're hoping that we can
39 get through that position and others more hunting
40 reporting. That's one of my duties of permitting. I'm
41 the guy who does the permits.

42

43 There's two parts to those permits if I
44 may that are critical. One, it's not only did you
45 harvest an animal and what animal it is, it's
46 participation. The managers need to know participation.
47 The way it's been portrayed to me in Western Interior
48 when I worked there, we're going to get our moose because
49 we have to have the meat on the table. What you need to
50 know is how much time does it take us. How much has it

1 changed over time.

2

3 Please, when you talk in your village
4 that, you know, okay, I went out hunting, I didn't
5 harvest an animal, so I don't need to report. You need
6 to report on that participation part. It is missing in
7 a lot of areas. In this particular area it is missing on
8 harvest reporting. So hopefully over time that trust
9 will be there for them to report. You can help them
10 along in explaining that.

11

12 If they have any questions on Federal
13 permits, give the local Federal office a question and I
14 would assume on the State permits too. They're there to
15 get information so it can be best managed for the uses
16 that each of the governments are in charge of doing. So
17 we need your assistance to do good harvest reporting.
18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Vincent.
23 Roy.

24

25 MR. R. NAGEAK: Those are some of the
26 issues that we tend to ask for, is what is permitted
27 across the North Slope, the take of animals or if
28 aircrafts are permitted to fly. The questions and
29 logistics about who approves use of aircrafts across the
30 North Slope within the game units that we manage for
31 subsistence hunting. You're making a request that we
32 note some of the ways that we do our subsistence hunting.

33

34

35 The other side to that is that we make a
36 request for all the permits that are given to people that
37 hunt with aircrafts or get permits for tags to hunt for
38 the big game hunters. You're saying to give those
39 permits to hunt in ANWR. Then the other, like National
40 Park Service. We need to start getting an idea who has
41 access for the Dalton Highway, who's got access or
42 permits to hunt within those areas. Is that allowable or
43 is that confidential?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: I think your question is
46 beyond my knowledge. What you're asking for are there
47 guided hunt areas and, yes, there are guided hunt areas,
48 but I don't have that information for refuges. And
49 you're also talking about BLM land. Others can address
50 that.

1 I think what you're asking for and I
2 think it could be a future agenda item, I don't know, is
3 an explanation on that. I know your area biologist up
4 there with the State is on top of all that stuff.
5
6 MR. R. NAGEAK: Who is?
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: He's out of Barrow. I
9 can't remember his name right now.
10
11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Geoff Carroll.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Geoff Carroll. The Refuge
14 would be willing to be part of that and others on the
15 level of hunting that's coming in from other areas. The
16 permitting process falls into the land jurisdiction, so
17 that might be one that you may want on a future agenda to
18 lay that out. I believe it's available. I know it is
19 for the Refuge. I didn't bring it though.
20
21 MR. R. NAGEAK: It's a give and take. If
22 we too are subsistence hunting and you asked for us how
23 much gasoline or how much time or how much money we spend
24 and we don't back nothing or we back some stuff, and at
25 the same time it's so convoluted with so many different
26 agencies and differences in the Federal or the U.S.
27 government and we need to start getting an idea of how
28 many people are starting to encroach in our subsistence
29 area. I could see that as part of the problem that's
30 being identified and they're so passionate about it.
31
32 I know that we have some conflicts with
33 that region in regards to opening ANWR, but at the same
34 time it doesn't matter. We need to help those people
35 that are subsistence hunters. If it's within our
36 regional area, we need to help those people to alleviate
37 their concerns. If it means -- they want a decrease in
38 the bag limit of people that come in with permits, right?
39 Is that the question? I see that as.....
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: No, the question here is --
42 if you're talking back on this sheep proposal, the issue
43 here is -- and this is my opinion -- is user conflict.
44 The biology, because I've had my ears rearranged by
45 several biologists, it's not a biological issue for this
46 area. What it is, is the part of .815(3), the
47 continuation of subsistence use. That's how I see it.
48 That's kind of why there's been a lot of testimony on
49 that, is that passionate testimony, is that they can't
50 afford to push a boat all the way up as far as the water

1 will let them go and then walk in another eight to ten
2 miles and hunt when they see all these other hunters
3 there. They can't afford that effort.

4
5 But also to be honest with you, we don't
6 have much information on their effort or their hunting
7 over time. So villages need to decide to start
8 collecting this information so they can be more effective
9 when these issues come up. I know it's difficult, but
10 it's a step in that direction.

11
12 But as far as the other stuff, number of
13 permits and all that stuff, that's a separate issue. I
14 don't really have that information. It may be in the
15 analysis.

16
17 MR. R. NAGEAK: That was a point I was
18 trying to make yesterday in regards to the polar bear and
19 how an agency or somebody just put a wrath of this will
20 be now considered polar bear land. Now you get the point
21 of what I'm saying, that this area will be subsistence
22 land and no other permits or no other sport hunting will
23 be allowed so that our people could hunt to live.

24
25 That's just a point that I'm making that
26 there's people that are coming in with their planes or
27 being paid thousands of dollars and I always like to
28 refer in first part of Genesis where God created all
29 these animals for food, not for the love of money.

30
31 So these are the conflicts that we're
32 seeing now and that's why I asked what is allowable,
33 whose got the permits, how many planes are allowed to fly
34 within our subsistence areas and those are the things
35 that we need to start looking at working at with that in
36 mind because we were here first. People are coming to
37 make money. We could allow it if there's abundance of
38 animals to support that, but if there's conflicts, then
39 those are the things that we need to stop or change.
40 Thank you.

41
42 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy. Helen,
43 did you have a comment.

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If I could just
46 provide some information for Roy. Currently there aren't
47 any guides going into this area. The guide that had been
48 going in there, because of the conflicts with the people
49 in Arctic Village, has now chosen not to go there. But
50 that doesn't stop individual hunters who aren't going

1 with guides to go hunting there. There aren't a lot of
2 people going into this area. I think there were maybe
3 five or so last year. I'm not quite certain about that
4 without the analysis right in front of me. There are
5 conflicts even with those people.

6

7 I did want to just add that this is the
8 sort of thing if you wanted it in the annual report you
9 could put a request for knowing how many people are going
10 hunting for different species in the North Slope who are
11 non-Federally qualified users. We could pull that
12 information.

13

14 MR. R. NAGEAK: Thank you. I think we
15 need to start working with the State and the Federal
16 government. I know that there are ways to work it out
17 where the population of the animals will be adequate
18 first with the intent of the law or ANILCA or intent of
19 what we used to own first and what we succeeded to the
20 Federal government and to the State through the Native
21 Claims Settlement Act and those are the issues or the
22 intent of the law is that the subsistence hunters be
23 protected and those are the things that we need to start
24 looking at. Thank you.

25

26 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy. If
27 there's no further questions under the Federal and State
28 agency comments, we'll move to number 4, tribal comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CO CHAIR BROWER: Hearing no tribal
33 comments, we move to number 5, InterAgency Staff
34 Committee comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CO CHAIR BROWER: Hearing no InterAgency
39 Staff Committee comments, we move to number 6,
40 Subsistence Resource Commission comments.

41

42 MR. MIKE: No comments from the SRC, Mr.
43 Chair.

44

45 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Donald.
46 Number 7, Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CO CHAIR BROWER: None presented at this

1 time. Number 8, summary of written public comments.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There are no
4 written public comments. Thank you.
5
6 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you again,
7 Donald. Number 9, public testimony.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CO CHAIR BROWER: We have no public
12 testimony. It's time to move to number 10, Regional
13 Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.
14 What's the wish of the Council. Roy.
15
16 MR. R. NAGEAK: I'm at a loss what we
17 need to help these people with the request that they have
18 made.
19
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This proposal came out
21 of our region. We do have concerns, Kaktovik harvest
22 from this area.
23
24 MR. R. NAGEAK: Right.
25
26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So with this Kaktovik
27 will still be able to harvest in that area with this
28 proposal. What it would do would be to restrict the
29 outside non-subsistence users in these areas. It's
30 specifically that Red Sheep Creek and the Cane Creek.
31
32 MR. R. NAGEAK: So we support this.
33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: My thoughts are that
35 we should support this. We're having conflict.
36
37 MR. R. NAGEAK: So moved, Mr. Chair.
38
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And I support it.
40 Second it.
41
42 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion on the floor to
43 support Proposal WP12-76.
44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The discussion that
46 was presented today
47 gave some areas for concern. We do have local community
48 meetings and subsistence concerns are being presented at
49 village local community meetings. The problem is getting
50 the information to the subsistence processes that should

1 be receiving this information. Without having some of
2 our Staff present at some of these meetings where we're
3 having a lot of these kinds of discussions, there's a big
4 void in hoping that somebody will get information to
5 these Boards that need to be hearing this information.
6 That brings me a lot of concern.

7
8 There's discussions to request
9 information, but yet when we're having community meetings
10 we don't have means of getting this process to this
11 process that we're discussing today. I think our Staff
12 should look at ways to solicit for some information from
13 our local community meetings, especially prior to these
14 processes. You could do a sample form. That would give
15 some basic outlines of the various proposals and allow
16 for people to comment or to provide comments from past
17 meetings because that void is very important for some of
18 the discussions that are happening today.

19
20 The process that we're having here does
21 bring up the need to request to have a report for non-
22 Federal users on the North Slope and to get that harvest
23 information. So I'm putting that out as part of the
24 recommendation today. I also think that we should have
25 the recommendation for a presentation to discuss how the
26 process is to do the non-subsistence hunter process and
27 permitting process into our board meeting process so that
28 we could have a better understanding for our people of
29 how that process is done. Thank you.

30
31 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
32 Any further discussion on the motion.

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: One more point is that
35 there are reports that are being done that do not take
36 into consideration the amount of travel that our
37 subsistence users are having to do. One such incidence
38 is the subsistence report that's done for Alpine. It's
39 limited to a 30-mile radius. When we had changes to our
40 hunting process for caribou in Nuiqsut, even though we
41 had multiple hunters that hunted over 100 miles, none of
42 that information was put into that report, so it needs to
43 be taken.

44
45 As you're looking at some of these
46 assessments or reports that are available, is there data
47 not being included in these reports that are very
48 relevant to show the increased effort of subsistence
49 harvesting. Thank you.

50

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: Again, Rosemary, thank
2 you for your comments. Any further discussion.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MR. R. NAGEAK: Call for the question.
7
8 CO CHAIR BROWER: The question has been
9 called on the motion to support WP12-76. All in favor of
10 the motion signify by saying aye.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 CO CHAIR BROWER: Opposed say no.
15
16 (No opposing votes)
17
18 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. Thank you.
19 We are done with
20 our proposals at this time.
21
22 MR. R. NAGEAK: Make sure that the woman
23 that opposes ANWR gets a copy of our support for their
24 region.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 CO CHAIR BROWER: You can send a letter,
29 Roy. Do you want to go on a lunch recess. What time is
30 it now?
31
32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: 12:15.
33
34 CO CHAIR BROWER: 12:15. Let's be back
35 by 1:15. Thank you.
36
37 (Off record)
38
39 (On record)
40
41 CO CHAIR BROWER: I was just asking
42 Donald if we could, just for the Northwest Arctic
43 Council, we pretty much finished with all our proposals.
44 I think just the appointments to the Subsistence Resource
45 Commission is what we were going to end up with, but I'll
46 ask Don to see if he can help with that. Don.
47
48 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Another
49 final action item to take care of is item number 14,
50 Gates of the Arctic SRC Hunt Plan recommendation and we

1 have Staff here that will present that for both Councils
2 to take action on as far as receiving comments for the
3 SRC to consider.

4

5 The other item is appointments to the
6 SRCs for Gates of the Arctic and Cape Krusenstern. If I
7 could ask Staff for assistance. Those are the two main
8 action items that the Councils need to act on. Before we
9 leave, I'll just briefly state that nominations for
10 applications for Regional Advisory Councils are now open
11 and I'll pass out a meeting date calendar for next fall's
12 meeting for your reference so that way the Council can
13 make their selection of meeting dates selected. Thank
14 you.

15

16 CO CHAIR BROWER: So I'll call the
17 meeting back to order after our lunch recess. North
18 Slope Regional Advisory Council and the Northwest Arctic
19 Regional Advisory Council. So we're down to agenda item
20 14, Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
21 Hunting Plan recommendation, 10-01. Marcy.

22

23 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, National Park
24 Service, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

25

26 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch,
27 National Park Service here in Anchorage. We have a short
28 presentation to give you. We're going to do it in two
29 parts. I'm going to give you kind of the broad context
30 of what this is about and then Marcy will talk about the
31 specifics and the details.

32

33 Some of the members here are new, so
34 probably largely for your benefit the first thing to
35 understand is that there are other advisory groups that
36 were created in ANILCA and that's what a Subsistence
37 Resource Commission is. So it's another advisory group.
38 Each National Park and each National Park Monument has a
39 Subsistence Resource Commission. We sometimes call them
40 SRCs for short.

41

42 In this case we're talking about the
43 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. In
44 the ANILCA legislation, they have a number of duties just
45 like the Regional Advisory Councils that you are all on
46 and one of the things that they can do is submit what is
47 called a Hunting Plan Recommendation. It's a formal
48 term. There's a process that's now long been established
49 on a series of steps that those recommendations go
50 through. So they meet just exactly like you're doing

1 here. If they choose to submit a Hunting Plan
2 Recommendation, which in this case they have, then they
3 go through a series of steps.

4
5 Marcy and I talking to you today is one
6 of those steps. We're doing that on behalf of the
7 Subsistence Resource Commission. James Nageak is on that
8 commission that we're talking about. So in a meeting
9 about a year ago this recommendation was discussed and
10 put forward. As National Park Service employees, we take
11 it around to the groups that it needs to go to.

12
13 When that process is concluded, the
14 recommendation then goes to the Secretary of Interior and
15 I believe the governor of the state and then there's a
16 timeframe within which they have to respond to that.
17 There might be a little more detail, but that's not so
18 key at the moment. What's really key is to convey to you
19 what this recommendation is about and it's up to you
20 whether you want to take any action on it or not. That's
21 your choice. You can support it, you can oppose it, you
22 can take no action. Up to you.

23
24 I think I'm going to stop there and try
25 to keep this fairly short and simple. If anyone has any
26 questions about the process, I'd be happy to try to
27 answer those now.

28
29 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

32
33 MR. R. NAGEAK: Just the initial reading
34 of the recommendation to us, I need to find out how the
35 Dalton Road and where the increase of 150 percent for
36 caribou or animals within that area was approved. They
37 increased hunting within the Dalton Road area on the
38 North Slope. What procedures or what authority on who,
39 by the State or Federal government, and through
40 consultation with the different groups that will be
41 impacted by this. I just need to get an idea before any
42 reflections are made on this just to get a brief history
43 because I'm new in this game of what we need to do for
44 our people. So with that how the 150 percent increase in
45 hunting within the Dalton area was initiated or just to
46 get an idea or perspective on the impact it has for
47 subsistence hunters.

48
49 MS. OKADA: So what Roy is referring to
50 is the letter that was written that's posted on Page 140.

1 Just to go over the longer version of the original
2 letter, that's located on Page 142 to 144, but the
3 condensed version of the letter starts on Page 140.

4
5 This letter was written by Jack Reakoff,
6 who is also our co-chair for our SRC. It was discussed
7 at our November meeting in Fairbanks, our SRC meeting in
8 Fairbanks last November. It was supposed to be presented
9 on your agenda a year ago, I believe, and wasn't, so
10 we're presenting it to you now.

11
12 Jack Reakoff is from the Wiseman area of
13 Alaska. Wiseman is located off the Dalton Highway. He's
14 being affected by that 150 percent increase in caribou
15 harvesting. It's my understanding that BLM, which is a
16 Federal agency, was involved in that process and then
17 State Board of Game increased the harvest at whatever
18 meeting occurred during that time.

19
20 I couldn't tell you the complete
21 logistics of what had occurred, but the final result was
22 the bag limit was increased. That's where it stands
23 right now.

24
25 MR. R. NAGEAK: That doesn't really
26 answer my question. The question of authorizing opening
27 of the Dalton Highway, which had needed to be done by
28 consultation with the tribes, and whether a State entity
29 or -- I need to get an idea of how the process is to
30 allow this to happen, circumvent or circumvented. All I
31 hear is
32 BLM okayed it and the State increased the bag and that's
33 it. Is that it?

34
35 MS. OKADA: I can't answer the question
36 of how this occurred. All I know is that this is where
37 it is right now.

38
39 CO CHAIR BROWER: The other segment is it
40 didn't happen overnight. It took many years to get to
41 where it's at now. The development of the Haul Road and
42 the transition that occurred to be managed by the State,
43 it was a Federal project and it got transferred back to
44 the State, so it's taken many years. It just didn't
45 happen overnight, as stated in the letter. Over 20
46 years. In the hunting areas within 26B, the Dalton
47 Highway corridor, I see the hunting regulations changing
48 for the increase of take on caribou.

49
50 What's being reflected is the decision

1 made by the Board of Game at their last meeting in
2 regards to 26B. They increased the amount for take by
3 other users as well. I think that's part of the
4 background information to what we are dealing with today,
5 that's being reflected by the -- what was the guy's name
6 again?

7

8 MS. OKADA: Reakoff.

9

10 CO CHAIR BROWER: Jack Reakoff, in this
11 letter. Thank you. I hope that helped, Roy.

12

13 MR. R. NAGEAK: I just need to get an
14 idea of the amount of caribou being hunted. If it was
15 raised 150 percent, how many caribou are you talking
16 about?

17

18 MS. OKADA: I think the best person that
19 would have been able to answer that question.....

20

21 MR. R. NAGEAK: She passed a note. She
22 don't really want to talk right now maybe.

23

24 MR. RABINOWITCH: Jennifer Yuhas from the
25 State might be able to help us a little bit.

26

27 MR. R. NAGEAK: Give her a seat. I want
28 to ask her more questions, too.

29

30 MS. YUHAS: Gee, thanks, Sandy. Jennifer
31 Yuhas, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I've been
32 scrambling on my iPhone trying to find the specific
33 answer because my primary job is simply relating with
34 this board, so I've been trying to find the history on
35 what happened here.

36

37 What I find is a press release from March
38 2010 that the Board of Game doubled the bag limit and
39 that's about as much as I've been able to find out in the
40 last five minutes of scrambling on my iPhone trying to
41 help Sandy out since he asked.

42

43 MR. R. NAGEAK: Somewhere along the line
44 from 50 percent it went to 150 percent.

45

46 MS. YUHAS: Doubling the bag limit.

47

48 MR. R. NAGEAK: But this one say it was
49 increased 150 percent.

50

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: So you have to look at
2 the history of what the hunting regulations were in the
3 past 20 years. It probably went five per day per hunter
4 and then another segment for sport hunting for caribou
5 was a smaller number, but now that's what we see today in
6 the recent changes that were made by the Board of Game,
7 it's reflecting 150 percent increase for the past 20
8 years. That's what's being discussed.

9
10 MR. R. NAGEAK: I'm trying to get an idea
11 to visualize what we're competing against. When hunting
12 is allowed on the Dalton Highway and how it reflects on
13 our subsistence hunters, if a population of the caribou
14 is allowable, I mean it's in our culture to share, but
15 when you're increasing 150 percent of something, I'm
16 trying to picture who and what we're competing against.

17
18 And then maybe Bureau of Land Management
19 could give us an idea of how -- they say this is
20 allowable if the State wants to do it, then we want to be
21 assured that what is under ANILCA, the intent of the law
22 in regards to our subsistence rights that need to be
23 protected. I need to get an idea because I'm new in this
24 game. I'm trying to picture this from an overall
25 perspective of whether our rights as subsistence hunters
26 and the impact of the opening of the Dalton for 150
27 percent is impacting my brothers.

28
29 This year there was no caribou coming
30 through Anaktuvuk Pass. I was there. Issues like this,
31 questions like this, we need to put out in the open and
32 see where our rights as subsistence hunters assure us
33 that we'll have the game still there as long as the grass
34 is brown and the sun will shine, that there's adequate
35 food for us. Oh, green, but where I come from it's
36 mostly brown.

37
38 CO CHAIR BROWER: Brown ground.

39
40 MR. R. NAGEAK: You're from the State.
41 A hundred percent increase from what?

42
43 CO CHAIR BROWER: I think he's trying to
44 reflect what the regulations were indicating before, just
45 to be at a certain number, like 10 per day or 5 per day,
46 and it's slowly been increasing for maybe the sport
47 hunting and the reflection is the numbers have increased.
48 I think that's what he's trying to get at.

49
50 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chair. I

1 understand what the question is. I'm having difficulty
2 answering it. I prepared for the Alaska Department of
3 Fish and Game portions of the agenda and did not prepare
4 for the National Park Service portion of the agenda.
5 With the Chair's leave, if I could have a few minutes to
6 try and find something online or contact Staff.

7

8 MR. R. NAGEAK: There's a guy that's
9 raising his hand. Maybe he knows. I like that guy.
10 He's from ANWR. He takes care of ANWR.

11

12 CO CHAIR BROWER: Vincent.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Maybe I can help you
15 out here. The Board of Game has its process and has its
16 regulations and safeguards. This was a Board of Game
17 proposal. It was open to the public. I'm going by
18 memory now and they're scrambling through books to find
19 out, I believe it went from three caribou to five caribou
20 and it changed the season to be longer and possibly when
21 the calves would be present. So it is an open public
22 process. I was at that Board meeting. I don't remember
23 all the details, but there was comments on it. That's
24 how it happens. It happens to be in the corridor with
25 Bureau of Land Management lands, but the State does
26 manage the wildlife unless the Federal government closes
27 the area which you talked about earlier or does some
28 other kind of controlled use area.

29

30 Okay. I hope that straightens out the
31 situation. The Dalton Highway corridor is very sensitive
32 for -- well, I know for the Park Service and I know for
33 Fish and Wildlife Service and for BLM because of the fact
34 that it is access and it is a transportation route. Does
35 that help you at all with that? That's where the 150
36 percent comes from.

37

38 MR. R. NAGEAK: It helps me, but I've got
39 to remind you people that make decisions like these and
40 it impacts our subsistence way of life. When the Native
41 Claim Settlement Act started, that we acceded a lot of
42 land, the land that used to be ours was, in a sense,
43 taken. I don't like to use the word stolen from us. It
44 was taken from us and say that this is State land and
45 this is Federal land, which is good, because we wanted to
46 be under the auspices of the United States of America.
47 Good, God-fearing land, country. But along those lines
48 by acceding all that land, and when we look at where the
49 revenue for the state comes, it comes from 95 percent
50 from our region, the North Slope, and NANA region with

1 the Red Dog Mine.

2

3 During the course of our lives we support
4 the State for how many years without asking or saying.
5 There's more than enough money to help the rest of the
6 state, but through their legislators and how legislators
7 control what is divided out, we're always at the short
8 end of the stick in the rural area of Alaska perspective.

9

10 Now saying that and now with the way of
11 life that is starting to be impacted by people that want
12 to come up. I know in some places of the state of
13 Alaska, like the Nelchina Herd, there's control in how
14 many caribou or how many people could get a permit, but
15 I don't know whether on the Dalton Highway it looks like
16 it's wild wild west. Anybody that want to go up with a
17 truck and haul four-wheelers or boats, because that's one
18 of the things that was noted this summer, just nothing
19 but trucks with four-wheelers and boats coming up the
20 Dalton Highway like free-for-all where it's wide open.
21 I need to get an idea of the impact on the caribou and
22 what is allowable.

23

24 Do you see where I'm coming from and
25 whether it need to be controlled, like the Nelchina Herd
26 where permits are given for people to drive through the
27 highway or get like 50 yards or 100 yards away from the
28 highway to catch caribou so that it won't impact our
29 subsistence way of life, so there won't be no conflict
30 for the amount of land that was acceded and for the lands
31 that were acceded or taken. We've given a lot. Let me
32 say that. We've given a lot. And now more and more it's
33 being taken away. So we need to get some form of
34 control.

35

36 I know it's convoluted by the Federal
37 government and the caribou don't know whether it's BLM
38 land or State land or.....

39

40 MR. J. NAGEAK: My land.

41

42 MR. R. NAGEAK: But it's always been our
43 land. Can't take that away from our hearts. So we need
44 to try to get an idea of what is allowable and 100
45 percent of something up there it's going to impact like
46 what I say in Anaktuvuk Pass where some or no caribou was
47 really caught. There were a lot of planes landing too
48 when I was there just for two weeks.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Let me respond to that.

1 You're talking about two different caribou herds, so I'd
2 be very careful on that and not.....

3

4 MR. R. NAGEAK: A caribou is a caribou.
5 It doesn't matter what herd it comes from.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: I think what you need to do
8 and we can do that on side conversations is talk about
9 the common ground between all the governments that are
10 here, including tribal governments. The common ground is
11 the resource itself and the conserving of that resource
12 for present and future use. That's what you have to
13 build from. You have to look at that and then we can
14 start looking at how different populations are managed
15 and then go from there. You always have the opportunity
16 as an individual, as a tribe, as a village, as a council,
17 as an advisory committee, and any other name I can come
18 up with, to develop a proposal to address your concerns.

19

20 My advice on proposals is meet with the
21 different agencies. Ask what their thoughts are on your
22 proposal. It does not mean if they don't like it, that
23 you stop. You just find out where they stand from the
24 beginning. All the biologists I've worked with,
25 including with the State, are open to discuss the pros
26 and cons of a proposal. So that's what I would encourage
27 you to do, look for common ground and then build from
28 there.

29

30 We can talk on the side of the pluses and
31 minuses of a tier hunt, but that would take more time.
32 I hope I answered your questions on the Dalton Highway
33 changes that are reflected in Mr. Reakoff's letter.

34

35 MR. R. NAGEAK: Well, when you go back
36 and make reflection that proposals -- proposals weren't
37 made when selection of Prudhoe Bay were made and that's
38 been our headache. The Federal government or the
39 Department of Interior, who these laws or ANILCA come
40 from, those people didn't do their job in the first place
41 by saying all this North Slope area lands that are
42 occupied by the Natives, they just came in -- the State
43 just came in and took away Prudhoe Bay from us.

44

45 Those are the headaches and those kind of
46 proposals that you're recommending are things that are
47 happening now where in the first place if the Department
48 of the Interior had in their heart to protect the
49 subsistence people and the people's whose land was being
50 taken away, then that process could have been good for

1 us. But it's always after the fact. After the fact you
2 are talking to us about getting a proposal together for
3 somebody's approval. A proposal together that's
4 affecting my life, especially in Anaktuvuk Pass who
5 didn't have caribou and they're hurting right now.

6
7 When you're talking in that language,
8 it's like you need to have a proposal and it's got to go
9 through a lot of Federal agencies before it really
10 becomes law, but then where is the Federal government
11 that's required under ANILCA to protect our rights and to
12 talk with the tribes on a government to government basis
13 to say and ensure us that our rights as subsistence
14 hunters as long as the grass is green and the sun will
15 shine are protected.

16
17 The intent of the law -- I know a lot of
18 rules and regulations are made and I just saw the one
19 where the polar bear issue was taken on yesterday's
20 newspaper that endangered species was okay and it's
21 allowable to happen and the polar bear won't be impacted.
22 Issues like these you've got to be honest with us because
23 if we're being impacted, we need to be forefront with you
24 that the animals we hunt are not being impacted and the
25 detriment of our subsistence way of life is not going to
26 require a proposal to live as we did.

27
28 If it's going to impact on your rules and
29 regulations, you'd be assured through ANILCA and comply
30 through ANILCA that our way of life is protected by not
31 limiting 150 percent bag limit and through all those
32 areas.

33
34 Somebody's got to get their act together,
35 whether it's Federal or State, and get together so that
36 you guys could help us, the ones that are being impacted.
37 This is a common ground. If there's enough animals, then
38 we'll share, but if they go gung-ho and there's no rules
39 and regulations on the Dalton Highway like the Nelchina
40 Herd in the middle of the state, do we need to make a
41 proposal so that Nelchina Herd will be the same as
42 limiting people what you catch on the Dalton Highway.

43
44 MR. J. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy. James,
47 Rosemary had asked for the floor. I'll recognize you
48 after Rosemary.

49
50 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm sorry. I just

1 wanted to allow our presenters to get done with their
2 presentation. If there's any more that you wanted to add
3 to this, then we could provide our comments afterwards if
4 you don't mind.

5
6 CO CHAIR BROWER: Pete.

7
8 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I've got a couple
9 questions for Sandy and the other person there for
10 clarification. As I read through Reakoff's letter, I was
11 reminded of the issue of user conflict and I gather that
12 the reason for writing this letter was to deal with the
13 increasing sport hunting and the dealing with the Board
14 of Game's decision to up the take from 3 to 5. The
15 people there are concerned about their place in the whole
16 regime about how they're going to be treated. Is that
17 the general drift of this letter?

18
19 MR. OKADA: If you look at Page 140, the
20 third paragraph states what the problem is, what the
21 concern was. Then if you go up to the second paragraph
22 on Page 140 it's what's being proposed to try and help
23 solve this problem. It is directly related to user
24 conflict. I have heard what Roy has been saying and it
25 seems to be a widespread problem. But what's being
26 proposed is basically by this recommendation is how to
27 address this problem. What's being proposed is that a
28 science-based management be regulated to maintain healthy
29 and sustainable caribou populations. But not just
30 caribou. Other wildlife species as well.

31
32 So this recommendation is asking for
33 sound science to be used as far as how wildlife
34 populations are being managed. It's mandated by ANILCA,
35 Title VIII, that we use those resources science to manage
36 the wildlife populations and come to decisions on how
37 these populations can be regulated.

38
39 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: The reason I ask is
40 because, as I mentioned earlier yesterday, that we have
41 been dealing with user conflicts officially for about
42 seven or eight years and we've actually formed a working
43 group to try to address the problem, as I mentioned
44 earlier, with the chairman of the Board of Game, Federal
45 Subsistence Board, representatives from our area. I
46 think the concern kind of mirrors the difference of
47 management regimes as far as the State is concerned and
48 the Federal management system.

49
50 I recall clearly back in November of --

1 I think it was '09 when the Board of Game met in Kotzebue
2 that the first thing that Chairman Fleagle said is that
3 the Board of Game deals with uses and not users, which
4 seemed to be the problem here in terms of how those folks
5 are reacting to that kind of management requirement, I
6 guess as far as the State is concerned.

7
8 Then the end result of that rather high-
9 powered group was rather disappointing. Attamuk and Vic
10 and I think Ray were part of the process of participating
11 in the discussions. It's geared towards the
12 transporters, which unlike the guides, have no industry
13 standard to have professional behavior, such as what's in
14 the guide industry. The transporters up north are
15 numerous. What they do is also divert a lot of the
16 resources by camping in their migration routes and cause
17 a lot of conflict up there that we're trying to educate
18 our way out of and it's a really tough problem to crack.

19
20 I think the other thing that we
21 understand in looking at this letter is what the Gates of
22 the Arctic is trying to do is get in the system a
23 scientific-based component in there to start to try to
24 address not only the inflated 150 percent take that was
25 authorized by the Board of Game, but also the influx of
26 sport hunters. I take it probably on the Dalton Highway.
27 I think that we can really feel for how these people are
28 trying to deal with it.

29
30 But our experience is that with the four
31 years that we've been meeting with two meetings a year
32 with that working group has been extremely disappointing
33 to have. Just basically the realization that -- other
34 than the educational sharing with the transporters that
35 there are other users that are being significantly
36 impacted. We went as far as trying to decide whether
37 there should be a differentiation between people that
38 hunt for food, for meat, and people that hunt for sport,
39 which was quickly shot down by the Board of Game reps, in
40 particular Ted Spraker, who is both on the current Board
41 of Game and on the Commercial Service Users Board.

42
43 I think that we'd be probably inclined to
44 support what's happening here because this takes more of
45 a scientific avenue in trying to justify and create the
46 data to show that if there's an impact that's occurring,
47 then the other problem we have up north with the impact
48 that's occurring is that we run into this problem of
49 scientific data that could be collected versus local
50 traditional knowledge, which sometimes is almost

1 dismissed as anecdotal knowledge, just probably one step
2 up from gossip.

3
4 What the Board of Game did not really
5 understand and I think they've finally come around to
6 understanding a little bit more was that this traditional
7 knowledge has value in that we have to take some data to
8 prove to the Department of Fish and Game that they had
9 erroneous take data compared to what we believed was the
10 correct numbers from the traditional knowledge part of
11 those that are on the ground and were observing as more
12 of an accurate count.

13
14 Anyway, I feel for these people and I
15 think I understand the scope of the problem and I think
16 that our experience with that highfalutin Board or User
17 Group to deal with the conflict, despite having such high
18 power of representation, fell pretty short of what I
19 think the original expectation was and that was to try to
20 deal with the problem, solve it in a meaningful way to
21 mean something to the local residents, but it never got
22 there.

23
24 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Pete. Did
25 you want to respond, Sandy.

26
27 MR. RABINOWITCH: I would just like to
28 say that I think what Pete Schaeffer just said is very
29 accurate. To go back to the context just for a short
30 minute, the Subsistence Resource Commissions have a
31 different process to communicate their recommendations.
32 They don't report to the Federal Subsistence Board. They
33 report to the Secretary of Interior directly. There's a
34 link in to the governor as I mentioned earlier and
35 there's some other sort of technical steps about how that
36 all works.

37
38 So it's a process that most people aren't
39 as familiar with, but one of the steps in the process is
40 for the Subsistence Resource Commission to bring their
41 recommendation to this and other appropriate Regional
42 Advisory Councils. After your input is gathered and I
43 think one other then it will go back to the Subsistence
44 Resource Commission and if they choose to then forward it
45 as a final recommendation, it goes to the Secretary and
46 the governor and so on and so forth. So it's a little
47 different process and it's one that doesn't happen very
48 often and I think that's part of the confusion. People
49 aren't kind of used to this hunting plan process.

50

1 In closing, I think your comments were
2 very inline with my understanding of what this is all
3 about. Thank you.

4
5 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Sandy.
6 James.

7
8 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah, I was in that
9 process, you know, I'm on that SRC for the Gates of the
10 Arctic National Park. Jack Reakoff and Pollock Simon are
11 co-chairs for this commission. Jack Reakoff lives in
12 Wiseman, right in that corridor, and there was some
13 concern about the people that are coming through the
14 Dalton Highway and there's a borderline between the Gates
15 of the Arctic, which is really close to the road system
16 over in that area, Wiseman and Coldfoot area, you know
17 where the sheep and the caribou come through. One of the
18 concerns was, of course, hey, some of these hunters might
19 be hunting on Gates of the Arctic National Park.

20
21 Board of Game is in deference to the
22 Regional Advisory Councils, in deference to the comments
23 and recommendations from the Regional Advisory Councils
24 around the state. The Board of Game makes their decision
25 regardless as to what the Regional Advisory Councils or
26 even SRC is saying and make recommendations. Or not
27 recommendations, but make the regulations to increase to
28 150 percent the take in that area.

29
30 This is kind of a response to the State
31 -- telling the State you've got to do some homework here
32 before you start making rules and regulations concerning
33 the take of animals that are within the subsistence areas
34 of the Nuunamiut, the Nuiqsutmute and all those other
35 villages up there. Do your homework because ANILCA tells
36 you to do that. It's mandated by the Federal government
37 that these are the steps that you're going to have to
38 make before you make regulations and this is where Jack
39 Reakoff and Pollock Simon have signed their names onto
40 these letters for this hunting plan recommendation 10-01.

41
42 It's a response to an agency in deference
43 to the language that is being given to them. Regardless
44 of that, they make rules and regulations increasing
45 intake by those people that are coming in from the urban
46 areas and that's been the concern for us. We meet twice
47 a year too.

48
49 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, James.
50 Donald, just a quick question to you. I guess in terms

1 of the procedures we followed this morning, is that the
2 outline we're supposed to follow again this afternoon in
3 regards to this segment? I just need that clarification.

4

5

6 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. No, you don't have
7 to follow that guideline. This is a Hunting Plan
8 provided by the Gates of the Arctic and they're seeking
9 comments from this Council and then you can take action
10 on it either to support or any form of recommendation.
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, I just asked for
14 that clarification because we went through all these
15 other proposals and followed this procedure and I was
16 trying to think back if I'm supposed to follow that or am
17 I supposed to take another step. Thank you.

18

19 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

22

23 MR. R. NAGEAK: Rules and regulations are
24 made. Like I stated, I read that part of the polar bear
25 issue with the Endangered Species Act and the
26 interpretation of what the law has stated on the
27 Endangered Species Act and I think when the State allows
28 things like this to happen and like my brother stated,
29 ANILCA law reflects things that are in law that needs to
30 be done and that's why I asked who initiated the 150
31 percent, who did the process of opening up the Dalton
32 Highway or who increased the catch and whether those
33 processes were utilized under the law and whether this --
34 if nobody can answer, it's just like what they did with
35 the polar bear issue, it went to court.

36

37 I don't know what the processes are when
38 rules and regulations are given to us. For a fact,
39 there's different departments or different divisions that
40 say lets make this a rule and regulation under this law
41 because we know what this law is. It's their own
42 interpretation of what they think the law was intended
43 for. But the rules and regulations and that's why every
44 once in a while we need to go to court and say that's not
45 the intent of the law. Your department or whomever
46 department or division of the Federal government or State
47 government, you're making the wrong interpretation and
48 that's what I saw with the polar bears on the Endangered
49 Species Act.

50

1 I think with issues like these where the
2 processes are not followed and where ANILCA says that
3 these processes must be followed and, bam, it's like the
4 wild, wild west, it's open. Let's shoot every caribou,
5 little fawn that we see out on the road and, bang, bang.
6 It's like whoa. That's why they need rules and
7 regulations.

8
9 Us, we only catch what we need and we
10 were brought up to manage our own resources and not to
11 kill them all at one time once it opens up. So we might
12 be at this with this issue. You say we need an
13 interpretation or definite -- or somebody's got the power
14 to say, hey, these rules and regulations and how the
15 corridor or the bag limit was increased 150 percent where
16 the subsistence are impacted. Who's going to decide on
17 that? Who's going to sue who?

18
19 Or finally once will the Federal or the
20 State government work with us to appease or get on the
21 side of the people that are living trying to catch these
22 animals for their subsistence instead of go gung-ho, open
23 up everything. Get the oil. Get all the sport hunters
24 up here so we can make lots of money with our planes and
25 they'll pay us 15,000 just for a great big bull or
26 whatever.

27
28 We're in a big conflict. When issues
29 like this come up, we need to really protect our way of
30 life or say, hey, what's the intent of the law and the
31 processes that's going to impact our subsistence hunters,
32 was it followed. If not, let's get it clarified. I know
33 to forward this letter in a strong language we need
34 interpretation, really strong interpretation coming from
35 the Federal government and from the State government
36 because we're still ANILCA to protect our rights as
37 subsistence hunters.

38
39 CO CHAIR BROWER: So, Roy, in regards to
40 your comments and looking to what Gates of the Arctic
41 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission generated
42 November 24 on Page 142, look at the letter dated
43 November 24, 2010, Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
44 Resource Commission, Hunting Plan Recommendation, 10-01.
45 A recommendation that would require populations of big
46 game to be managed as intended in ANILCA using recognized
47 scientific principals for the health and sustainability.
48 That's the intent of this letter. It's addressing your
49 concerns, what you just voiced.
50

1 That's my understanding. Correct me,
2 Sandy or Marcy.

3
4 MR. J. NAGEAK: And this is coming from
5 a Federal agency.

6
7 MR. R. NAGEAK: Yeah, we could do that
8 and at the same time make a recommendation that hunting
9 be ceased on the Dalton Highway until these processes are
10 implemented, until the scientific study is done. Gosh,
11 if we allow hunting like that on the Dalton Highway, it
12 really impacts how much caribou is out there and find out
13 how many caribou are being killed or what percentage of
14 150 we're -- usually when nothing is stopped, then it's
15 too late. Do you know what I mean?

16
17 MR. J. NAGEAK: Let me read you something
18 here. The Federal-State of Alaska MOU is to be reviewed
19 by the Federal Subsistence Board with consultation of
20 RACs as mandated by recent DOI review. This is to occur
21 immediately in the next few months. The Federal
22 Subsistence Board acknowledges that the current MOU
23 causes Federal agencies to take a subservient management
24 role to the State of Alaska.

25
26 So I wanted to point out that the Federal
27 government agencies are subservient to the -- what do you
28 call them, to the State of Alaska, the URKs (ph) or
29 something, you know, when they have a chip on their
30 shoulder, they put that chip on there, the State puts it
31 there. However the Board has elected to go with the
32 State to coordinate efforts to address population
33 declines and other wildlife issues statewide generally
34 using State developed management objectives. That's what
35 we're objecting to, is that the State is not doing that
36 and the Federal part of it is that we want them to get
37 back into the groove that ANILCA and the laws are saying.
38 So I wanted to point that out.

39
40 MR. R. NAGEAK: Good. Then we don't have
41 to sue nobody. We just say do your job, Federal
42 government, protect our rights as subsistence hunters.
43 If there's science shows that there's enough caribou,
44 it's our culture to share and to share in a good way, not
45 to share where everybody comes up and starts shooting at
46 everything that walks like a caribou out there.

47
48 CO CHAIR BROWER: Okay, Ray, you've got
49 some other comments?
50

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: No.

2

3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Rosemary.

4

5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We had this issue come
6 up at our previous meetings, I believe about a year and
7 a half ago, and the overwhelming comments were in
8 expressing concerns to the recommended change. Many
9 hunters from the North Slope commented in opposition to
10 increasing the bag limit along the Dalton Highway. There
11 were a lot of communications that were brought up.

12

13 One area that isn't added to this
14 discussion that should be considered as you're looking at
15 your research for this process is the designation of the
16 Dalton as the scenic byways. That also is increasing
17 activity along the Dalton Highway and near the Dalton
18 Highway that needs to be looked at as you're looking at
19 some of these things because that also will cause some
20 impacts if it's allowed to be year round activities and
21 not restricting activities during our caribou migration
22 or other factors affecting our subsistence species.

23

24 We had one of our hunters from Nuiqsut
25 comment also during that discussion that while that
26 hearing was occurring there were 17 vehicles that passed
27 the Brooks Range to the North Slope hauling four-wheelers
28 or snowmachines. The discussions were that these were
29 not going to be happening where these things were going
30 to be allowed to occur on the North Slope, but yet our
31 local hunters witnessed this on the Dalton Highway while
32 they were out there.

33

34 This also is not being monitored and it
35 needs to be monitored. It can have a tremendous amount
36 of impact on our subsistence species and our ability to
37 harvest. Our communities near our traditional activities
38 of harvesting and our traditional modes of transportation
39 because that's one part of the picture that is increasing
40 in conflict for our subsistence users.

41

42 When we have a lot of fly-in hunters that
43 are going on the main area where we're having our
44 traditional activities by boat, that causes us conflicts.
45 Those kinds of things also need to be factored into these
46 assessments as you're doing your research because it does
47 contribute to these assessments and understanding the
48 impacts that are being created with the various users and
49 the user conflicts that are occurring.

50

1 Overwhelmingly there has been discussion
2 of concerns and overwhelmingly the reaction has been very
3 negative to the increase of this process. Overwhelmingly
4 there is a great understanding that we need some
5 scientific research. The question I also have is related
6 to the traditional knowledge that needs to be
7 incorporated into this process because we don't have the
8 adequate data to really come into this process. They
9 talked to us related to research and monitoring other
10 species and they say don't worry, things are just fine
11 because they started after the impacts were occurring.

12
13 So we need some historical information,
14 which we may or may not have, incorporated into this
15 process not just from research right now in this day and
16 time. Thank you.

17
18 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
19 Pete.

20
21 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: So, James, the Gates
22 of the Arctic SRC is looking for support for your
23 recommendation? Is that what the action is?

24
25 MR. J. NAGEAK: This is coming from us.
26 We went through this and we had a really good discussion
27 on this when we were authorizing Jack Reakoff and Pollock
28 Simon to send a letter.

29
30 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Jennifer, did you
31 have any additional information to share with us before
32 you left the table there?

33
34 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
35 can only speak to the specific questions that were asked
36 of the Department, not commenting on whether or not the
37 letter should be adopted or supported. But there were
38 specific questions as to why the harvest limit was
39 increased along the Dalton Highway. I contacted our
40 biologist and I apologize I don't have all the answers
41 off the top of my head, there's just not enough room up
42 there sometimes, I have to call somebody.

43
44 According to our biologist, the Alaska
45 Department of Fish and Game put the proposal in that
46 passed the Board of Game last year. It increased the
47 limit from two to five caribou for the harvest limit.
48 The reason for that is that the herd has been growing for
49 the last two decades, that it is at an all-time high of
50 70,000 caribou, that its historic harvest rates have been

1 extremely low, being 1 percent, where he told me that a
2 typical healthy harvest rate is between 5 to 7 percent to
3 be sustainable and that this is at a 1 percent, so they
4 thought that the boost in the caribou being at an all-
5 time high with a 20-year growth rate would be
6 sustainable. He reminded me that within five miles of
7 the road you can only hunt by bow and so I'm simply
8 reporting the justifications that were asked of us.

9

10 MR. R. NAGEAK: I need some
11 clarification.

12

13 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy, wait. Pete.

14

15 MR. R. NAGEAK: I'm sorry.

16

17 CO CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead, Pete.

18

19 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I think we have to
20 kind of convey in our head the scale of size and talk
21 about the size of the herd. Our region is about the size
22 of Indiana, I heard. When we start to suggest
23 restricting proposals, then the general comment is that,
24 well, hell, you've got 477,000 caribou, what's your
25 problem.

26

27 Well, the problem is that there are
28 certain behavioral patterns that caribou follow as well
29 as the people and there are, in fact, large areas of GMU
30 23 where no caribou activity occurs hardly. Then we've
31 had data from satellites pretty much proves that the
32 corridor that the caribou migrate through is generally
33 through the Noatak Preserve, generally speaking. Then
34 what's begun to happen is that all the traditional
35 hunting places, our favorite places of our Native people
36 have started to be impacted by what I mentioned earlier
37 before, was the cowboy type of transporters that place
38 hunters right directly in the migration pattern, whether
39 they've started to migrate or not.

40

41 That's why I say that when you raised the
42 question the user group, the issue of scientific versus
43 anecdotal comes into play in one form or another. So I'm
44 maybe saying that perhaps the problem mirrors what I was
45 just saying, that it might be a large area, but for
46 certain users and parts of the herd it becomes an issue
47 because of user conflicts. Is that your guy's problem?

48

49 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah, that has been our
50 problem. You know, we have what you call a controlled

1 use area north of Anaktuvuk Pass in the summertime. I
2 forgot what dates, from August to October probably, and
3 that pertains to caribou. We didn't realize that the
4 guide people are able to fly over that area to hunt bear.
5 We never figured that out, you know, when we went to the
6 Board of Game meeting in Bethel a few years ago to make
7 north of Anaktuvuk Pass a controlled use area.

8
9 During the time that the caribou are
10 coming together, gathering together to migrate south, so
11 those hunters that go up there in small planes are
12 diverting or, from our traditional knowledge, they are
13 killing the first group that are coming through. They're
14 shooting at them, so therefore they haven't established
15 a route for that summer to go through our area and this
16 summer is an example that we haven't had any caribou
17 heading south.

18
19 Now they're heading north from the
20 Western Herd that we get in the summertime. We get a
21 group of Western Herd caribou come south of us and circle
22 around in that area and then this fall they're heading
23 north for some reason right by the village. A few of
24 them. Not the thousands that usually come through that
25 area. So we're really concerned about the activities
26 that are going up north of us.

27
28 While I'm at it, I might as well put in
29 that proposal that was made by the State to build a road
30 from Gilbert to Umiat and that is the one that we are
31 really perturbed about. We're adamant to the State
32 Department of Transportation, the NEPA people, the Corps
33 of Engineers. We've been having meetings concerning
34 that. Man, if you build that road, we're gone. The
35 caribou aren't going to come through at all anymore.
36 But we're working on that and we need your support. I
37 don't know whether this group can be an agency in which
38 we could write a letter to the State of Alaska opposing
39 the building of that road, as I'm sure the NANA Region is
40 opposing the road to Ambler or that kind of situation
41 that is happening up there.

42
43 One of the things that Jack Reakoff --
44 not Jack Reakoff, but the group of Subsistence Resource
45 Commission is concerned about that there are no
46 enforcement people, the people that are supposed to
47 enforce the Gates of the Arctic National Park regulations
48 that no out of area residents can come in and just go in
49 and kill a sheep. There's nobody to monitor those
50 four-wheelers and those people that are coming in out of

1 the Dalton Highway and getting into the Gates of the
2 Arctic and we don't have a way to arrest them and make
3 them criminals or examples of that you can't do that. So
4 we don't have that particular mechanism to enforce some
5 of the things that are happening within that area.

6

7 So some of the things we're trying to do
8 is to use some scientific or imperative research to go
9 with these types of things that the State of Alaska is
10 making us do. Thank you.

11

12 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: So eventually you
13 want a motion to support from each respective SRC?

14

15 MR. J. NAGEAK: I would make a motion to
16 that effect.

17

18 MR. R. NAGEAK: Second for the North
19 Slope.

20

21 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Anybody move from
22 the Northwest.

23

24 MR. KARMUN: I'll make a motion to
25 support this.

26

27 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Vic. Is
28 there a second.

29

30 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

31

32 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. Discussion
33 purposes. I just need to get an idea of what brother --
34 I mean my co-member -- I can't call you brother, right.
35 That would be a conflict.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. J. NAGEAK: My fellow colleague.

40

41 MR. R. NAGEAK: My elder colleague.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. R. NAGEAK: A statement that he
46 pointed out, the Federal Subsistence Board acknowledged
47 that the current MOU and whether that MOU needs to be
48 looked at, it causes the Federal agencies to take a
49 subservient, and that's a highfalutin word for me, but
50 somewhere there's a servant in there, management role to

1 the State of Alaska and whether they take a lower role or
2 they're servants or what the State tells them they need
3 to do. Somehow we need to look at that.

4
5 These MOUs are taking some of our rights
6 away. It's a wrong MOU because if it reflects on where
7 the Federal government needs to protect us under ANILCA
8 or whatever, whatever laws that protects our subsistence
9 way of life, it needs to be looked at.

10
11 CO CHAIR BROWER: That's why that wording
12 is there, Roy. That's what they're doing.

13
14 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay. If the Federal
15 government needs help, we'll back them up, man.

16
17 CO CHAIR BROWER: We're in discussion of
18 the motion. Sandy.

19
20 MR. RABINOWITCH: On the point of the MOU
21 and this is just information, but that MOU is being
22 looked at. That was an issue raised in the program
23 review that Pat Pourchot has spoken about to you, I
24 think, in the past. He was here this morning from the
25 Secretary's Office. There is a State-Federal group
26 that's being reconstituted to look at that MOU again. It
27 has not met yet, but it's in the works and scheduled to
28 be happening.

29
30 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Sandy.
31 We're still in discussion of the motion to support the
32 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission's
33 Hunting Plan Recommendation 10-01.

34
35 MR. J. NAGEAK: Call for the question.

36
37 CO CHAIR BROWER: The question has been
38 called on the motion. All in favor of supporting the
39 Hunting Plan Recommendation 10-01 signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CO CHAIR BROWER: Opposed say no.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 CO CHAIR BROWER: None noted. Thank you.

48
49 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: For the Northwest
50 Arctic, we're under discussion. Attamuk.

1 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.
2
3 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Please make it
4 brief.
5
6 MR. SHIEDT: I'll try. It's scary how
7 they increase the take for the sport hunters. If they
8 say they increase it for -- if we ever get override in
9 the future, they will say, okay, pass at the Slope and
10 the Interior. They could take it to our area and say
11 you're numbers are not 77,000, your numbers are 400,000,
12 they might use this step to say we got in, let's push it
13 and go further because we've got user conflict, like you
14 said, Pete. That's why I voted on their behalf.
15
16 It's going to be scary because once they
17 get in a foot, they're going to go further because in the
18 long run, 30 years ago when they wrote the agreement on
19 the Haul Road, they said they would not have subsistence
20 or issues to pretend to hurt the people of the north, yet
21 20 years later the State opened it. That's what I'm
22 going to really lead to today.
23
24 And if they build a road different areas
25 -- well, for your information, when I came I wanted to
26 see this. I rented a truck and I went to the highway.
27 You should see the people going all over with Honda, like
28 you say. They had no enforcement like they say they were
29 going to, which is why I could say that I saw it
30 firsthand just to say my two cents now and be heard. I
31 was there. I rented a truck.
32
33 And they use Honda and bow and arrow they
34 use. I saw two caribou with arrows in them running,
35 okay. We don't. Us Natives, my grandpa, I've seen his
36 bow and arrow, Attamuk from way back, he had a real big
37 one, but he said they'd never hunt from a distance. They
38 get close to them. So at a distance bow and arrow will
39 lose its momentum and just stick to the skin and poor
40 caribou running around with that arrow.
41
42 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any further
43 discussion by the Northwest Arctic.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Hearing none. All
48 those in favor of the support of the Gates of the Arctic
49 SRC Hunting Plan Recommendation 10-01 say aye.
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any opposed same
4 sign.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Appears unanimous.
9
10 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. Before we get
11 away from the subject about the State and Federal
12 government. Quite a few years back I saw Maine in a
13 similar situation where upper Maine had all the
14 resources, but the lower Maine had the largest urban
15 area. They were having conflicts with all the hunting
16 within the upper area too and what the Maine people said,
17 we want to cut the state in half because really the State
18 ain't listening to us in regards to what we use for
19 subsistence in upper Maine because there's states like
20 that too, but then resources come from up there to run
21 the state and the lower half where the urban areas are.
22
23
24 For the life of me, I think we're a big
25 enough state where if the State don't work with us and
26 help us with what needs to be done, it behooves us to ask
27 the question how can we get better representation by
28 allowing us to become two states. I just wanted to throw
29 that up in the air. It's the same reflection that the
30 state of Maine did. Looked at their state, we need to
31 get this two states because we're not getting the
32 representation and the legislation that is needed. It's
33 just made by urban area people, which are in conflict or
34 take us at advantage, but they take all the resources
35 from our area. I just want to point that out.
36
37 It's always been no parity or no
38 protection for our people. Just 95 percent of the revenue
39 that runs the state is from our region, both NANA and --
40 and then they want to go in there and allow people 150
41 percent more to affect a way of life that we have lived
42 for a long time where we were never bothered, when we
43 were never a state. We were in God's land and now it's
44 different and people are trying to take advantage of us
45 by these rules and regulations and laws that come from I
46 don't know, as far as Washington, D.C. It's just like
47 how Washington, D.C. did the same thing when the British
48 were making laws and rules for them. They got away from
49 them. They had a revolution.
50

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.
2
3 MR. R. NAGEAK: I'll shut up.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Thank you,
8 Sandy, Marcy. Did you have anything else to be
9 considered.
10
11 MR. RABINOWITCH: No, we don't. Thank
12 you very much. We appreciate the discussion and I'm sure
13 the SRC will appreciate your support from both Councils.
14
15 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Donald.
16
17 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to
18 keep things on track, there's some other action items.
19 The Council needs to make appointments to the SRC, so my
20 suggestion to the Council is to get into those
21 appointments and we have Staff here to help present their
22 summary of recommended appointments. Thank you.
23
24 CO CHAIR BROWER: We've pushed along. We
25 need to take a 10-minute break. Can we do that first?
26 Have a 10-minute break recess and come back to addressing
27 that agenda item. Thank you.
28
29 (Off record)
30
31 (On record)
32
33 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. The only
34 remaining action item that we have is the appointments to
35 the various entities. Whoever wants to start first have
36 at it.
37
38 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, Gates of the
39 Arctic National Park and Preserve. If you could go to
40 Page 156 in your books. At this time we're asking for
41 the reappointment of Louie Commack, Jr. to our SRC.
42
43 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: So what we need is
44 a motion to support.
45
46 MS. OKADA: Just from the Northwest
47 Arctic RAC.
48
49 MR. SHIEDT: You just want support or
50 recommend that you guys get Louie into this?

1 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: We need it in the
2 form of a motion to support Mr. Commack.
3
4 MR. SHIEDT: So moved.
5
6 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Is there a second.
7
8 MR. KARMUN: I'll second.
9
10 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Seconded.
11
12 MS. OKADA: Thank you.
13
14 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any further
15 discussion.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Hearing none. All
20 those supporting the appointment of Louie Commack to the
21 Gates of the Arctic National Park SRC say aye.
22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24
25 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any objection.
26
27 (No opposing votes)
28
29 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Hearing none, it's
30 unanimous.
31
32 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Western Arctic
33 National Parklands has one vacancy where terms expiring,
34 one each for the Cape Krusenstern National Monument
35 Subsistence Resource Commission and also the Kobuk Valley
36 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission. It would
37 probably be easier to take them one at a time.
38
39 Cape Krusenstern, the current incumbent
40 is Alex Whiting. His term expires early next month.
41 Alex is well known to you. He meets all the
42 qualifications. He's currently a member of the Kotzebue
43 local fish and game advisory committee and he's got a
44 really outstanding track record of working cooperatively
45 and working with other agencies and sponsoring and
46 undertaking research and things. He's been with the
47 commission now for a fairly long period of time and is a
48 valuable member. He's expressed to us a very strong
49 interest in staying with the Cape Krusenstern Commission.
50 The Park Service would welcome his continued service. If

1 there's no problem, we would support his renomination to
2 that position by the Northwest Arctic RAC.
3
4 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Ken. We
5 need a motion to support Mr. Whiting.
6
7 MR. KRAMER: Make a motion to support Mr.
8 Whiting for that position.
9
10 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Is there a second.
11
12 MR. KARMUN: I'll second.
13
14 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Ray, thank you. Any
15 further discussion.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Hearing none. All
20 those in favor of the appointment of Alex Whiting to the
21 Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission say aye.
22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24
25 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any opposed.
26
27 (No opposing votes)
28
29 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you. It's
30 unanimous.
31
32 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you. The second
33 appointment is to the Kobuk Valley National Park
34 Subsistence Resource Commission. The current incumbent
35 is Elmer Ward. His term, like Alex, expires early next
36 month. Elmer is qualified. He's currently a member of
37 the Upper Kobuk local fish and game advisory committee,
38 he's a long time subsistence user and he's a long time
39 member of the commission and he comes from the community
40 of Kobuk, which getting upriver representation on the SRC
41 I think remains an important objective for us.
42
43 Elmer has provided really good service in
44 the past and, like Alex, has also expressed a strong
45 interest to us and continuing to serve the commission and
46 we would recommend his reappointment to the Kobuk Valley
47 Commission.
48
49 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Ken. Is
50 there a motion to support.

1 MR. KRAMER: Motion to support.
2
3 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Is there a second.
4
5 MR. KARMUN: I'll second.
6
7 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Mr.
8 Karmun. Any further discussion.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Hearing none. All
13 those in favor of the support of Elmer Ward for
14 reappointment to the Kobuk Valley National Park
15 Subsistence Resource Commission say aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any opposed.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: It's unanimous.
24 Thank you, Ken.
25
26 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
27 Council members for your continued support of the
28 commissions.
29
30 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: And thank you,
31 Marcy.
32
33 MS. OKADA: Thank you.
34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Helen Armstrong. I'm going to talk very briefly about
37 the Secretarial Review update. It starts on Page 145.
38 You did hear from Pat Pourchot briefly yesterday. He did
39 discuss already the appointment -- well, the application
40 process right now for the two board members, so I won't
41 go over that. And he talked a little bit about the
42 Secretarial Review.
43
44 On Page 146 there are a number of status
45 reports on where we are on the Secretarial Review. The
46 Board is still in the process of considering expanding
47 its deference to the Regional Council recommendations on
48 matters beyond take and that concerns specifically
49 customary and traditional use determinations and whether
50 or not there's deference to in-season management

1 decisions. So they're still in the process of looking at
2 all of those issues.

3

4 On the MOU, which came before the
5 Councils last winter, the Board did look at that in the
6 summer of 2011 and they've directed that the changes
7 recommended by the Councils be examined by a work group
8 comprised of both State and Federal members and then with
9 a report back to the Board and final action on the
10 changes by December of 2011, so that's still in the
11 works.

12

13 There was a request in the Secretary
14 Review to look at customary and traditional use
15 determination process and that did go before all the
16 Councils last winter. The comments were summarized and
17 reviewed by the Board in May of 2011. The Board is
18 generally supportive of the existing process, but they're
19 focusing right now on some other action items, so that's
20 a little bit on the back burner.

21

22 The rural/nonrural determination process
23 also is being looked at by the Board. They had a work
24 session in April to learn more about it. We have a lot
25 of new Board members and needed to be brought up to
26 speed. They're exploring whether or not they can delay
27 the implementation date for communities or areas which
28 were rural and were determined to be nonrural during the
29 2000 review process. They're evaluating how best to
30 proceed. None of that really affects these regions since
31 you don't have any nonrural areas.

32

33 Then there was a review of the Board's
34 written policy on executive sessions and a request to
35 minimize the use of executive sessions. The status on
36 that is that the Board revised its executive session
37 policy to reflect that it intends to keep its business
38 transparent, and will provide a summary of Executive
39 Sessions as and when they occur. The Board adopted its
40 revised policy at its May 2011 meeting.

41

42 And then there are a whole number of
43 things that were in the review that are still pending.
44 Those were hold Federal Subsistence Board meetings in
45 rural areas. That's pending additional funding. As we
46 talked about yesterday, funding is decreasing and not
47 increasing, so it's problematic for the whole program.

48

49 Increase training and support to Regional
50 Advisory Councils. That will be implemented when funding

1 and staffing allow. Implement a Wildlife Monitoring
2 Studies Program. That too is pending funding. Increase
3 tribal consultation. That's in progress as you know.
4 Increase capacity within Office of Subsistence Management
5 for research and implementation and that also is pending
6 additional funding.

7

8 Reinstatement the annual regulatory cycle.
9 We used to do wildlife every year and now we're doing it
10 every other year and the Board sees the value of that
11 every year cycle, but they may be open to reinstating the
12 annual cycle if funding would allow that.

13

14 They have not yet begun work on the
15 directives that with Council input would provide for
16 changes to Federal subsistence
17 procedural and structural regulations. Those are Parts
18 A and B of the regulations that were adopted from the
19 State to ensure the Secretaries are informed when
20 non-Department rule-making entities develop regulations
21 that may adversely affect subsistence users.

22

23 To the extent practicable, utilize
24 contracting and use of ANILCA Section .809 cooperative
25 agreements with local tribes and other entities in the
26 Board's review and approval of proposals for fulfilling
27 subsistence program elements.

28

29 That's it in a nutshell. I kind of went
30 through it quickly. I know you still have some things on
31 your agenda. There is also something on Page 148 about
32 budget implications and I talked about that a little bit
33 yesterday that funding is being reduced for 2012 and will
34 have some impact on this program. I don't know if you
35 have any questions.

36

37 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

40

41 MR. R. NAGEAK: On the report, we see
42 this on TV all the time about the Federal government and
43 its ability to run and how it teeters all the time. On
44 the budget implication, that allows me to start looking
45 at how from a regional perspective with what our
46 subsistence issues are and whether those could be more
47 regionalized and brought back more under the control of
48 the Native tribes. So many rules and regulations are
49 telling us how we should live our lives and how many
50 animals we should catch and what seasons we should have.

1 Noting the budget implications of how our future might
2 look as more and more when our country is getting into
3 debt and it seems like there's nothing that's going to
4 allow it to improve.

5
6 The aspects as far as the Native people
7 running their own rules and regulations in respect to
8 their subsistence resources and the lives that we have,
9 has anybody really looked at that where it's our hunting
10 areas, it's our country. Let's run it the way that we've
11 run it before. Control the resources or just catch what
12 you need for subsistence hunting and just let it low,
13 just let it be. Or is that beyond what the controlling
14 powers want us to be like? This is something to think
15 outside of the box in regards to how our subsistence way
16 of life is because we've done it for many hundreds of
17 years and I don't think we've killed off anything.

18
19 MR. H. ARMSTRONG: I appreciate your
20 comments. I haven't heard that discussion about how to
21 change that. I think it's different on the North Slope
22 than it is in some other areas because you have a lot
23 more conflict between -- in other areas between sport
24 hunters and Federally-qualified subsistence users.

25
26 The other point probably is because
27 ANILCA was not Native legislation although the intent was
28 there, but at the end of the day it was not Native
29 legislation, I don't know that that would be satisfactory
30 to a lot of people to turn it over to the tribes to
31 manage it. But, you know, certainly who knows what will
32 happen in this budget situation that we're in nationally.
33 The Federal budget is in a state of somewhat crisis, I
34 think. But I think that's beyond the scope of this
35 Council today to probably solve that problem.

36
37 MR. R. NAGEAK: But the problem will
38 still be there, Mr. Chair, in regards to how we need to
39 deal with our subsistence way of life if the Federal
40 government is de-budget or de-lowered. Our concerns --
41 it's a corporate world out there and they will come in
42 and just run us over. The Federal government is not
43 there to have issues or have these conversations that
44 we're having how we're being impacted.

45
46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If I could maybe add
47 one thing. It is our goal -- I mean we do have to
48 implement ANILCA, so I don't think that will go away. I
49 think we'll see more things like -- we've been told that
50 if we, for example, have to move to a new building, we'll

1 all have smaller space. We won't have as big offices.
2 We'll probably get more of the crunching.

3
4 Then we're looking for creative things,
5 like doing things more electronically so we don't have to
6 print things. There are other things that we'll do, but
7 ANILCA still has to be.....

8
9 MR. R. NAGEAK: But that's one of our
10 recommendations, is have the tribes have more local
11 control with what they have. We've done it for, like I
12 say, a hundred years. I don't think we will err because
13 we'll take care of our resources. It's a given. It's
14 just a matter of what is allowed within our regions, what
15 is allowed when people who make money out of sport
16 hunting and they're the ones that pocket a lot of
17 legislative pockets to make the rules and regulations
18 from a statewide level.

19
20 From a corporate level, when oil is
21 concerned, how much pockets are lined by people that are
22 making the rules on regulations all over the country and
23 within the state. We need to start looking at that from
24 our own survival mode. Because of the budget
25 implications what the Federal government will be able to
26 do for us is starting to be limited already. Thank you.

27
28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you for sharing
29 your comments, Roy. Rosemary.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I also agree with Roy
32 on this issue. There's a lot of concern that's been
33 generated today in our discussion. Part of this process
34 is because these issues that we're discussing have been
35 fragmented so severally that we have overarching comments
36 that go through various layers of agencies and divisions
37 to address these concerns.

38
39 What he's bringing out shows a lot of
40 what the length of discussions on some of these topics
41 occurred today. This process is very concerning,
42 especially in light of the budget cuts and the limited
43 ability of Staff with all the demands that we have within
44 this process.

45
46 He's very right in expressing. We have
47 tremendous concerns and the limitations that are being
48 put upon us as these board members in the decision-making
49 process with the reality of the changes that are
50 occurring and the lack of our involvement and things that

1 are affecting subsistence harvesting. Thanks.
2
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you as well,
4 Rosemary, for your comments. James.
5
6 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah. I was just
7 wondering how can we as Native people with AFN happening
8 right now help decide that the services that are being
9 given to us, the money that it needs to increase is being
10 decreased, so how can we help to convince our
11 congressmen, congress people to put us on a line item or
12 something. How is that process for the Federal funding?
13
14 CO CHAIR BROWER: Oh, James Nageak for
15 President.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MR. J. NAGEAK: What?
20
21 CO CHAIR BROWER: Oh, James Nageak for
22 president.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 MR. J. NAGEAK: I'll be like Pat Paulson.
27 Remember him?
28
29 CO CHAIR BROWER: I worked for him one
30 time.
31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think as individuals
33 you have every right to contact your congressmen and tell
34 them that we need to make sure that the funding is there
35 for the subsistence program. As individuals, you can do
36 whatever you choose to do.
37
38 MR. J. NAGEAK: Is there a title or a
39 number we can give to our congress persons and say we
40 want an increase on this particular segment of the
41 Department of the Interior or the Department of the
42 Agriculture?
43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: You're correct. Both
45 the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture
46 both manage subsistence, so both budgets. I know
47 Agriculture has been under a little bit more targeting
48 perhaps of their subsistence program being cut more.
49 It's the Fish and Wildlife Service, but it's also
50 subsistence budgets at all of the agencies, BIA, BLM,

1 Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service.

2

3 MR. R. NAGEAK: James, we could start a
4 back or something like save the polar bears, save our
5 subsistence way of life and then we could donate some of
6 it to the Federal government.

7

8 CO CHAIR BROWER: Okay, Roy, could we
9 have a side conversation on this? We need to continue
10 with our agenda items. I know we've been here for the
11 past couple days and we'd like to -- Helen, I'm not sure
12 if you're done with your information items.

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The next one is the
15 briefing on tribal consultation. You've had a lot of
16 information already before you on that, so I don't really
17 need to go through that again because you were told this
18 morning October 20th is consultation with ANCSA
19 corporations at AFN. December 1st at the BIA Tribal
20 Service Providers Conference and then January 17th to
21 19th there will be Federal Subsistence Board discussion
22 of the protocols. Those protocols are on Page 150 and
23 151 for you to look at. It's also on Page 152 as well.

24

25

26 I thought Jean from the Park Service had
27 brought some updated -- did she hand them to you, Donald?

28

29 MR. MIKE: Andrew passed them out.

30

31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Andrew passed them
32 out. So I believe you have an updated one of these
33 interim protocols in front of you. They got handed out
34 at lunchtime. This was just informational, just to let
35 you know the process. That's all I have on that.

36

37 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Helen, for
38 the information you provided. Donald or Pete, is there
39 something that we need to bring up at this time under the
40 agenda items that we've been covering.

41

42 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I think we've been
43 going through agency reports and maybe just continue on
44 through the list here.

45

46 CO CHAIR BROWER: Donald.

47

48 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We went
49 through the climate change presentation yesterday and the
50 Council had agenda item number 13, information discussion

1 on the affects of climate change. If the wish of the
2 Council is to continue that discussion, that was the main
3 reason you brought this joint meeting together. So if
4 there's further discussion on the subject of an agenda
5 item, now is the time to present it.

6

7 We're pretty fast running out of time, so
8 I'll let the Council Chairs prioritize the remaining
9 agenda items. Thank you, Mr. Chairs.

10

11 CO CHAIR BROWER: Donald, I think you
12 mentioned something about a person wanting to give
13 testimony earlier. Was it on a specific proposal or just
14 on a subject we're discussing?

15

16 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There's a request
17 for public testimony. A particular issue wasn't
18 identified, so maybe you could recognize the public
19 request for testimony. Thank you.

20

21 (Pause)

22

23 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Okay. I guess what
24 we'll do is just continue with the agency reports and ask
25 that they be brief. The next agency on the agenda is the
26 National Park Service.

27

28 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, National Park
29 Service. If you could please go to Page 153. In the
30 interest of time, I'll just try to highlight some of the
31 updates that you may be most interested in, but there is
32 this update for you to read as well.

33

34 We had a Subsistence Resource Commission
35 meeting for Gates of the Arctic in May in Shungnak. Our
36 next SRC meeting is scheduled for November 9 & 10 in
37 Fairbanks. We're continuing to do biological surveys for
38 caribou, dall sheep and yellow-billed loons.

39

40 We also have weather stations that are
41 scheduled -- climate monitoring stations, excuse me, to
42 be installed within Gates of the Arctic National Park and
43 Preserve at four sites, Noatak National Preserve at six
44 sites, Kobuk Valley National Park at one site, Cape
45 Krusenstern National Monument at two sites, and Bering
46 Land Bridge National Preserve at four sites.

47

48 The ethnography program is continuing to
49 develop its resident-zone web portals for electronic
50 access for all of the resident-zone communities for Gates

1 of the Arctic. This past spring, visits and
2 presentations were made in the villages of Shungnak and
3 Kobuk. Upcoming next month in November, elders and
4 residents from the communities of Shungnak and Kobuk will
5 be traveling to Fairbanks to view more community-related
6 documents. This program is aimed at sharing the wealth
7 of knowledge derived from local communities that is many
8 times unavailable in the villages of origin.

9

10 In relation to Anaktuvuk Pass, the first
11 phase of a multi-year National Park Service funded
12 project on caribou traditional ecological knowledge is
13 wrapping up. Grant Spearman has finalized his project
14 entitled The Last Great Hunt and the second component
15 is focused specifically on caribou traditional knowledge
16 is being completed by Sverre Pedersen and it should be
17 out sometime in November.

18

19 The second phase of a TEK study was
20 underway in 2011 and it was focused on Kuuvaniit
21 knowledge of caribou. A scoping meeting was conducted in
22 the upper Kobuk communities and Kobuk village residents
23 and elders were interviewed in relation to caribou TEK.

24

25 Lastly, the Gates of the Arctic National
26 Park and Preserve 1986 General Management Plan is
27 currently being updated. I think that's it. That was
28 the really, really quick version. Any questions.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Marcy.
33 There appears to be no questions.

34

35 MS. OKADA: Thank you.

36

37 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
38 Park Service. I'll make this very short for this
39 meeting. In addition to our usual work for the Western
40 Arctic National Parklands, we did work on muskoxen
41 population and composition work on the Northern Seward
42 Peninsula and then with the Cape Thompson population,
43 including the Cape Krusenstern animals. This was
44 cooperatively done with ADF&G and other agencies.

45

46 We also conducted moose surveys,
47 population surveys in the Northern Seward Peninsula and
48 in Unit 23, again in cooperation with Fish and Wildlife
49 Service, especially ADF&G. Also some moose composition
50 work. We did some studies in the Kobuk Valley initially

1 studies on some black bear populations mostly aimed
2 around some genetics and health conditions and so forth,
3 using some innovative methods, relatively non-invasive
4 methods, which we could go into later.

5
6 The Arctic Network and Inventory Program,
7 Inventory Monitoring Program continues a number of
8 projects, most of which you've seen before and we'll have
9 updates and upcoming meetings on those. Then sheep work,
10 we conducted population surveys in the Bairds and again
11 cooperatively now throughout the Brooks Range and even
12 extended some of the methods in cooperation with the
13 Central Alaskan Inventory and Monitoring Network Program
14 of the Park Service all the way down to Wrangell and St.
15 Elias. So we're beginning to utilize a standard set of
16 methods for doing sheep across a very large area.

17
18 I might also add that we spent a fair
19 amount of time and money on finishing up the development
20 of a muskoxen protocol, again working on the Seward
21 Peninsula and in the Cape Thompson population area of
22 Unit 23 that we're developing a new distance sampling
23 method that will allow us to more cheaply develop a
24 statistically reliable population estimate for muskoxen
25 and we can do that and apply it across a broader growing
26 area at relatively less cost than the older methods that
27 people traditionally used, which were simply throwing a
28 lot of aircraft and Staff into an area and intensively
29 counting muskoxen and coming up with a basically a
30 minimum count estimate with no statistical measure of
31 reliability to the count or variation in the count.

32
33 That's been a really important thing for
34 us and ADF&G because in terms of the status of the
35 muskoxen population on the Seward Peninsula and in the
36 Cape Thompson area, it would appear that muskoxen numbers
37 are declining or possibly declining in the core areas
38 where some of the original re-introductions were taking
39 place. At the same time, the animals seems to be
40 expanding their range.

41
42 So, overall, it's possible that they
43 could be somewhat increasing slightly, but all
44 indications are that the overall population growth is
45 slowing or declining. Some areas may actually be
46 declining in terms of physical numbers of animals in
47 density within an area. It's important that we be able
48 to expand our survey area to accommodate this newer
49 expansion of the animals so we can get a better idea of
50 what is going on across the whole population.

1 And we continue to work on development of
2 a brown bear protocol, which we're finally nearing
3 completion of and that will give us a way of developing
4 relatively reliable and statistically valid brown bear
5 estimates at a much less cost than a lot of the
6 traditional methods of developing brown bear estimates,
7 which are capture and recapture methods. We are making
8 some progress. Most of the data gets turned into an
9 agency like ADF&G that acts as kind of the clearinghouse
10 and puts together the final reports and stuff so we don't
11 have a lot of information for you at this time.

12
13 We are going to be doing two SRC meetings
14 next month. The Krusenstern and the Kobuk Valley will
15 each meet separately on different dates and roughly the
16 middle of November. So we may have some updates and so
17 forth there. We're still working on things like the
18 sheep numbers and so forth and hopefully a lot of that
19 information will be available for your winter meeting.
20 I think for this meeting that's probably it.

21
22 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Ken. Any
23 questions.

24
25 MR. J. NAGEAK: Do you know which
26 direction the muskox are diverting? Hopefully away from
27 us.

28
29 MR. ADKISSON: That depends on where you
30 live. You're probably safe. The Seward Peninsula
31 animals seem to be going westward and northwest -- going
32 eastward rather and northeastward. So a lot of the
33 animals appear now up in the area of the Tag and up
34 towards the Selawik in the northern range of the Nulato
35 Hills and they're moving in larger number -- appearing in
36 larger numbers now in Game Units 22B and even in part of
37 northern 22A.

38
39 The Cape Thompson population, Geoff
40 Carroll has counted a number of animals way further north
41 than that, so they seem to be largely maybe going north
42 and perhaps somewhat to the east. There's more animals
43 showing up now actually, say east of the Kelly River even
44 in Unit 23. So most of the dispersal of those animals
45 appears to be north and northeastward, but still within
46 26A for the Cape Thompson.

47
48 MR. J. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CO CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead, James.

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: Should we make a proposal
2 to build a Bering Strait Bridge so they could go over
3 that way.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MR. ADKISSON: I'm sure some of the
8 Russians might actually like a few more animals over
9 there. Muskoxen right now don't seem to be doing very
10 well across most of the reintroduced ranges though and we
11 have a number of problems and concerns with them. It's
12 more and more of a focus of research interest too.

13
14 MR. J. NAGEAK: That's why they died off
15 in the first place.

16
17 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there are no further
18 questions to Ken, thank you for your information sharing,
19 Ken.

20
21 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Next we have the BLM
22 with Mr. Yokel.

23
24 DR. YOKEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
25 name is Dave Yokel. I'm a wildlife biologist for the
26 BLM's Arctic Field Office in Fairbanks. Our office
27 manages the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska or NPR-
28 A, which is on the North Slope. We began yet another
29 planning process for the NPR-A back in July of 2010 and
30 held scoping meeting for that plan and many of the
31 villages on the North Slope and in the Northwest Arctic
32 back in August and September of 2010.

33
34 Last fall a year ago we wrote chapters 1
35 and 3 for that plan for the draft. Right now -- well, we
36 went for a long waiting period for Washington, D.C. to
37 approve the alternatives for the plan because every plan
38 has to include a reasonable range of alternatives
39 according to the National Environmental Policy Act. They
40 finally gave it back to us this fall to start writing the
41 section of the plan that would describe the consequences
42 of those different alternatives.

43
44 I have the alternatives on my desk that
45 I'm not allowed to share them yet because they're not
46 public information until our draft plan comes out and
47 it's currently scheduled to come out in early April of
48 2012. I did have a slideshow to give you, but I decided
49 -- your next meeting is still going to be before April
50 and so I decided in respect to the time today I just put

1 that off until February because I think it's a little
2 premature now.

3

4 I will say that the alternatives that are
5 going to be included in the plan include the current
6 management of the NPR-A, which swings on two past plans,
7 one for the northwest NPR-A that we concluded in 2004 and
8 one for the Northeast NPR-A that we concluded in 2008 and
9 we have not yet planned for the southern portion of the
10 NPR-A. So the alternatives would range from that to
11 those that would withhold a substantial portion of the
12 NPR-A from leasing to one that would make all of the NPR-
13 A available for leasing with some protections for
14 sensitive areas.

15

16 Again, I can't share those with you now.
17 I won't even be able to share them with you next
18 February, but the plan will come out in April. After
19 that there will be at least a 60-day public comment
20 period and during that period we will also be holding
21 meetings in several villages and cities to get public
22 comment. So we'll be seeing some of you then with the
23 alternative maps in hand.

24

25 The NPR-A is on the North Slope and, of
26 course, also affects all of you in the Northwest Arctic,
27 as you know, because the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
28 calves or most of its calving area is in the NPR-A and
29 also the majority of its insect relief habitat in the
30 summer is in the southern portion of the NPR-A.

31

32 There's one thing that I can tell you now
33 because it's already public knowledge and that is in the
34 U.S. Geological Survey's latest assessment of oil and gas
35 resources in the NPR-A they've greatly reduced the amount
36 of economically recoverable oil that they think is there
37 and the southern portion of the NPR-A down there along
38 the Brooks Range where most of the activity by the
39 Western Arctic Herd occurs is currently considered to not
40 contain economically recoverable oil or gas resources.
41 That doesn't cover all of the Western Arctic Herd's range
42 in NPR-A but a good deal of it.

43

44 I think I'll stop there in the interest
45 of time and if you have any questions that I'm allowed to
46 answer, I'll try to do so. Thank you.

47

48 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

49

50 CO CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead.

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: Just out of curiosity,
2 it's called Petroleum Reserve. If no oil is found, will
3 it still be a reserve?
4
5 DR. YOKEL: In 1923 President Warren
6 Harding set aside that land as a Naval Petroleum Reserve
7 #4, so the term reserve was used in at least three other
8 areas of the country that were reserved for oil
9 production. In 1976, Congress passed the Naval Petroleum
10 Reserves Production Act, which took the Naval Petroleum
11 Reserve #4 from the Department of Defense and gave it to
12 the Department of Interior to manage and renamed it a
13 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.
14
15 That legislation withdraws the NPR-A from
16 the public land laws, which affect most all of the BLM
17 lands in the nation. You cannot stake a claim for mining
18 in the NPR-A. It's not open to locatable minerals. It's
19 not open to leasing for coal. It's currently reserved
20 for petroleum production. What the Congress chooses to
21 do in the future, you and I will both have to remain
22 curious because they'll let us know when they're ready to
23 tell us, I suppose.
24
25 MR. R. NAGEAK: Revert back to nature?
26
27 DR. YOKEL: We like to think it's there
28 now.
29
30 MR. R. NAGEAK: Right. That's the way we
31 like it. It's peaceful.
32
33 DR. YOKEL: Well, we, of course, come to
34 Barrow to receive comments on our plan and we'll take
35 your comments there when we come again.
36
37 CO CHAIR BROWER: Dave, I was going to
38 say we've been using that subsurface for ice cellars for
39 a very long time. That's what they forgot. For
40 refrigeration.
41
42 DR. YOKEL: Fortunately we don't have to
43 permit that use and most of it around the villages is not
44 Federal surface anymore.
45
46 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Any other
47 questions or comments to Dr. Yokel.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Dave.
2
3 DR. YOKEL: Thank you.
4
5 CO CHAIR BROWER: I didn't get this other
6 person's name. Go ahead.
7
8 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. Council. My
9 name is Merben Cebrian. I'm the new wildlife biologist,
10 the counterpart for Dr. Yokel over here for the Central
11 Yukon Field Office of BLM. I've just been assigned to
12 Fairbanks. I moved up there from Glennallen and before
13 Glennallen lived in Tok for a while. So I'm back in
14 Fairbanks working for BLM as the new wildlife biologist.
15 That position has been vacant for I think a year and a
16 half before I came on Board and I just came on Board in
17 August, so there's quite a bit of learning curve to
18 understand all the issues in the area, in the region, but
19 I'm looking forward to a very productive collaboration
20 with this Council as I had with the Southcentral Council
21 back in Unit 13.
22
23 This is a very short summary of what's
24 going on in the office. The BLM Central Yukon Field
25 Office continues to be active in the Western Arctic
26 Caribou Herd Working Group. The next meeting for this
27 working group is set for the end of November here in
28 Anchorage. The BLM will be assisting with a spring
29 geospatial population estimation count for moose in the
30 Lower Kobuk area.
31
32 The Central Yukon Field Office is still
33 working with the Kobuk/Seward Plan Recreation Management
34 Plan amendment, which specifically addresses the Squirrel
35 River Special Recreation Management Area. The principal
36 issues of this plan are to address recreation and travel
37 management components that are not fully addressed in the
38 KSP RMP for the Squirrel River.
39
40 All transporters and air taxi operators
41 taking clients to BLM managed lands in the Squirrel River
42 area were required to have a BLM permit. So permits are
43 issued there and I think the idea now for the following
44 year is to have deadlines for the transporters and guides
45 to submit their permit applications and conduct a
46 comprehensive Section .810 analysis for that activity.
47
48 We had a detailed ranger, law enforcement
49 ranger this year doing field flights and working out of
50 the Kotzebue Field Station. One permit was denied after

1 a follow up to a law enforcement matter.

2

3 For fisheries there are two issues that
4 come to mind. Kivalina River and Squirrel River.
5 Fisheries habitat inventories are done on the Kivalina
6 River and dolly varden was found in the middle fork.
7 With the Squirrel River projects that look into
8 four-wheel trails near hunting guide camps were conducted
9 to determine if they were adversely affecting the fish
10 habitat.

11

12 That concludes my report. Very short.
13 If you have any questions, I'll take them now.

14

15 MR. SWAN: Austin here. I live in
16 Kivalina. Is it the Wulik or Kivalina River you're
17 referring to?

18

19 MR. CEBRIAN: There was an aerial count
20 of adult dolly varden in the middle fork of Grayling
21 Creek.

22

23 MR. SWAN: I'm just wondering. We have
24 two rivers that go into the Kivalina Lagoon and the
25 Kivalina River is a much smaller river, not as high count
26 as the Wulik River drainage. So I'm kind of wondering
27 which river was worked on.

28

29 MR. CEBRIAN: Through the Chair. I'll
30 forward the question to our fisheries biologist, Dave
31 Parker.

32

33 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Ray.

34

35 MR. STONEY: Well, we all know that in
36 Kiana the Squirrel River is right there at Kiana. How
37 many permit do you have that used for this hunting season
38 at the Squirrel and how many client do you have?

39

40 MR. CEBRIAN: Through the Chair. I don't
41 have that information right now, but as soon as I get
42 back I'll ask our special recreation permit person, Kelly
43 Egger, to get that number.

44

45 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

48

49 MR. R. NAGEAK: That was one of the first
50 things that I asked too, is how many permits are allowed

1 within the North Slope
2 and that question too seems to be concurrent with what we
3 need to know is how many permits or how people are
4 allowed to hunt, sport hunters with planes in those camps
5 and whether there's any control because that's an issue,
6 whether the State allows anybody to fly anywhere to hunt
7 and only in places like the Park areas or the Federal
8 government allows them to get permits. Any other place
9 it's just wide open. M

10

11 Maybe those are the questions that we
12 need to know or be answered if they're do-able. How many
13 people really go to our regions to do sport hunting? It
14 would be so easy in the Dalton Highway to do that same
15 count. It's been impacting us for many years. Just to
16 alleviate the conflict.

17

18 Like I stated earlier, if there's enough
19 scientifically proved caribou and the comment made by
20 that guy that it's real hard to count muskox, when they
21 fly over it probably the same principal that they use for
22 caribou and the counts when they do caribou, whether it's
23 missing a lot of caribou. If we're privy to see what
24 kind of pressures are being put into our region by sport
25 hunters or permitted game guides or whatnot, it really
26 would help us.

27

28 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy.

29

30 MR. CEBRIAN: Through the Chair. The BLM
31 doesn't have a guide use area plan unlike the Park
32 Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, so we are
33 struggling with that issue, the perceived conflict
34 between guides and transporters and subsistence hunters
35 and recreational hunters as well. This issue has been
36 brought to my attention from our manager, so I'm going to
37 start looking into this issue.

38

39 There are some things we can start to put
40 into place, such as putting a deadline, for example, on
41 when the guides and transporters can apply for their
42 permits and then potentially looking at how much harvests
43 are allowable or what the targets for harvest are in
44 conjunction with fish and game numbers. So these things
45 we're working on.

46

47 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. I like the
48 idea of first making it scientifically proven that the
49 subsistence resources that we eat will allow other
50 outside people to come in and hunt within our regions, to

1 scientifically prove that it could support. Like I
2 stated earlier, it's good to share what you have, but if
3 it's not going to be enough, then it can't be allowed.
4 Or whether there's language in ANILCA that says that the
5 subsistence people got to be first for their livelihood.

6

7 So those are the issues that need to be
8 forefront and knowing what kind of pressure is being put
9 to our subsistence resources, those are numbers that we
10 would like to know. Dalton would be real easy.

11

12 CO CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead, Ray.

13

14 MR. STONEY: I've got a final question
15 about the Squirrel River. We all know that BLM controls
16 the game management at the Squirrel and of course we all
17 know they've been issued permits. Now these permits,
18 what is their cycle, yearly or is it two or three years?

19

20 MR. CEBRIAN: Through the Chair. The
21 plan currently is two years.

22

23 MR. STONEY: Three?

24

25 MR. CEBRIAN: Two.

26

27 MR. STONEY: Yeah.

28

29 MR. CEBRIAN: And it's going to be
30 staggered so that somebody who gets a permit now won't
31 have to get another permit
32 in two years and somebody who gets a permit the following
33 year won't have to get a permit two years after that.
34 That's the idea.

35

36 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair. How many
37 permits are allowed within the Squirrel River a year?

38

39 MR. CEBRIAN: That would best be answered
40 by the State, I believe. The BLM doesn't have limit.

41

42 MR. R. NAGEAK: I know. The State didn't
43 know the question I asked earlier.

44

45 MR. CEBRIAN: I can find some historical
46 information. Through the Chair.

47

48 MR. R. NAGEAK: Those are the things that
49 we need, is how much the State permits within our region.
50 Somehow that number didn't come up the last question on

1 the Dalton Highway. Now we need to get an idea of what
2 the State allows. It's wide open. Just anybody could
3 get a permit that's got a plane and land and shoot. It's
4 wide open. Thank you.

5
6 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ray.

7
8 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A
9 final question to you is the reporting that we've been
10 hearing for a number of years now at the Squirrel River
11 only, which is controlled by BLM, the clients were
12 counting at 120, 130 in that area, so now we know that
13 there's people up there. Are they still increasing?

14
15 MR. CEBRIAN: I don't have the answer to
16 that right now, through the Chair, but I can find out
17 these historical information and I can tell you the
18 trends. I'll submit the information to Donald and
19 hopefully Donald will disseminate that information.
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CO CHAIR BROWER: If there are no further
23 questions or comments to BLM, we have another agency we
24 need to address.

25
26 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you very much.

27
28
29 CO CHAIR BROWER: Alaska Department of
30 Fish and Game Staff. I feel like we're going through a
31 proposal. Jennifer.

32
33 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Chairman Brown,
34 Chairman Schaeffer and the members of both of the
35 Councils. Thank you for a good meeting. We had a lot of
36 very weighty proposals, had a lot of difference of
37 opinion and thank you to everyone for keeping the
38 conversation respectful at the meeting and even to the
39 brothers for providing some humor throughout the meeting.

40
41 Since we're in a different section of the
42 agenda and we're not actually discussing the proposal,
43 there's a few things I'd like to bring up with regards to
44 the Arctic Village issue and the Red Sheep Creek closure
45 proposal.

46
47 When we come to these meetings, we're, as
48 I said previously, discussing questions within certain
49 parameters and which way we can make a recommendation or
50 make a vote. The proposal is bound to make a

1 recommendation to oppose the proposal. My position is
2 housed within Fish and Game. When I come to these
3 meetings, I am representing the State.

4
5 So I want to go over other avenues that
6 maybe we can pursue as a group to try and find some
7 answers for some of these people that are being affected
8 in this area. This body makes decisions on whether to
9 open or close seasons, bag limits and permits for people
10 to be able to hunt and fish, but other bodies make
11 different decisions. I've heard a lot of suggestions
12 brought that wouldn't be discussed at a meeting like
13 this. Things to do with the land. The State does not
14 have land in that area, but I've been asked could they
15 close the airplane use. Well, they, in this instance,
16 would be the adjacent Federal land managers. It would be
17 dependant upon each land manager.

18
19 The people are being affected by these
20 issues in Arctic Village are residents of the state. So
21 one of their avenues to go through would be the Citizens
22 Advisory Council on Federal Areas. I mentioned that
23 before. Stan Leaphart, who is housed in DNR is the
24 executive director for that body. When we come to these
25 meetings we often are putting things in the context of a
26 rural user or a nonrural user or a State user or a
27 Federal user. The people that are affected are all
28 residents of Alaska and are all able to be represented
29 through the CACFA board.

30
31 I don't know if there's specific
32 questions from the Council on any of the other topics
33 that we brought up or any specifics that they'd be
34 requiring for the next meeting, but I'd be happy to try
35 and answer them.

36
37 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

40
41 MR. R. NAGEAK: Sporting permits that are
42 issued by the State for regions, can we see that number
43 too?

44
45 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chairman. I took
46 notes as you were asking throughout the meeting. It was
47 not something that was asked before the meeting, so I
48 didn't bring that material, but I'm happy to do the same
49 thing and provide what information we can through Donald
50 Mike to be provided to the members of the RAC.

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: Along the same lines when
2 the Dalton Highway was opened and how many people went
3 through there for the purpose of hunting, that would
4 really help us too.

5
6 MS. YUHAS: Through the Chairman. I made
7 a note of that question.

8
9 MR. R. NAGEAK: We need somebody like you
10 to monitor that in the dead of winter.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman. Can you do
15 that to me?

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CO CHAIR BROWER: I'm not sure we can
20 give you any directives at this time. That will have to
21 come from your boss, I think. She only helps provide
22 information for us, Roy. Don't put her on the spot.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CO CHAIR BROWER: I don't know if there's
27 any other questions or comments to Jennifer at this time.
28 Rosemary.

29
30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've had a lot of
31 discussion and we've demonstrated that the piecemeal
32 process and the issues that we're bringing are very
33 important between the State and Federal process. We've
34 had a lot of discussion of two problems that have
35 happened and subsistence users that are being impacted.
36 We're also very concerned of lack of information and the
37 assessments that you're going to be doing on some of this
38 process.

39
40 We recognize we don't have adequate data
41 to make some of these assessments and the State needs to
42 recognize that that is an issue that we've discussed as
43 part of these processes. There is going to be some
44 information assessed, but it needs to be looked at with
45 the caveat of there's information that's not been
46 accumulated that would affect your assessment if the
47 State had the foresight of getting that information.

48
49 We've had a lot of discussions about
50 conflicts on both sides with the Northwest and the North

1 Slope. I think we're demonstrating that this needs to be
2 revisited again in the future as we're looking at issues
3 that are affecting both sides and we need to be able to
4 come back and communicate on whether decisions that are
5 made from our discussions are even helping us in some of
6 these issues that we're discussing here and come back and
7 readdress them. Thank you.

8

9 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any other questions
10 for the ADF&G.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Jennifer.

15

16 MS. YUHAS: Thank you.

17

18 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Next on the list is
19 the final organization of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews, subsistence
23 coordinator for Arctic. I'll pass around a little
24 bookmark, I suppose, and Roy can tell me which caribou
25 herd that is from. But this will give you the basic
26 information on how you can find out more about the Arctic
27 National Wildlife Comprehensive Conservation Plan. This
28 is volume 1. There's a same volume 2 of the same size I
29 should say.

30

31 But you need to know about what's called
32 the CCP. It is the document that guides the long-term
33 management of the Refuge. This incorporates new
34 information, changes in laws, policies and Refuge
35 conditions that have occurred since the last plan, which
36 would have been 1988. It includes a vision statement and
37 a set of management goals and objectives, revised
38 management guidelines and a set of six alternatives.

39

40 So with that, I'll leave that. The
41 meeting dates on this open house and public hearing,
42 what's left, is right now the Fairbanks public hearing is
43 going on today. They'll be meeting in Kaktovik on
44 October 25th. In Fort Yukon on October 28th. All this
45 is on Page 157 of your book.

46

47 I do want to take advantage of this
48 moment to ask you, because I'm new to this position. I
49 used to be a coordinator for Western and Eastern
50 Interior, so I'm quite familiar with the Federal

1 Subsistence Program, but I'm not clear on what you would
2 like in an agency report. If you want to tell me now or
3 in some other way, what would you like in an agency
4 report. The second phase of that would be when would you
5 like it.

6
7 I know that the issues that come up, the
8 biologists, the managers, would like to get some of the
9 biological data that may be very current that didn't get
10 into the analysis earlier on in the agenda before you
11 take proposals, so that would be one suggestion on when.
12 But I also need to know what you want to know in an
13 agency report. I mean all these units do a lot of things
14 and I don't know what level you would like from Arctic
15 Refuge. The other Refuges I work with we go through
16 similar what BLM did.

17
18 So if you have a moment or can get back
19 to me what you would like in these reports, then we can
20 do that and then we can try to meet the deadline to get
21 it in the book. I've heard that loud and clear you want
22 the materials before you come to the meeting, but we need
23 to know what you would like and then we'd try to meet
24 that date.

25
26 I know that possibly Roy will be bringing
27 up the permits and all that and I believe that's in your
28 annual report, the request for that. I don't know the
29 timing of that, but obviously I'll be carrying that back
30 to the Refuge. I know it's in here, but I don't want to
31 use this. This is a draft. I'd rather give a chance for
32 management to verify the special use permit. All the
33 other questions you had on non-local use permitting.

34
35 So I'll leave that for any questions.

36
37 CO CHAIR BROWER: Raymond.

38
39 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As we
40 all know, the wildlife refuge is also in Selawik Valley
41 and I've noticed a number of years now that the people
42 that wanted to hunt in that area is required a permit in
43 wildlife refuge. Right next to it is a BLM controlled
44 land also. My question would be that if somebody wanted
45 to hunt in that two areas do they need one permit or two
46 permits for BLM and wildlife refuge.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't catch the area
49 that you were talking about. Could you mention that area
50 again.

1 MR. STONEY: Well, we know that wildlife
2 refuge is in Selawik Valley and right next to it is BLM.
3 Do you need one permit for those two areas?

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: I can't answer that
6 question because I don't work in that area and I'm sure
7 I will confuse you if I give an answer. That will have
8 to go to Selawik Refuge or if someone here from BLM can
9 answer that. I'm not familiar with the area. I know
10 permits are challenging and I'm working on that in
11 another area, but it is challenging. It would have to go
12 to Selawik and BLM office in that area to answer that
13 question.

14
15 MR. R. NAGEAK: Vincent, I'm just trying
16 to think of what we would like in a report. I think it's
17 the resources that we basically use for subsistence. I
18 mean caribou has been one of the top resources that we'd
19 like to hear about and what kind of information is being
20 collected by the resource managers. Population counts,
21 how they're doing, population trends, whether declining
22 or increasing, those kind of information. I think the
23 more reasonable ones would be the ones that are having
24 more problems, like the muskox.

25
26 I think that's something that we've
27 always -- you know, if you know there's opposition to
28 have in the muskox, but there's communities within our
29 North Slope that depended on this resource as well before
30 the declines. Now they're doing without and having to
31 move to other resources. So that would be caribou,
32 muskox, moose. Those primary resources that we've
33 identified, sheep, that could be used by our communities
34 would be, in my opinion, the priority resources that we
35 would like to hear information on. There are probably 15
36 or 14 resources that we use within the North Slope, but
37 the primary ones that provide us our sustenance I think
38 are our primary concern.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: You mentioned earlier in
41 the meeting and I did try to pursue that and wasn't able
42 to, but you mentioned early in your meeting about having
43 law enforcement present at your meeting. Do you want
44 that a standard practice? Do you want to put that
45 request in there? I'm not saying they can make it. I am
46 working with the officers. There's several officers that
47 do want to engage with you on issues. Would you want to
48 have an officer if they're available. Realize they're
49 all patrolling right now on other issues, but did you
50 want that to be kind of a standard practice? I can carry

1 that back. Because each Refuge that I'm working with
2 except one have Staff that are trained law enforcement.

3

4 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.

7

8 MR. R. NAGEAK: It seems like we've been
9 in a conflict with the wildlife officers. We want to be
10 more proactive. With some of the concerns that I heard
11 that right away they criminalize our people and
12 confiscate what they catch. It's like right on the spot
13 they make -- they're the court. Right there they make a
14 spot check of that guy even though he reported and say
15 that, they took the fur away. Whether this should be a
16 process because from what I heard law enforcement has got
17 something to say, he should charge, he's the court and
18 right away guilty, take the fur away. There's got to be
19 a better process than that.

20

21 And availability of sealing, that's one
22 issue that needs to be made available. We need to find
23 out how it would work for the betterment of our people in
24 each village that will utilize the brown bears. Those
25 kind of things. We just want to open up a relationship
26 instead of them not attending these meetings and just be
27 conflict orientated. We want to open a dialogue with
28 them to see where they come from and which laws and rules
29 and regulations that drives them to be the judge right
30 there and confiscate. We need to start a relationship
31 and there's no other way but to get involved and see what
32 our concerns are.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair. I'll pass that
35 on. I do want to caution you on one thing. The officers
36 would not be able to discuss cases that are pending or
37 whatever. They would be there to say if you want to do
38 this, how would they -- what would they need to do to
39 enforce that or what is their viewpoint on stuff. But
40 they could not bring up pending cases or whatever. So
41 just be aware of that.

42

43 MR. R. NAGEAK: But we need to be aware
44 of the rules and regulations that allow them to do that.
45 Which laws are we breaking that allows them to
46 confiscate?

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. I'll pass that
49 forward. I'm not making any commitment on them. I'm
50 just saying I heard that earlier and we'll see what is

1 available on that.

2

3 MR. R. NAGEAK: For your question, these
4 are from the Porcupine Herd because they got longer legs.
5 I know for a fact I've seen Athabascan girls from Arctic
6 Village that almost got legs like that.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: I will pass that
11 traditional ecological knowledge on to our Staff. Thank
12 you.

13

14 CO CHAIR BROWER: Michael.

15

16 MR. KRAMER: You wanted to find out how
17 we get our reports. At our last RAC meeting in Kotzebue
18 was some of the most outstanding reports I've ever heard.
19 You could go to our minutes, Northwest Arctic's minutes,
20 and you'll be able to see our agency reports in there.
21 I was very impressed how Fish and Wildlife, Fish and
22 Game, BLM gave their reports. For the guy for BLM there
23 was five permits issued in 2009 and there was -- I'm
24 unsure as to how many were renewed in 2011. I do hold a
25 commercial services seat for Northwest Arctic and I
26 should have done some research to try and find out that
27 information to get it here. Next time I will.

28

29 But a good guide for agency reports is
30 look at our last minutes and you'll be impressed. They
31 gave us the amount of guides, amount of transporters,
32 amount of animals that were taken, all in their report,
33 but animals were studied, the impact on the resources
34 that we solely depend on, they gave those kind of
35 reports. That's all I've got.

36

37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CO CHAIR BROWER: Rosemary.

40

41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I also would like to
42 see -- there's been a lot of discussion to change the
43 designation in ANWR and there's been efforts to increase
44 activities in that area. To be proactive, I'd like to
45 see some information on the nearshore environment,
46 biological important areas of this area. Some assessment
47 of nearshore activities and things that can affect our
48 subsistence species that are important to us.

49

50 Also there has been tremendous activity

1 between Nuiqsut and Kaktovik and there needs to be some
2 assessment of these reports that have been done there in
3 discussion for that area. Let's see.

4

5 And I also wanted to support the effort
6 to have some interaction with the process to deal with
7 the enforcement officers. I think we can deal with it in
8 a generalized fashion in which we get some assessment, 17
9 cases of people dealing with fish issues, 14 cases of
10 people dealing with caribou issues in kind of an outline
11 of some of the issues associated with that and why we're
12 having increasing numbers or not. Then ways that we can
13 either educate our subsistence users or sometimes it's an
14 enforcement officer as to what subsistence is to help
15 reduce these conflicts. Thank you.

16

17 CO CHAIR BROWER: Did that help for a
18 start, Vincent?

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it's a very good
21 start and I appreciate all the information and appreciate
22 the patience you've had listening to Staff. You have to
23 realize we're covering a lot of topics, so give us
24 direction, but give us time to pull that off and you
25 could see here -- and I want to emphasize that there is
26 a lot of cooperation going on between the State and
27 Federal agencies. It needs to be done and it's going on.
28 Sometimes you don't see it, but it is going on. I just
29 wanted to make that known. We're all looking at the same
30 thing, conserving that resource for present and future
31 uses.

32

33 MR. R. NAGEAK: But as long as you're not
34 subservient to the State, as long as you're equal to each
35 other, you'll be much happier.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: I have no comment other
38 than we have the same goal.

39

40 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Vincent, for
41 your presentation. I'm not exactly sure where we are on
42 time. Do we need a little break or how are we doing. We
43 have to establish our location in winter meeting,
44 establish a date and location of fall meeting. Donald,
45 made the comment of having additional discussions in
46 regards to our reason why we had called this joint
47 meeting, information discussions on effects of climate
48 change on subsistence. Donald.

49

50 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just

1 briefly. I just want to remind the Council that there
2 are members that their terms are expiring. For North
3 Slope Council, Lee Kayotuk and Rosemary. Their terms
4 expire in 2012. I have some applications if they're
5 interested in reapplying. I already got the application
6 from Rosemary. Lee, if you're interested in reapplying,
7 I have applications. If you can pass the word around
8 that we have nominations opening now.

9
10 For the Northwest areas, Enoch, Austin
11 and Leslie, their terms are expiring in 2012. If they're
12 interested in reapplying, I have applications for them.
13 They also can take home the applications to distribute
14 them within their community.

15
16 One item, they mentioned the Western
17 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group's meeting and I'm sure
18 that the Northwest or North Slope have some
19 representatives in the working group that they have
20 identified in the past. If these Councils are interested
21 in these members to attend the working group, I think
22 might want to reaffirm that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In response to his
25 comments about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
26 Group, there is a process in which they have generated a
27 resolution in support of the recommendations from that
28 group and it has gone to the various tribes. If your
29 tribe hasn't seen it yet, you can communicate with them.
30 It is a very good resolution. It takes in a lot of
31 considerations. Thank you. Ten villages had already
32 passed it.

33
34 CO CHAIR BROWER: Coming back to one of
35 our earlier agenda items, this item number 13 on Page 2,
36 informational discussions on the effects of climate
37 change on subsistence.

38
39 MR. R. NAGEAK: Five minutes.

40
41 CO CHAIR BROWER: You want five minutes
42 discussion? Okay. Starting with the Chairs.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Actually, I think we
47 already spent three hours or so on the subject already.

48
49 CO CHAIR BROWER: I can probably share
50 some observations in terms of climate change impacts on

1 some of the resources that I specifically go and try to
2 catch and am having a hard time in regards to fishing.
3 Fall fishing is one of the -- the icing situation is not
4 what it used to be. The fish continue to migrate into
5 our river systems. I'm not sure if they're being
6 impacted as well in terms of their spawning timing,
7 specifically broad whitefish. That's what we try to
8 harvest because of our practices and what we depend on
9 for other supplemental resources. The climate change has
10 really impacted our access to conduct the activity.
11 There's hardly any ice. It's a cold water fish. I'm not
12 sure how they're continuing with the changes that are
13 occurring now.

14
15 I was trying to keep my boys out at the
16 camp earlier this fall. They ended up coming back. They
17 got a small amount of fish and the problems we were
18 facing was we were trying to conduct our fishing as what
19 we did in the past at a certain timeframe and that's not
20 occurring because of the conditions. The icing is very
21 slow. The water temperatures are much warmer. There's
22 other species of fish in the river that creates a problem
23 for the fish we're trying to pursue. These are the one
24 resource I can speak to at this time.

25
26 Access is becoming to be a problem as
27 well over the course of summer due to climate change.
28 Dry summers. Our river water levels are very low. We're
29 not able to get to our preferred hunting camps because of
30 that situation, because of the dryer summers. The other
31 observation is the cooler summers the past couple years.
32 The caribou are real healthy, but we're having problem
33 with access, getting to the resources.

34
35 There's a lot of different modes of
36 activity going on. There might be, just my opinion,
37 deflection of caribou occurring. Roy made the comment
38 earlier about taking caribou from the lead group that's
39 setting up the scent trail. Our elders have taught us to
40 wait, let those first groups of caribou go by and develop
41 that scent trail for the rest of the migration or the
42 other caribou to come through. When there's hunting going
43 on right from the start, when those first groups comes
44 in, there's a deflection that occurs and creates a
45 situation for other hunters and animals themselves
46 deflecting, becoming harder to get to. Then it becomes
47 a community problem.

48
49 I see that in my own community happening.
50 There's other modes of transportation and other hunters

1 coming in to take advantage of the resource and the mode
2 of transportation they use, the four-wheeling, in the
3 midst of summer without being considerate of what our
4 practices were before. I see that from my own
5 observations and I share that with you in terms of
6 potential impact occurring even before the resource is
7 made available to the majority of our hunters.

8
9 The other subsistence resources that we
10 depend on we might be able to share in terms of migratory
11 birds and marine mammals. That's what we don't really
12 discuss or don't address in this forum, but there's some
13 concerns with those other resources.

14
15 But maybe I'll just stop here to share
16 with you in terms of climate change, the springs are much
17 earlier, we have lesser time for being out at our camps
18 because of our access is being shortened because of the
19 warmer temperatures, continuous sunlight melting the
20 snow. Our access gets cut down and makes it dangerous
21 for us to be out in those areas because of the danger
22 that the river is flooding earlier or water accumulation
23 happening much faster. There's been several instances
24 where people got trapped on one side of the river and
25 they've had to leave their snowmachines and their gear
26 and whatever they harvested and couldn't get back until
27 midsummer or the next winter. But that's a growing
28 concern.

29
30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'll give you the
31 reminder to ask about the spring whaling and ice
32 conditions. You didn't comment about that.

33
34 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, I mean that's why
35 I was saying these are some of the other resources that
36 we don't deal with here within this forum, our activity
37 of whaling, walrus hunting, even the bearded seal hunting
38 are much different than just 10 years ago or five years
39 ago. Thanks for reminding me, Rosemary, but I wasn't
40 really wanting to get into discussion. These are changes
41 caused by climate change. Our ocean currents are much
42 faster and they're consistently going one direction.
43 There's no slowing down of changing what used to occur
44 when we had a lot of ice.

45
46 That multi-year ice. It doesn't have a
47 presence anymore. The type of ice that we're dealing
48 with is the first year ice, which is only like three and
49 a half feet thick that grows over the course of winter.
50 That's not even grounded in the spring. We're having to

1 look for areas where we find the biggest pressure ridges
2 thinking that those areas have been grounded by the
3 weight of the ice. I've made my own mistakes and
4 learning experiences. Some of this ice are not grounded
5 because the weight isn't there. I mean they just calve
6 off and drift off.

7
8 I got into a very dangerous situation
9 with my crew these past couple years thinking that this
10 ice was grounded and we had a warm day and that ice just
11 started calving and we had set up our camp thinking that
12 it was grounded. And it was consistent. It just kept
13 going, going and going. Here we were trying to pack
14 slowly thinking that we'll be safe. When I looked back
15 the second time it was already 100 feet away from us. We
16 were like 250 feet away from the edge. The edge was
17 already at 100 feet away and we were slowly packing. I
18 started hollering at my guys. I don't normally do that
19 but I did to get them to start moving much faster and
20 start taking the snowmachines away from that edge or we'd
21 be losing some of our equipment.

22
23 So these are the conditions that we're
24 going through in terms of the changing of climate and the
25 impacts from that climate change. Ice, the thickness of
26 ice and the use of ice, it's very different now and it
27 thaws a lot faster with the fast current. You could
28 think just from looking at the surface and it's snow-
29 covered, you think it's safe to walk on there and it's
30 not. You can stick a walking stick right through some of
31 that snow and there's no bottom because it's melted from
32 the bottom and all the ice is gone from the fast current
33 moving, turbulence.

34
35 These are experiences I share with you
36 that I learned from just these past few years. I keep
37 reminding my men in my whaling crew not to walk anywhere
38 off the camp. If you're going to walk off the camp and
39 start scouting, bring your walking stick. That's the
40 first thing our elders had taught us. You have to bring
41 your walking stick to make sure whatever you're walking
42 on is safe to continue walking on.

43
44 I try to bring all this knowledge that I
45 have and share it with them. One of my men decided to go
46 walking, thinking I was just BS'ing with him and I
47 wasn't, I was serious, and he walked off. Good think he
48 didn't walk off more than a quarter mile because he fell
49 through. He was just barely hanging on. There's a swift
50 current underneath that snow and he was just barely

1 hanging on for his life otherwise he would have been
2 swept underneath that ice.

3
4 Good thing there was other guys looking
5 around and making observations of what we were dealing
6 with out in the ocean and we were able to bring him back
7 up. He went back to town and never came back out.
8 That's how afraid he got. He said I don't trust this ice
9 anymore. I told him you should have listened to me to
10 begin with. Where was your walking stick. He said he
11 thought I was just BS'ing with him. I told him I'm
12 trying to help you guys to keep your survival skills up.

13
14 The other thing I have to pass on is the
15 importance of a knife outside your parka and your
16 coveralls. You have to keep it on the outside of you so
17 you can pull it out to use it to help pull yourself up.
18 These are some of the things we were taught to not forget
19 using them.

20
21 So these are some of the observations and
22 changes that we're going through even in our hunting
23 practices. I'll stop here and maybe there's some others
24 that could comment on some of the other observations that
25 are made in terms of climate change. Thank you.

26
27 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I think yesterday we
28 did talk a bit about the subject already. I know that
29 we're also concerned about changing weather patterns.
30 The storms seem more severe than they used to be.

31
32 Then there's also changed animal
33 behaviors that I think are becoming a concern to us, in
34 particular the caribou. With warmer climates, they seem
35 to be moving later. What's not changing is there
36 patterns when they rut and then when they are born in the
37 spring.

38
39 One of the problems that we have is when
40 they move late -- you know, we use the caribou head for
41 some of our traditional celebrations, making akaduq (ph)
42 and stuff like that and when they rut they're basically
43 no good no more. That's usually when they start moving,
44 right about now. I mean for the first time, at least
45 where I live 30 miles from Kotzebue, the caribou finally
46 showed up but the bulls were no good. The big ones
47 anyway.

48
49 I think the same pattern of concern is
50 people who use the animals for food wind up on the short

1 end of the stick when it comes to harvesting and that is
2 becoming a problem of significance to people in our area.

3
4 The other issue we're dealing with is the
5 conflict issue where it's emerged into kind of a major
6 problem in terms of how we respond to changed hunting
7 patterns, being forced out of some of our traditional
8 places to hunt because those traditional places were not
9 by accident, they were by how the animals behaved and how
10 the hunters responded to the behaviors we could
11 anticipate. Now it's like it's hard to do because of the
12 later and later migration.

13
14 I know that we also have some other
15 experiences and I know that this is mainly talking about
16 terrestrial animals, but we have concerns about what's
17 happening to the ocean mammals as well. I think that
18 some of the evidence that we're starting to see that the
19 animals are getting unhealthy is starting to emerge as a
20 growing problem that we're wondering what is going on
21 with those marine mammal populations because we are still
22 dependant on those animals for sustaining the Inupiat way
23 of life.

24
25 I'd be interested to know what we don't
26 know about what's happening with some of the observations
27 that we're seeing and how long will it take for science
28 to document this stuff to have meaningful studies done to
29 try to figure out what in the hell is going on here. So
30 I think just having that climate change also results in
31 animal behavior change, which results in human behavior
32 change to have to try to meet our basic needs for
33 whatever resource that happens to show up that's highly
34 migratory and maybe you only have that particular day or
35 afternoon to meet your needs for the whole year.

36
37 I know when I first got on the bandwagon
38 for fish and game management, that was a significant
39 issue where the bag limit was one or two animals,
40 particularly for caribou, because I know back in the
41 1950s we were allocated for each family no more than five
42 animals a year, which was crazy. Even you're responsible
43 because then what happened was that it drove traditional
44 hunting and fishing into an underground activity where
45 hunters in the winter waited at the mouth of the Noatak
46 until it got dark. A good leader, of course, it gets
47 right to your backyard, but good thing they didn't know
48 that.

49
50 The other time it happened was when the

1 caribou count was decreed to be 75,000 back in the mid
2 '70s. In fact, that drove hunting underground again. I
3 was in the Upper Kobuk with one of my relatives and
4 driving a boat in the dead of night with no moon, I don't
5 know how the hell they could do that, but in order to
6 escape some of the Fish and Game camps that's what they
7 had to do, which is actually putting the life in a
8 somewhat dangerous situation. But the good thing is that
9 some of those folks up the river know the river so well
10 that they don't need daylight to navigate.

11
12 I'm just making a point that when those
13 occasions force us to do something to meet our needs
14 illegally, it's kind of like everybody's problem.
15 Fortunately we're able to effect regulations and I think
16 the regulatory changes were made a lot easier with the
17 intervention of Federal subsistence management because
18 then I think it was able for Natives to have a meaningful
19 role in fish and game regulatory and management changes
20 to suit our needs.

21
22 Anyway, I'll leave it there because I
23 know that some of you have more valuable experiences and
24 observations of those changes. What I would like to see
25 is some means of having some documentation as to what
26 those happenings are in terms of not only animal and
27 human behaviors but as far as the simple things like the
28 change of prevailing winds from our area from west to
29 south has had significant impacts. Also on just the
30 profile of how the beach used to be and what it's become.

31
32
33 The other problem is in the tundra, back
34 in the 1970s it was fairly smooth, even 30 miles from
35 Kotzebue, but it's all glacial silt type of tundra, which
36 is what Kotzebue is made out of mostly. Now, what's
37 happened is that even if you have a dog team trail that
38 goes back there maybe 10 times it's made a permanent
39 trench in the tundra where now, instead of being somewhat
40 smooth it's extremely bumpy back there, so that's one
41 climate change that we've seen happen in the last 30
42 years.

43
44 I know that if it's happening right there
45 that since the rest of our region is made up mostly of
46 glacial silt it's become a concern as to what's happening
47 with the terrain and how we're going to have to be
48 changing our use patterns to try to accommodate those
49 changes, among others.

50

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, Roy.
4
5 MR. R. NAGEAK: Something happened this
6 spring that really scared me was when they first opened
7 up where a lot of boats took off to go oogruk hunting and
8 it was solid from the gravel pit. If you know Barrow,
9 from the end of the runway up north was real solid
10 because that's where most of the pile-up was during the
11 winter. We had really bad northwest winds. With thin
12 ice or like only three feet, it piled up so much up north
13 that it wasn't a desirable place to go whaling. Then one
14 time I went to go check and I tried going to the edge of
15 the ice but I couldn't reach the edge of the ice because
16 in some cases the crevices were so deep and then on the
17 other side it was like three or four stories high of ice
18 that piled up and this is like three or four feet of ice.
19 When I saw what was on the edge where the lead had
20 opened, there's like two stories high of straight.....
21
22 CO CHAIR BROWER: Walls.
23
24 MR. R. NAGEAK:straight walls. I
25 could see for a mile. It was just like two stories high
26 of -- when the ice moved in Barrow, it bucks up right up
27 to the solid ice that's grounded and then when it keeps
28 hitting it, it just makes a straight.....
29
30 CO CHAIR BROWER: Ridge.
31
32 MR. R. NAGEAK:wall. I told my
33 guys, I said there's no way, I don't want you guys
34 chasing any whales anywhere near or have them all out
35 even with a speed boat because there's no way if you
36 catch a whale and the ice starts coming in, there's no
37 way you're going to pull up to a boat on a two-story high
38 walls. I didn't allow my whaling crew to go out that
39 last spring. I said no way, man.
40
41 There was some solid ice further south.
42 It had thin ice and that was the only place I think they
43 got whales was in that thin ice. It broke off right up
44 to that wall. That wall was like, from what I heard, all
45 the way from Barrow to Point Lay, that wall of ice that
46 is real high. We never had that before. But the winds
47 and the current, when they get together, they make ice
48 like that and it was real dangerous.
49
50 This spring my son, my grandson and me,

1 we were going to go out oogruk hunting and I saw the
2 current and it was a little bit too fast, but there was
3 a lot of open water and the ice, the place where people
4 were going out seal hunting, it was solid all the way up
5 north. My son said, all right, a lot of open water and
6 I said but the ice is already coming in. Yeah, but we
7 could go through it. I says, son, too many times I've
8 had to drag this aluminum boat over ice. My brother
9 remembers that one time we almost died dragging that skin
10 boat. Anyway, I says there's no way I'm going to go out
11 into that water. I know there's a lot of water right
12 now, but I'll tell you there ain't going to be no more
13 water because of the northwest that was just blowing just
14 right. The wind was okay, but the current was so strong.

15
16 Finally I heard on the radio it's wide
17 open over here. My son, come on, Dad, let's go. We went
18 over there to where it was open or where we could usually
19 go out, but it was already packed a mile away. I got on
20 the radio and said anybody up north you better start
21 coming in now because the ice is piling up. There's no
22 way for you to get up to Barrow because it was already
23 solid along the beach. Then there was people that were
24 trying to make it, there were people that made it, but
25 they had to fight the ice. We lost like, what, 10 boats.

26
27
28 One of them, a great big huge boat, it
29 just got completely demolished. Just after the people
30 got up on the helicopter because we have the helicopters,
31 just when they lifted up, they said they could see their
32 boat just getting crushed and into the water. There was
33 no solid ice where they were. There was no way they
34 could get into the solid ice that was grounded. Even if
35 they did there was so many openings that they couldn't
36 make it to shore. What saved them was the helicopter.
37 The next day they went out and they looked like half a
38 day or maybe three-quarters of a day and they found like
39 eight boats. They got eight boats back, but three were
40 completely lost. That's the condition of ice. Once it
41 started blowing from the east, all that ice was gone in
42 a week. There was no time for seal hunting or oogruk
43 hunting. There was, but it was limited.

44
45 That's one of the things we lost is the
46 ability to hunt all summer, especially out on the ice,
47 with global warming. That is the time we show our young
48 people, our young men, our grandsons, the time to show
49 them what the current is and what the movement of the ice
50 is and where it's dangerous. We don't have that time no

1 more because a lot of the people that got caught in that
2 ice were young men that never had the privilege of seeing
3 solid ice like we did. James and us. We had the
4 privilege of having big ice flows that are stable that
5 you could just kind of wield around and slowly learn
6 about the current and which are the dangerous areas.
7 Within the last 10 years we never had that time with our
8 young men to show them the dangers of the ice and those
9 were most of the boats that were lost or got caught in
10 the ice are the young people that never were taught that
11 they need to know the current and they took their chances
12 with all that ice.

13

14 I really reflected on my son, who
15 insisted that we go out around the point to go up north
16 and I says there's no way and that was a teaching moment
17 for him and my grandson. After all the boats were lost
18 and they couldn't do nothing and my son was so quiet and
19 I says you okay. Yeah, I'm okay. I'm glad that you told
20 me we couldn't go out that way.

21

22 One other issue, like I stated, our ice
23 don't freeze anymore going up inland. I used to take my
24 family up that inland like the last week of September.
25 Because my cut-off day for hunting bulls is like October
26 10. When I leave in last week of September, I used to
27 have time where I could catch a bull before they go into
28 rut and at the same time have ice fishing where we could
29 walk over the ice by the first week of October and that
30 doesn't happen anymore. It's almost to the middle week
31 or last part of October where you could cross the rivers
32 where it was like the first week of October where you
33 could cross the river safely. That don't happen no more.

34

35 It's real dangerous when the ice don't
36 freeze with no snow yet. Snow comes too early. But when
37 the ice don't freeze with no snow, it's safer, but now we
38 get snow and it's just capped off -- the water is just
39 capped off with snow and it's dangerous. That's one of
40 the most dangerous form of ice that is formed on the
41 North Slope is when snow comes first before the water
42 freezes. That's where global warming don't allow me to
43 take my family up inland no more.

44

45 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy, maybe another
46 part, we just had a young man lost for four days thinking
47 that he was going to make it to his camp, couldn't cross
48 the river so he took another route and it got worse. He
49 wasn't really familiar with that area and he got lost and
50 then a three-day snow storm came in that prevented our

1 rescue or even our helicopters to be up in the air. He
2 was fortunate to stay alive. He had some frostbite, a
3 broken hip when they finally found him. He had fallen
4 into a deep ravine and couldn't get out. He couldn't
5 even walk out or even crawl out of that ravine. He was
6 stuck in there. He was lucky to have put his little
7 hand-held radio in his pocket, his parka pocket, and
8 that's how he was found. Rescue efforts and season
9 timing to be out hunting has changed very drastically
10 nowadays. Thank you.

11
12 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I think we all need to
13 mention our rivers too where we come from that they are
14 so low now we can't do the activity like we could. We
15 can't go where we want to go. The river is so shallow
16 the last few years at Noatak we could cross the river.
17 Not with hip boots but with knee boots.

18
19 I mean these things are getting so scary
20 like you say. I won't let my boys or me go out at a
21 certain time anymore. I'll wait. I used to be one of
22 the first guys go out. Now I want to be the last guy.
23 That way somebody fall in younger than me I could try
24 hopefully to save him. It's that dangerous that we have
25 to live with it. We will talk about it, but the problem
26 is we have to learn how to live with it because it's
27 changed. We can't stop. We have to learn how to live
28 with it and we need to start educating us how. We need
29 to learn what the land is doing to us.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We need to add also
32 that we've seen an increase in amount of parasites in the
33 fish on the arctic cisco. We used to pull up the net and
34 maybe have one fish with parasites. Now we bring up the
35 next and you might have 25 fish with parasites.

36
37 The anocolic, I've had elders ask me do
38 we have a new species of anocolic. It's not that we have
39 a new species of anocolic, we have some anocolic that are
40 becoming possibly predator prey fish from other species
41 and they're being chased so much that they're size is
42 smaller. They're not getting the big fat anocolic that
43 we used to have.

44
45 We've got an increasing amount of rain
46 that's occurring on the North Slope. It's affecting the
47 snow formations, it's affecting our ability to travel
48 through these areas. It's affecting the caribou's
49 ability to eat their food. That event where we had that
50 big rain and all that Teshekpuk Herd took off to Canada

1 side. When those caribou were coming back, it was an
2 issue of whether or not they were crossing the river
3 before the ice moved and that was very concerning on
4 whether or not -- many of those cows didn't get across
5 the river before the ice went out. Whether or not those
6 cows would come back and calve, come back to the
7 Teshekpuk Lake area where they were from and their
8 generations that they produced would be in our area or on
9 the other side of the river.

10

11 We have a tremendous amount of change to
12 the weather that's affecting when we're drying our fish.
13 With the increased rain and also increased days of fog,
14 when we're out drying our fish there's more days that we
15 have to do smoking to try to preserve the fish because of
16 increased issues related to mold and mildew and other
17 factors affecting it.

18

19 Also changes with -- if we don't go out
20 early in the season and we wait too long, then an
21 increase in the numbers of the flies also affects our
22 drying of the fish.

23

24 We also noticed a number of increased
25 species of fish and those communications have occurred
26 with the salmon issues and other species.

27

28 Attamuk noted water levels. We also have
29 rivers that are being affected by water levels and our
30 ability to go up them. We also have changes to water
31 levels with the changes in the melting of the snow pack
32 and the glacial melts. We have some rivers that have
33 summertime flooding that's occurring.

34

35 The importance of the vegetative growth
36 with the changes that are happening, we've got changes in
37 the type of plants that are occurring on the North Slope.
38 We have changes to areas where the willows are growing as
39 well as how concentrated the growth of the willows are
40 occurring. We've got areas where caribou cannot get
41 through the willow growth because of the density. We've
42 got some areas where they're 20 to 30 feet tall now.
43 Used to be less than six feet. That's just in my short
44 time of being up on the North Slope myself.

45

46 When our animals are having changes to
47 them that are affecting their migration, it's important
48 that they get to the North Slope with the right time of
49 the plant growth. So if they're not getting into these
50 areas that are important for their calving feeding

1 grounds, it affects the production of those calves and
2 whether or not we get the numbers that survive and those
3 kinds of factors and the health of them when they become
4 adults, so that's very important.

5
6 It also affects our harvesting of the
7 plants. There's been changes to the size of various
8 plants. With the increase in size of those plants some
9 of their medicinal values change because we used to have
10 just two-inch plant growth and now we've got how many
11 feet and those things are very different than what we
12 would traditionally gather on our side versus over the
13 Brooks Range and how some of their plants are gathered.
14 It also affects how we prepare them and store them.
15 Thank.

16
17 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Austin.

18
19 MR. SWAN: One of the more serious
20 encroachment problems we have in our area is beaver.
21 Beaver affects the fish real seriously. You'll see we
22 have beaver dams that are being built on both the Wulik
23 and the Kivalina River. The Kivalina River is up there
24 close to the Kobuk and those drainages. I think it's
25 time we put a bounty on those things.

26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: One of the hunters
28 from Wainwright already mentioned last year they saw a
29 beaver.

30
31 MR. KAYOTUK: Through the Chair. We got
32 the same problem in our village of Kaktovik too. Our
33 island is only 4X7 wide and we've got a big increase of
34 climate change and we got a lot of erosion that's
35 happening. We're right in the midst of getting a new
36 runway on our island, but other than that things are
37 changing quite often throughout the coming years.

38
39 Last year we went across with
40 snowmachines but today we're still using boats on our
41 little channels to cross onto the Brooks Range, but other
42 than that we could have the Porcupine Caribou Herd that
43 comes by like, you know, we could have 188,000 caribou
44 that come by and the next day it could be all gone. And
45 we're getting a lot of strong winds and stuff like that
46 which is affecting our area. Thank you.

47
48 MR. KRAMER: I know in the Kotzebue area
49 spring goose hunting we've had a lot of teenage kids
50 really taking chances with their lives. We had to go

1 rescue several of them with the fire department that were
2 out beyond Alakanuk Lake. When we finally got to them,
3 they had sunk two of them and three of them were trying
4 to drive back to Kotzebue on one.

5
6 I've noticed a big drastic change out in
7 the ocean. Darker colored ice melts quicker. I swear
8 I've never had sun rays that affected my eyes so bad
9 being out there on the ice to where darn near I had to
10 wear two pairs of sunglasses because the rays were really
11 affecting my eyes. Even my spotters out oogruk hunting
12 had to take breaks and take turns because of the sun rays
13 reflecting off the ice and the ones that they were
14 getting coming down on them.

15
16 As for the beavers, I know Noatak is
17 having a crazy amount of beavers. I'm a beaver trapper
18 myself and we just can't keep up. I know up in Selawik
19 I was talking to my uncle the other day. He said to get
20 to their camp they have to drive over five beaver dams
21 just to get to their camp. Before they used to just go
22 up there with no problems. Nobody hunts them anymore.
23 There's no price to them, so what's the purpose of
24 hunting them. So they just leave them alone.

25
26 I've noticed a drastic change in climate
27 around the Noatak in Kobuk. Like last winter we had darn
28 near record snowfall but real thin ice. We had open
29 water out from Cape Blossom the majority of the year. We
30 had some polar bears hanging around out there. I've seen
31 several sow and cubs getting pretty close to Cape Blossom
32 and Kotzebue.

33
34 It's changing and our youth isn't being
35 educated enough to be out there. I worry every year.
36 I've been in charge of search and rescue for NANA and
37 Kotzebue for quite a few years. One of these days we're
38 going to have to go out there and rescue a few kids and
39 they might not be there. We've got to teach them to not
40 take chances with their lives. I know I've learned from
41 mistakes and I probably have five more lives left out of
42 nine, but I teach my kids to really watch.

43
44 I was taught the ice conditions from my
45 grandmother. My grandmother lived 25 years without her
46 husband, so she took over the role to teach me and my
47 brother subsistence lifestyle, ice conditions, what to
48 watch for and what to be careful of and what's safe and
49 what's not safe. So we really need to step up because of
50 climate change to make sure the futures of our kids are

1 safe.

2

3 I guess we're just going to have to adapt
4 to the changing migrations of caribou. It's getting
5 pretty difficult. I went up the Lower Noatak several
6 times this year and only saw two caribou, but saw quite
7 a few aircraft up there with other people harvesting
8 caribou. I'm going to try to draw up a proposal for the
9 Fish and Game Board to see if we can add from the Noatak
10 River up to the Park Service boundaries on the Aggie to
11 the controlled use area and I think that will cause a
12 drastic change in the migration. Hopefully some of them
13 will start coming down the Aggie. That's all I have.

14

15 CO CHAIR BROWER: Raymond.

16

17 MR. STONEY: Lincoln (indiscernible) for
18 quite some time now, since probably 1990 when he started
19 first collaring caribou with satellite. Of course, I was
20 involved with that. I worked with the State. And I
21 didn't like the idea to begin with and I asked him why do
22 you want to put satellite on these caribou. Well, we
23 have to monitor this herd, which direction they're
24 migrating. Well, if you do that, you put it on
25 satellite, you'll be nicely known across the world.
26 Exactly about eight months later we got a report that the
27 Japanese, China, Germany, they were monitoring that
28 Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd. They knew exactly where
29 they were.

30

31 These hunters, when they find out where
32 the caribou are, that's where they go, they know where
33 the caribou is and that is why they're disturbing the
34 herds everywhere. After about two years of let's try to
35 come up with something, put a limited time on this
36 satellite. Anyway, we come to a point where finally
37 learned how to do it. The information you get today
38 through satellite is 11 months old. So otherwise the
39 people of Germany and China, everywhere, they want to
40 hunt caribou in the Squirrel River, they can't get up to
41 date data because it's 11 months old. Otherwise we had
42 people from all over the world at the Squirrel River.

43

44 Again, finally about three weeks ago --
45 I deal with the Department of Fish and Game quite a bit.
46 I wanted to know where the main herd is this year, so we
47 went in his office and put it on satellite and we located
48 35 collared caribou. They were about 50 miles northeast
49 of Wainwright and they were 30 miles apart. When you see
50 a case like that, we estimated about 250,000 caribou were

1 still east of Wainwright and they were facing south
2 toward something like Kobuk. So that's how we work with
3 satellite. Very few people have access to that satellite
4 information. I don't have it, but I go to the office and
5 find out.

6

7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Ray.

10

11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The last comment I
12 need to add is birds of prey. With the increased erosion
13 we're having on the Colville, it is a factor for the
14 birds of prey. Two years ago in July I went out boating.
15 The first weekend we saw a number of nests and before the
16 end of the week we had a number of days of rain and when
17 I went back up one of the nests was down on the
18 riverbank. The others were not to be found. One of the
19 birds was still alive on the riverbank. It is a concern
20 for the birds of prey.

21

22 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Mr. Willis would
23 like a few words with our group.

24

25 MR. J. NAGEAK: I wanted to talk for a
26 long time.

27

28 MR. WILLIS: I really appreciate you
29 giving me the time to address the committee. My name is
30 Wade Willis. I follow the Board of Game quite
31 extensively. I have an organization called the Science
32 Now Project. It was very interesting listening to you
33 talk about the Haul Road issue and the harvest of game
34 there.

35

36 What I want to basically bring to your
37 attention is from what I hear everyone wants the Federal
38 government to do their job. Well, there's certain ways
39 to make them to their job. If you heard the BLM guy here
40 a minute ago, he goes they forced us to do these options.
41 Any time you hear a government guy say they forced us,
42 you need to go, what, how did they do that, how did they
43 force you. And he said so. The words he said was the
44 National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA.

45

46 That's your tool. That's your tool.
47 Every now and then the government gets together and they
48 define a word and this is a legally binding definition of
49 a word and they put those definitions in your hunting
50 book. There's not many of them. Very few. They don't

1 define very many words, but they do define one word that
2 everybody needs to know and the words they defined is
3 conservation of healthy populations of wildlife.

4
5 I'll read that to you. It means the
6 maintenance of wildlife resources and their habitats in
7 a condition that assures stable and continuing natural
8 populations and species mix of plants and animals in
9 relation to their ecosystem, including the recognition
10 that local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses
11 may be a natural part of that ecosystem, minimizes the
12 likelihood of irreversible or long-term adverse effects
13 upon such populations and species, ensures the maximum
14 practicable diversity of options for the future and
15 recognizes that policies and legal authorities of
16 managing agencies will determine the nature and degree of
17 management programs affecting ecological relationships,
18 population dynamics and the manipulation of the
19 components of the ecosystem.

20
21 That is a word that the government --
22 that is a sentence or a whole paragraph that the
23 government cannot avoid legally through NEPA, the
24 National Environmental Policy Act.

25
26 In the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
27 we're going through the CCP process. They do that once
28 every 15 years. It's the time when they pull out their
29 National Environmental Policy Act and they look at
30 conducting a management plan for the next 15 years. The
31 Refuge guy came up and talked to you and he showed you
32 two books that thick.

33
34 Buried in those two books in just a
35 couple of paragraphs are words that we have decided
36 administratively that we're not going to look at
37 consumptive take, the harvest of wildlife in our CCP
38 revision. We're not going to go through NEPA and we're
39 not going to evaluate the impacts of commercial take or
40 subsistence take or any take. We're not going to look at
41 the impact of sport hunting, nothing. We've decided
42 administratively that we're just not going to do that.
43 We're going to do it later in the future. That's what
44 they told you they'd do in 1988 too when they did the CCP
45 the first time. Guess what, they never got around to
46 doing it. They identified doing it that time as their
47 number one priority in the CCP. In this one, in the two
48 big books, they've knocked it down to number two.

49
50 NEPA says they can't allow the activity

1 of taking trophy animals without making sure it complies
2 with that paragraph I just read you. Legally they can't
3 avoid it. They're pretending like they can and they're
4 hoping you don't find those two paragraphs in those 8,000
5 pages. But if you guys were to pass a resolution here
6 asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct NEPA
7 evaluation during the CCP revision process, that would be
8 a very powerful statement from you guys.

9
10 The Federal government didn't come up
11 here and tell you guys anything about that. They're not
12 going to bring you up to speed. They can't. They never
13 do. So I know it's really difficult to get down into the
14 nuts and bolts of these big plans, but any time a Park or
15 a Refuge goes through its general management plan
16 revision or it's CCP that is the time you have them
17 really by the shorts to do NEPA. NEPA is your tool.
18 NEPA is what forces the Federal government to address all
19 consumptive take. They can't get around it. They can't
20 get around it. And they don't want to do it because it
21 will force them to go to the State and go, hey, our NEPA
22 says you can't do what you want to do Board of Game and
23 they don't want to fight that fight. They're desperately
24 trying every avenue they can never to fight that fight
25 because they don't feel it's their fight to fight. They
26 think Congress beat them up by giving them the
27 responsibility. Well, too bad. They got the
28 responsibility.

29
30 NEPA is your tool. Embrace NEPA and tell
31 them to do NEPA every chance you get because that is the
32 tool that they have to address all consumptive take.
33 They can't pretend to just manage one part of it. If you
34 force NEPA on them, they have to do it all.

35
36 I'm a small organization. I've been in
37 existence for three years. I, myself, got the National
38 Park Service to do NEPA on the consumptive take of brown
39 bears in Katmai National Park. Just little ol' me.
40 Imagine me and a couple lawyers back in Washington, D.C.
41 said enough was enough and we got that. With your power
42 and your ability to influence the situation, if you guys
43 push NEPA on them, they can't get away. So that's kind
44 of just what I wanted to bring to you.

45
46 As far as things they didn't tell you
47 about on the Haul Road, the Board of Game also went after
48 the brown bears on the Haul Road. They said there's too
49 many caribou, so they've got to unlimit the hunting from
50 sport hunters along the Haul Road to take care of the

1 harvest rates. At the same time, they said there's too
2 many bears because they're killing too many muskox, so
3 they go out there and they waste the bears.
4 Unsustainable harvest they opened up for the bears on the
5 east side of the Haul Road. You need the bears to keep
6 things in balance with the caribou, right, so they're
7 throwing everything out in the wind. You go five miles
8 off the highway, they also last year opened up hunting in
9 the summer when all the caribou were up on the coast
10 where all the planes can land. They can land on that
11 coastline.

12
13 All the horn hunters, the latest thing is
14 to get a velvet horn set and during the later summer
15 they're big, they're beautiful. All the horn hunters want
16 them. They go up there and they're going to push these
17 guys off their insect relief areas. Taking them off the
18 coast and pushing them inland. Those are secondary
19 impacts. The harvest rates up there on the coast five
20 miles away from the road were five a day, you know. I
21 mean it's unbelievable that they opened that up.

22
23 I'll say one more thing. I was at that
24 meeting in Fairbanks fighting tooth and nail against the
25 Board of Game opening that up and the vast majority of
26 people there also were against it and the Board of Game
27 snubbed their nose at them.

28
29 So the real problem is our Governor
30 Parnell. He appoints all the folks on the Board of Game.
31 If we don't cut the snake's head off, we're never going
32 to fix anything.

33
34 The Fish and Game told you CACFA was a
35 good avenue for you guys to run. Well, guess who
36 appoints everybody on CACFA, the legislature and the
37 governor. If you look at CACFA, the membership, Rod
38 Arno, the executive director of Alaska Outdoor Council is
39 there. A couple of legislators from the big cities are
40 there. A lot of big wigs that live in big cities are
41 there. They got out of a group of 10 one token Native
42 representative.

43
44 MR. J. NAGEAK: Point of order, Mr.
45 Chair. Call for the order of the day.

46
47 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, James. I'm
48 not sure how any other information you're looking to
49 bring.

50

1 MR. WILLIS: Totally understand that.
2 Thank you for listening. I hope you guys embrace NEPA,
3 it's your tool to get the job done that you want.
4
5 CO CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. James, you
6 were asking for the floor earlier.
7
8 MR. J. NAGEAK: Order of the day.
9
10 MR. R. NAGEAK: Thank you, sir. The
11 truth will prevail.
12
13 CO CHAIR BROWER: If we're not making any
14 more comments in regards to the discussion, effects of
15 climate change, I think we're down to future meetings.
16 I'll look to Donald.
17
18 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
19 Council reference, on Page 158 is the winter 2012
20 Regional Advisory Council meeting calendar. For both
21 North Slope and Northwest, if they can confirm those
22 dates. Earlier I handed out the fall 2012 Regional
23 Advisory Council meeting calendar. For your reference,
24 you can review the fall 2012 meeting dates.
25
26 September 4 and 5 is Kodiak-Aleutians,
27 September 25-26 Southeast, October 2 and 3 Southcentral,
28 October 3 and 4 Seward Peninsula, October 10th and 11th
29 Yukon-Kuskokwim and Western Interior, Eastern Interior
30 October 16th and 17th. Bristol Bay is yet to announce
31 their meeting dates. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32
33 MR. R. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.
34
35 CO CHAIR BROWER: Roy.
36
37 MR. R. NAGEAK: With the recommendations
38 made, I move that our winter 2012 Regional Advisory
39 Council meeting be in Barrow on February 15 and 16 just
40 to put the discussion on the table.
41
42 CO CHAIR BROWER: It's already been
43 identified for those dates.
44
45 MR. J. NAGEAK: We already did that.
46
47 CO CHAIR BROWER: It's already been set.
48 We want to go into 2012 fall meeting.
49
50 MR. R. NAGEAK: That's what I said, 2012.

1 Did I say 2011?
2
3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: You did the spring
4 dates though. We need the fall dates. Your other
5 calendar.
6
7 MR. R. NAGEAK: Oh, this is already done
8 then?
9
10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah.
11
12 MR. R. NAGEAK: Oh, okay.
13
14 CO CHAIR BROWER: We need the 2012 fall
15 meeting.
16
17 MR. R. NAGEAK: Okay. I thought that's
18 what he noted, 158. So I've got to do 159.
19
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Uh-huh.
21
22 MR. R. NAGEAK: So the recommendations
23 are.....
24
25 CO CHAIR BROWER: Open window starts
26 August 20.
27
28 MR. J. NAGEAK: These are the months --
29 weeks that we do our subsistence times, you know. Is
30 there any way that we can change the time in which -- you
31 know. August 20th through September 31st is the time in
32 which the people are out doing their summer berry
33 picking, caribou hunt, sheep hunting and all these other
34 activities and it's pretty hard sometimes to travel for
35 -- you know, for a day meeting you have to go four days
36 from Anaktuvuk. Do we have any other windows?
37
38 CO CHAIR BROWER: It says August 20 to
39 October 12.
40
41 MR. J. NAGEAK: How are these windows
42 decided?
43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It's a long history.
45 I will say that we were told by Pete Probasco the other
46 day that we can extend the window one week on either
47 side. North Slope has often met very early because of
48 the problem you talk about as well as whaling is in that
49 time period, so if you wanted to go a little earlier that
50 would be acceptable as well or a little bit later. Later

1 runs into AFN, so you don't really want to do that
2 either.
3
4 CO CHAIR BROWER: Maybe if we could try
5 and do it earlier than.....
6
7 MR. J. NAGEAK: August.
8
9 CO CHAIR BROWER: Seven more days earlier
10 than August 20 is August 13th, the week of August 13th.
11
12 MR. J. NAGEAK: June is a good time when
13 there's a breakup. You know, you can't do anything.
14
15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. It may
16 also be that you will only need a one-day meeting because
17 this will be going over fisheries proposals and we
18 traditionally don't have many for North Slope. It's your
19 choice, wish of the Council.
20
21 MR. R. NAGEAK: James, you're looking at
22 the calendar.
23
24 CO CHAIR BROWER: We could move it up one
25 week, August 13 or anything from August 13 forward till
26 October 12.
27
28 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to see it in
29 August versus October. We're very busy with things
30 occurring on the North Slope in October, so I think it
31 would be better for us in August, but what's your guys's
32 wish.
33
34 MR. R. NAGEAK: I agree.
35
36 MR. J. NAGEAK: Well, this is just me
37 from Anaktuvuk and I could designate a hunter for me,
38 right, I'm 71 years old.
39
40 CO CHAIR BROWER: August 13th. What day
41 is August 13th?
42
43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Monday.
44
45 CO CHAIR BROWER: August 14th, one day.
46
47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion for August
48 14th.
49
50 CO CHAIR BROWER: Motion on the floor,

1 August 14.
2
3 MR. R. NAGEAK: Second.
4
5 CO CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by Roy. 2012.
6
7 MR. J. NAGEAK: Question.
8
9 CO CHAIR BROWER: Question has been
10 called on the motion. All in favor of August 14, 2012
11 Regional Advisory Council meeting signify by saying aye.
12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.
14
15 MR. J. NAGEAK: August 14?
16
17 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, sir.
18
19 MR. J. NAGEAK: With 13th travel and 15th
20 travel.
21
22 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yeah.
23
24 MR. R. NAGEAK: Don't look at me for
25 travel. I don't make arrangements for travel.
26
27 CO CHAIR BROWER: Yes, James. I could
28 answer yes. August 14th.
29
30 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: For Northwest
31 Arctic, what's your inclination, early or later?
32
33 MR. KARMUN: Leave it to the call of the
34 Chair.
35
36 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: That's not fair. We
37 have to set a date. Middle of August after the Barrow
38 one, maybe the next week, August 20. I know it's a busy
39 time. Right now I should be home out getting caribou.
40 So earlier?
41
42 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, earlier the better for
43 us because that's just about where we're ending our berry
44 picking and right after commercial fishing, so most
45 likely it would be only one day too for fisheries. The
46 earlier the better for one day.
47
48 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: So how about August
49 21.
50

1 MR. SHIEDT: I'll live with August 21.
2
3 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: I want someone to
4 make a motion to do that.
5
6 MR. SHIEDT: So moved, Chairman.
7
8 MR. KRAMER: Second.
9
10 MR. KARMUN: I'll second it.
11
12 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Mike beat you, Vic.
13 Any further discussion.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Hearing none. All
18 those in favor of the fall meeting for August 21, 2012
19 say aye.
20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.
22
23 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Any opposed.
24
25 (No opposing votes)
26
27 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you, guys. Is
28 there any more business to attend to?
29
30 CO CHAIR BROWER: Last item on the agenda
31 is adjournment.
32
33 MR. R. NAGEAK: So moved.
34
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Seconded.
36
37 CO CHAIR BROWER: All in favor say
38 goodbye.
39
40 IN UNISON: Goodbye.
41
42 CO CHAIR SCHAEFFER: Thank you,
43 everybody.
44
45 (Off record)
46
47 (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)

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