

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME II

7  
8  
9 Northwest Arctic Borough  
10 Kotzebue, Alaska  
11 March 10, 2015  
12 9:05 a.m.

13  
14  
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16  
17 Enoch Shiedt, Chairman  
18 Percy Ballot - (Telephonic)  
19 Verne Cleveland  
20 Michael Kramer  
21 Hannah Loon  
22 Enoch Mitchell  
23 Calvin Moto  
24 Raymond Stoney

25  
26  
27  
28 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 3/10/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I'll call the meeting back to order at 9:05 a.m. this morning, Thursday.

And I would like to thank the Borough for letting us have a meeting here. We never did that yesterday, and so, Fred, if you're here, you'll pass on the message to say thanks. Or Verne. To say thank you for using here.

MR. CLEVELAND: You're welcome. I'll tell them to give you a detail

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And I would like to welcome Jim Dau on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

MR. DAU: Thanks, Attamuk. While this thing's loading up, my name is Jim Dau. I work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

And what I'm going to show you is a bunch of slides that I'm going to show the Board of Game next week. I was working on this yesterday, so I haven't even gone through this thing yet. But what you're going to see is a little different than what I showed you last fall. Last fall was just a population overview, and I mentioned the chance that we might have a proposal into the Board of Game. There is going to be a proposal that the Board is going to consider next week. And I think all you guys, you know, endorsed submitting a proposal. And so mostly what the presentation today is, is going to be about that proposal. That will be the first half of what I talk about, it's what's going in on the State side. And then I've got some background information. I've done some additional work with harvest data and harvestable surplus, so I'll show you that.

It looks like it's all loaded up. Everybody see okay?

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You've got to make that bigger, Jim.

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Is that a little  
2 better?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

5  
6 MR. DAU: Okay. Everybody can see,  
7 we'll start going.

8  
9 Again, what I did here, this is made  
10 for the Board of Game. It's not made for villages or  
11 for RACs or ACs or anything. So it's going to follow  
12 the format that I'm going to have to follow next week.

13  
14 So it's Proposal No. 202, that's the  
15 proposal that the Board's going to consider. It's the  
16 same number that we talked about at the Working Group  
17 meeting last December. A lot of you guys, Verne and  
18 others, have seen that.

19  
20 It covers pretty much all of  
21 Northwestern Alaska, this proposal. And the way we're  
22 going to do it at the Board of Game, there are five  
23 different subareas of Western Arctic Herd range that  
24 will have different regulations if this proposal  
25 passes. And so I'll do all that portion that the  
26 Western Arctic Herd mainly uses, and then my  
27 counterpart in Fairbanks, Lincoln Parrett, he's going  
28 to cover the northern portion of Western Arctic range  
29 where the Western Arctic Herd mixes with the Teshekpuk  
30 Herd. All I'm going to show you today is Western  
31 Arctic Herd stuff, so that will cover Unit 23, Unit 22  
32 down in Norton Sound, and a little bit of Unit 24 right  
33 around Anaktuvuk Pass. The stuff to the north, you  
34 know, that's a long ways away from where any of you  
35 guys hunt.

36  
37 Okay. In proposal 202, the way the  
38 proposal was submitted to the Board of Game, there's  
39 five components to the proposal.

40  
41 It would change the non-resident bag  
42 limit to one bull per year throughout the range of the  
43 Western Arctic Herd. Right now the non-resident bag  
44 limit in most of the range of the herd is five caribou  
45 per year. So that it would go down to one bull. In  
46 Unit 23, non-resident bag limit is only 2 caribou per  
47 year, but it's just caribou. They can shoot cows, they  
48 can shoot bulls.

49  
50 And if anybody has questions, just

1 raise your hands. Don't wait for me to finish, just  
2 ask questions as this goes by.

3  
4                   The second thing the proposal would do  
5 is to prohibit the harvest of cows by non-resident  
6 hunters. It would close the cow seasons.

7  
8                   The third thing is it would reduce the  
9 non-resident caribou season to two months long, August  
10 1st through September 30th. Right now non-resident  
11 hunters throughout most of the range of the herd --  
12 well, throughout all of the range of the Western Arctic  
13 Herd, there's no closed season except for a six-week  
14 closer on cows. So this would reduce them down to two  
15 months. It would prohibit the harvest of cows by  
16 everybody.

17  
18                   And then there's a same-day-airborne  
19 caribou hunt down in Unit 22. That caribou hunt is the  
20 1st of January through the middle of April. You can  
21 land. As long as you're 300 feet away from the plane,  
22 you can shoot caribou. This proposal would end that  
23 hunt. There would be no more same-day-airborne in Unit  
24 22.

25  
26                   So those are the five things that went  
27 into Proposal 202, and what the Board of Game has  
28 before them right now.

29  
30                   In addition, all the Advisory  
31 Committees, the Western Interior RAC, the Western  
32 Arctic Herd Working Group, they've suggested additional  
33 amendments to Proposal 202 that go beyond these five  
34 things that I'm going to talk about. We'll talk about  
35 that a little bit at the end, but right now all I'm  
36 going to do is work down through these five things that  
37 are in the proposal.

38  
39                   What I've done here is just follow the  
40 convention that is used at State Board of Game  
41 meetings. Any new language, regulatory language,  
42 that's always in bold and it's underlined. And then  
43 anything that we're cutting out of the existing  
44 regulations, those are all capitalized and they're in  
45 brackets. And so when you look at the next proposals,  
46 if it's underlined and in bold, that's new language.  
47 If it's in brackets, it's something we're cutting out.

48  
49                   So this is what I'm going to talk about  
50 today. This is the majority of Western Arctic Herd

1 range. This is all of Unit 23. It's the western  
2 portion of Unit 24, 24A, B. And then Unit 22. I'm not  
3 talking about Unit 26A or a portion of 26B.

4  
5                   So for that area that I just showed  
6 you, this whole area right here, you can see under  
7 resident hunters, number 4 there in yellow, calves may  
8 not be taken. That's the calf closure.

9  
10                   The yellow 1 and 2, we've reduced the  
11 bag limit down to just one bull.

12  
13                   Number 4 again, calves may not be taken  
14 by non-resident hunters.

15  
16                   And then we changed the season date.  
17 Right now it's no closed season, July 1st through June  
18 30th, and that would be reduced down to the two months.  
19 And so that's pretty much must what I told you.

20  
21                   This is another portion or subarea of  
22 this whole proposal. We call this the reindeer area.  
23 This is a portion of Unit 22, well, the Pilgrim River,  
24 Casadepaga, American Creek, Klokerblok. And there  
25 again for resident hunters, there's the closure on  
26 calves. There's another little area in there where  
27 there's reindeer, and we don't have the default there  
28 as there's no open season down in Unit 22. We only  
29 open the caribou season when the caribou are there, and  
30 that's to prevent people from killing reindeer. So  
31 that's where that second section comes in with number 4  
32 under resident hunters.

33  
34                   And then for non-resident hunters,  
35 again we reduce the bag limit down to one bull per  
36 year, and we close the non-resident calf season. And  
37 then again the season is August 1st through September  
38 30th.

39  
40                   And there's one portion of this area  
41 again where we say the season may be announced. We're  
42 only going to have a season if there's caribou there.  
43 So if there's no caribou, there's no season, and that's  
44 to help the reindeer herders.

45  
46                   This is the third subarea of this  
47 proposal. It's basically 22C, a little portion of 22D  
48 and 22E. These are also reindeer areas.

49  
50                   Again, for resident hunters, nobody can

1 take cows. The same thing, non-resident hunters one  
2 bull per year, no cows, August 1st through September  
3 30th season.

4  
5 This seems kind of repetitive, but you  
6 have to do it this way for the Board of Game, because  
7 all this goes in the official record and, you know, in  
8 five years when they're trying to figure out what the  
9 heck we did, this is what they go back to.

10  
11 And then the last thing I mentioned,  
12 this is the closure of that same-day-airborne hunt down  
13 in Unit 22. That's going to go away if they pass that.

14  
15  
16 So those are the five things that are  
17 in Proposal 202.

18  
19 This is -- you know, when we did this,  
20 a lot of people that have taken the time to understand  
21 this whole proposal, they look at it and they say,  
22 well, you know, this all sounds pretty big, but really  
23 in actuality it's not going to do all that much.  
24 You're not going to save that many caribou. And we did  
25 that for a reason. When we had to submit this proposal  
26 way back -- gosh, it was probably early last summer, we  
27 hadn't had any advisory committee meetings yet, we  
28 hadn't talked to the Working Group, we hadn't talked to  
29 the RACs. And we did all those changes on purpose,  
30 knowing that we didn't want to drop the ax. We didn't  
31 want to go from 30 years of unlimited harvest to just  
32 telling people, you know, things have changed and now  
33 you can't take caribou. We didn't want to do that. So  
34 this is just the beginning of what we see as probably a  
35 series of incremental restrictions if this caribou herd  
36 goes down.

37  
38 But, anyway, in terms of the Department  
39 recommendation for this proposal, the Department is to  
40 support it with amendments. There is an amendment that  
41 was submitted by the Southern Norton Sound Advisory  
42 Committee to close that area south of the Unalakleet  
43 River. It's another reindeer area. There haven't been  
44 caribou there in many years. The Department supports  
45 that. So that's one of the amendments that the  
46 Department is going to put forward.

47  
48 But all the advisory committees are  
49 listed here, and without exception, every advisory  
50 committee has supported Proposal 202 so far. And then

1 in addition to the advisory committees, the Western  
2 Arctic Herd Working Group, they suggested -- they  
3 submitted a comment to the Board of Game to support the  
4 proposal with amendments. The Western Interior RAC,  
5 they submitted comments to the Board; they support it  
6 with amendments.

7

8 The only organization so far that has  
9 opposed the proposal is the Seward Peninsula Regional  
10 Advisory Council. They opposed it.

11

12 And then the other thing I wanted to  
13 mention is over the last year we've conducted I think  
14 meetings in 18 separate communities now within the  
15 range of the Western Arctic Herd from the North Slope  
16 all the way down to Norton Sound. For most of those  
17 meetings we didn't even have a Proposal 202 to discuss,  
18 so we couldn't say, do you support the proposal. There  
19 was no proposal. But in every one of those that I  
20 attended, and the reports that I've gotten, every  
21 community agreed that we need to start reducing caribou  
22 harvest now. And probably the strongest comment I  
23 heard at all the villages that I went to, is not only  
24 do we need to start reducing caribou harvest, we really  
25 need predator control. That's the communities saying  
26 that to me. I've heard that every place.

27

28 So now I'm going to switch. That's  
29 Proposal 202. Before I go on, has anybody got  
30 questions about Proposal 202 or anything you want to  
31 say.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Jim. I have  
34 one, that since the caribou are down, are they going to  
35 think about to stop the transporters, and they want to  
36 stop going out there. You know that's our main problem  
37 right there. That's the way we see it as Natives, what  
38 we see them out there, because when they drop off  
39 hunters, they will re-pick them up and relocate to  
40 where the caribou are at. So I don't know. I was  
41 thinking heavily maybe we need to put a proposal  
42 together or for later that we need to start saying, you  
43 can't drop off hunters toward Noatak or Upper Kobuk,  
44 Kotlik area. That's changing the migration of the  
45 caribou. So that's my thought is maybe -- I've got to  
46 slow down and I need to go talk to you and see it.  
47 Because you know the area pretty much. And Enoch and I  
48 are from Noatak, and harvested all the way to Ohak  
49 (ph), I mean, that that goes downriver, but it's just  
50 an area up there that way. I've seen hunters up there.

1 That's way up there, and it's ridiculous, and they're  
2 the ones that are changing our migration. And we need  
3 to do it, because if our people are hurting for  
4 caribou, we are all hurting.

5  
6 MR. DAU: Well, right now, Attamuk,  
7 there's nothing in this proposal that's going to change  
8 the controlled use areas where people can go with  
9 airplanes or, you know, any mechanized vehicle, so  
10 there's nothing in there.

11  
12 The Village of Noatak, they've been  
13 working on either a proposal or amendments to this  
14 proposal, and Enoch's going to go to the Board of Game  
15 meeting next week. And it's up to the Village of  
16 Noatak, if they want to say that.

17  
18 At this meeting for the Board of Game,  
19 the Board of Game can't do anything with controlled use  
20 areas, because that's a separate section of code. What  
21 we had to do to get the Board of Game to even consider  
22 a caribou proposal for this part of the State right now  
23 is put what's called an agenda change request. This  
24 isn't their normal cycle. And they granted a agenda  
25 change request, but what they did was they opened up  
26 just a very narrow section of code that deals with  
27 caribou regulations. And so, you know, all the  
28 comments we've gotten from the villages, you know,  
29 Noatak's only one of them, but a lot of the villages  
30 have said just what you said, Attamuk. Even though  
31 we've gotten those comments, the Board of Game, even if  
32 they wanted to, they can't consider it at this time.

33  
34 The same thing with predator control.  
35 You know, every village loud and clear, we need to do  
36 something with predators. There's no legal way for the  
37 Board of Game to be able to consider bear regulations  
38 now or wolf regulations.

39  
40 So I think what you guys need to do, if  
41 you want to make that point, is do what Enoch Mitchell  
42 is probably going to do and go down there and make your  
43 comments and say, this is what we perceive the problem  
44 to be. We think you guys need to do this. They're not  
45 going to do it at this meeting, but it doesn't hurt for  
46 them to hear it over and over and over again.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

49  
50 MR. DAU: Any other questions or

1 comments about --  
2 Raymond.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
5 Raymond.

6  
7 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8  
9 A very simple question that, Jim, I  
10 think that you should, excuse me, give us a refreshing  
11 for same-day-airborne, you know, for transporters, the  
12 local people who have aircraft in this area here. And  
13 we don't lose that regulations on the same day, but  
14 we'd like to be refreshed on that, so give us a  
15 remembrance for this coming season again, how it  
16 operates, that same day situation for transporters and  
17 local people that has aircrafts. That is my question.

18  
19 MR. DAU: Okay. That will be pretty  
20 easy.

21  
22 That regulation was adopted by the  
23 Board of Game maybe 10 years ago. It's been around for  
24 quite a while. And when they originally did it, they  
25 did it for Units 22 and 23. And when we testified to  
26 the Board of Game, Fish and Game, we said, you know, if  
27 you're tempted to do this -- because when they did  
28 this, the herd was still very big. In fact, I think it  
29 was more 10 years ago. The Western Arctic was big. It  
30 was growing. And people were saying, this isn't going  
31 to have any biological affect. And those people, they  
32 successfully made their case. So the Board of Game did  
33 that for Units 22 and 23.

34  
35 When the people in Unit 23 found out  
36 about that, they absolutely raised cane. You know,  
37 they were upset And so they did what we just did, the  
38 Department just did, they submitted an agenda change  
39 request. The Board of Game took up that request, and  
40 they successfully stopped that same-day-airborne hunt  
41 in Unit 23. That went for exactly one year.

42  
43 But they left it in place for Unit 22.  
44 There was another part of the State down around  
45 Dillingham where they did the same thing for the  
46 Mulchatna Herd. The Mulchatna Herd at that time was  
47 very big, too. And so those are the two areas right  
48 now that I'm aware of that have a same-day-airborne  
49 hunt for caribou.

50

1                   For the Unit 22 hunt, they specifically  
2 said it would be only January 1st through the middle of  
3 April, because they didn't want people hunting caribou  
4 for trophies same-day-airborne. They said, look, you  
5 know, the whole business about trophy hunting, you  
6 know, part and parcel of that is ethical hunting.  
7 You've got to give these animals a chance, and, you  
8 know, they say same-day-airborne isn't a sport hunt.  
9 But people argued that, you know, using an airplane is  
10 no different than using a Sno-Go. It's just another  
11 way for people to get out and get meat.

12  
13                   So the regulation that's on the book  
14 right now is only in Unit 22, it's not in Unit 23.  
15 It's not in 26A or 24, or 21. All those places you  
16 cannot hunt same-day-airborne. It's only for caribou.  
17 It's only January 1st through the middle of April, and  
18 it's only in Unit 22.

19  
20                   So that's sort of the long version of  
21 what we've got for same-day-airborne.

22  
23                   Enoch.

24  
25                   MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. Resident hunters,  
26 is that five caribou per day; however, calves may not  
27 be taken. Five caribou per day; however, calves may  
28 not be taken, a period of May 1/September 30.

29  
30                   I got a question about the calves. How  
31 old are they supposed to be. Calves may not be taken,  
32 but when they leave their mother, they're good though,  
33 right? After the calves leave the mother, they're  
34 good?

35  
36                   MR. DAU: That's an excellent question,  
37 Enoch. The way the State defines a calf, the legal  
38 description of a calf is any caribou that's less than  
39 12 months old. The same thing with moose. If it's  
40 less than 12 months old, it's considered a calf whether  
41 it's with its mother or if it's not with its mother.

42  
43                   I think a lot of the males start --  
44 male calves, based on what I see in the springtime when  
45 I'm doing composition surveys, I think a lot of male  
46 calves have left their mother by -- well, certainly by  
47 March or April, because that's when I start doing that.  
48 I think what I see a lot of is tiny little calves, I  
49 think those are female calves. I think they stay with  
50 their mother a lot longer. They go all the way up to

1 the calving grounds with their mother. But a lot of  
2 those males are gone.

3  
4 So, you know, if this passes and  
5 somebody shoots an 11- month old calf that's by itself,  
6 they would be breaking the law.

7  
8 One of the things that I thought about  
9 doing in this proposal, I mean months ago, almost a  
10 year ago, I thought about  
11 doing the same thing with caribou that we've done for  
12 moose, is saying you can't shoot a cow with a calf.  
13 But because of this separation business, there's no way  
14 to tell if a cow actually still had a calf, because  
15 that calf would be a half a mile away. And I was  
16 afraid that some guy would shoot a cow that had milk in  
17 her udder, and if he got checked, he could get busted.  
18 And there's no way to tell. So I never put that in the  
19 proposal.

20  
21 But these calves, there is an easy way  
22 to tell, you know. All you guys know this better than  
23 anybody. These calves are little, they've got short  
24 faces. When you scare them, they immediately run up to  
25 an adult. It may not be its mother, but they're going  
26 to run up to an adult. I think you can tell calves,  
27 but you cannot tell a lactating cow, and that's why it  
28 never got in there.

29  
30 But that's a legal definition of a  
31 calf, Enoch. It's any caribou less than 12 months old.

32  
33 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. Thank you.

34  
35 MR. DAU: Hannah.

36  
37 MS. LOON: Yes. I'm looking at this  
38 spreadsheet, how come Noatak, Kivalina State Advisory  
39 committee, how come they're blank? Because they don't  
40 have caribou in their area? How come they're blank?

41  
42 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, I made this.

43  
44 MR. DAU: Sit with me.

45  
46 MS. SWEENEY: So, Hannah, what this  
47 spreadsheet is, is at the top two lines it tells you  
48 what is currently the law for the State and Federal.  
49 Then the third line of this table tells what Proposal  
50 202 is suggesting, that Jim has just gone through. And

1 then each line below is all the groups, the ACs and  
2 others that talked about 202, and what they suggested.

3  
4 So for the Noatak and Kivalina one,  
5 they didn't make any suggestions to change what the bag  
6 limit was going to be or the calves. But a lot of the  
7 Advisory Committees talked about different dates for  
8 cow closures and different dates for bull closures. So  
9 I wanted you and the RAC to be able to look at those  
10 side-by-side so they'd be easier to compare.

11  
12 So that's what Noatak and Kivalina  
13 Advisory Committee discussed as far as modifications.  
14 Does that make sense?

15  
16 MS. LOON: Thanks.

17  
18 MS. SWEENEY: And there's that for your  
19 reference.

20  
21 MR. DAU: Any other questions about  
22 202, and then we'll move on to some of the biology  
23 stuff. Hannah.

24  
25 MS. LOON: How many babies does a cow  
26 have annually when they go up North Slope.

27  
28 MR. DAU: Each caribou has one. And  
29 twice in my career I've seen them have two. And it was  
30 when I worked for the University of Alaska and we had a  
31 female in an enclosed area, and we came in in the  
32 morning and there two calves in there. The day before  
33 there had been none. We know unequivocally she had  
34 two.

35  
36 Another time when I was reindeer  
37 herding in Nome for Larry Davis, we had a cow, a big  
38 cow, and it looked like she couldn't have her calf. We  
39 could see what we thought was the head and the feet  
40 coming out, so we caught her. We ran her down, jumped  
41 on her. And he held her down and I pulled the calves.  
42 There were two calves. And instead of seeing the head  
43 and the feet, it was two heads.

44  
45 So probably once, you know, in less  
46 than a thousand times. Way less than that. Way less  
47 than one percent of the time they'll have two. And I  
48 think oftentimes if they do carry two fetuses, they  
49 don't make it. They're not designed to have multiple  
50 babies. So it's pretty much one.

1 MS. LOON: I ask that, because I think  
2 it's very important for our young people to know, be  
3 educated in that a caribou will have one baby a year,  
4 and that's why we are reducing the number. We're  
5 reducing and saying our regulations say we should not  
6 take calves, because they are carrying the little  
7 babies in there, in the calves.

8  
9 Thank you.

10  
11 MR. DAU: I really strongly agree with  
12 you, Hannah.

13 And it's interesting you use the word education.  
14 That's come up at lots of these village meetings. It  
15 came up at the Western Arctic Herd Working Group.  
16 Brittany Sweeney's in the audience, but Linda Just,  
17 Megan Nedwick, they've all started talking already.

18  
19 I think, you know, what you're going to  
20 hear from me is the regulatory response to this  
21 population decline. There has to be an educational  
22 component, too. And it's not just about calves. It  
23 has to do with separating cows and calves, because when  
24 we split those groups up in the falltime by boats, the  
25 cow goes to the north shore, calf goes to the south  
26 shore. If they never get back together, a lot of those  
27 calves die. The same thing even in November. When  
28 we've had caribou going by Kotzebue, it wasn't this  
29 year, it was the winter before when we had so many  
30 caribou going by, those calves, when they get split up  
31 from their mom, they get lonely. I think they walk  
32 into town. Last winter I carried I think at least four  
33 calves out of this town. They lay down. One of them  
34 laid by Jason's house, right in town. I walked over  
35 there. And one was by Eric Sees house. Take them out  
36 to the windmills or some place, but them down in a  
37 quiet spot, and every one of those four calves was dead  
38 within two days. They just don't make it. It's like  
39 they give up.

40  
41 So what you say about education I think  
42 is really important in a lot of different ways. And I  
43 think you guys especially don't need to work with me.  
44 You need to work with Brittany and Megan and Linda and  
45 the other educators, and make sure you give them a hand  
46 to tell people what they need to know. I think people  
47 can do just about as much damage by running animals  
48 around by boat or snowmachine as they do with a gun.  
49 A mini-14, the sooner or later guns.

50

1 Any other questions about 202, then we  
2 can.....

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MR. DAU: Okay. I'll move into just a  
7 little bit about the population stuff.

8  
9 So what I'm going to show the Board of  
10 Game, I'll show them the census results and the  
11 population projections. You guys have seen all this  
12 stuff. Bull/cow ratios. We'll talk a little bit about  
13 the importance of harvest and predators.

14  
15 I'm going to show them -- I've got to  
16 show them something about harvestable surplus. They're  
17 going to deal with this for a long time, because  
18 harvestable surplus really dictates that the Board of  
19 Game can even consider in terms of regulatory options,  
20 so I'll spend time on that.

21  
22 I've got one or two slides showing  
23 harvest levels in relation to what's out there in the  
24 weeds for caribou population size.

25  
26 And then I've got a slide showing a  
27 little bit -- it's similar to what Brittany just talked  
28 about on her spreadsheet. It's a summary of  
29 recommended amendments to Proposal 202 by the advisory  
30 committees and other organizations.

31  
32 And then the last thing I've got is a  
33 land status map of Western Arctic Herd range. And the  
34 reason I've got that in there is partly because of what  
35 I've heard at every village and what I heard at the  
36 working group and everything else. Everybody's talking  
37 about predator control. And I'll guarantee you the  
38 Board of Game is going to want to talk about predator  
39 control, too. So I'm anticipating questions, and the  
40 800-pound gorilla out here is can we even do predator  
41 control within the range of the Western Arctic herd  
42 given that there's so much Federal land out here. And  
43 so I've got the last item I'm going to show you will  
44 show you land status for the range of the herd. You've  
45 not seen that before. I've just done that.

46  
47 So here's the first slide. This is  
48 just the census chart. Every one of you guys have seen  
49 this. There's no new data there. The thing that I'm  
50 going to stress to the Board is the last estimate was

1 in 2013, 235,000 caribou. From 2011 it dropped about  
2 15 percent per year. An average of 15 percent a year.  
3 The rate of decline we only increased, you know, from  
4 2003 to 2011 it was only a four to six percent decline.  
5 You guys know that the red axis are minimum counts, and  
6 the black dots are population estimates based on  
7 collars, and, you know, the vertical bars, those are  
8 confidence intervals. But really no vertical bar out  
9 of 2013, that's the best indication we have that we  
10 didn't blow the census. You know, that's the tightest  
11 estimate we have ever got. And that's probably the  
12 tightest caribou estimates that's ever been made in  
13 North America that I've seen. It's a really good  
14 census. So it's not that we missed them, or it was a  
15 bad census. You know, the chilling, a real decline in  
16 this herd.

17  
18 The other thing I'm going to show the  
19 Board of Game though, you can't just look at the right  
20 side of this graph. You have to look at the left side.  
21 Look back at -- all the way back to 1970. The very  
22 first population census that Fish and Game got was in  
23 1970 when the herd numbered 242,000 caribou. That's  
24 that left red X. They weren't able to get another  
25 census until 1976, and, lo and behold, they only got  
26 75,000 caribou. In six years they went from 242,000  
27 all the way down to 75,000 caribou. That's an 18  
28 percent average annual rate of decline.

29  
30 But then look what happened after 1976.  
31 That herd started increasing 13 percent per year, and  
32 it did it all the way to 1993. How in the heck did  
33 that happen? I've thought about this for 25 years, and  
34 I can't explain it.

35  
36 You're not going to see a lot of  
37 modeling from me ever, because there's not a model. I  
38 don't think anybody could ever develop a mathematical  
39 model that would predict what happened back between  
40 1970 and '76. And I'm going to say this to the Board,  
41 because we don't know. We're doing down, we just went  
42 down, you know, from -- well, at 15 percent a year over  
43 the last couple of years, but there's nothing to say  
44 that it couldn't happen again. The herd could bounce  
45 back. We don't know.

46  
47 What I've done here is I've taken that  
48 same population chart, and you can see the six black  
49 dots. What those six black dots are, these six black  
50 dots is what I'm talking about. Those are these last

1 six points out here. So I've just clipped this end of  
2 the chart off. That's these six. And then I've  
3 projected out what the population's going to do over  
4 the next three or four years. And I've done it two  
5 different ways. The blue line at the bottom, that's  
6 just assuming the herd's going to go down like it has  
7 for the last two years, 15 percent a year. I'm about  
8 99 percent sure that's not going to happen.

9  
10 The other way I did it, the red line,  
11 is based on a model that looks at the percentage of  
12 bulls in the herd, the percentage of cows, calf  
13 production, calf survival, cow morality, harvest. And  
14 it paints a little better picture, but it also suggests  
15 that the herd's going to go down.

16  
17 All of you guys are familiar with the  
18 Western Arctic Herd Management Plan. You know, we last  
19 updated that in 2011. The blue line at the top, that,  
20 when we've got a declining herd everything above that  
21 is we're in liberal management. Everything above this  
22 line.

23  
24 And this is where we are right now.  
25 Here's the 2013 estimate. We're in conservative  
26 management right now. But where we're headed is for  
27 preservative or even critical levels if either one of  
28 these things are remotely close to the truth. Things  
29 are happening pretty quickly.

30  
31 These aren't just pretty colors that  
32 the working group decided to do. They've got  
33 recommendations with each one of these levels.  
34 Recommendations to the agencies about how we should  
35 count caribou. There's also recommendations to the  
36 Board of Game, to the Federal Subsistence Board.

37  
38 And where we are now in conservative  
39 management, what the management plan says, is there'll  
40 be no harvest of cows, there will be no non-resident  
41 cow harvest. We'll start restricting the resident --  
42 the non-resident bull harvest. And every one of those  
43 things is in Proposal 202. I used this part of the  
44 management plan to start drafting Proposal 202 back  
45 last spring. It also says we'll encourage voluntary  
46 reduction in resident cow harvest. We've all been  
47 doing that. You guys have heard me say it a number of  
48 times.

49  
50 And the plan also says the only reason

1 we should consider limiting the subsistence harvest of  
2 bulls is if we start to drop below 40 bulls per 100  
3 cows. We did fall composition last year, and we are  
4 right at 40 bulls per 100 cows. There it is right  
5 there. It's actually 39. When you look at this, this  
6 bull/cow ratio has been really slowly dropping for 20  
7 years.

8  
9                   Again these are confidence intervals,  
10 and you can see there's a lot of uncertainty in this  
11 estimate every year. We know the real bull/cow ratio  
12 is somewhere 20 and, you know, like 55 back in 2000,  
13 2001. So even with all this uncertainty though, when  
14 you look at the long-term trend, it's been really  
15 slowly going down. I think that decline is real.

16  
17                   Anyway, the point I wanted to make with  
18 this is that if we stick with the Western Arctic Herd  
19 Cooperative Management Plan, we can't afford to think  
20 about only saving cows. We need to be worried about  
21 bulls, too, because that ratio is going down.

22  
23                   What I've done here now, this is what  
24 gets us into this harvestable surplus business. That's  
25 the top line. This is what we say we can harvest out  
26 of the caribou herd without having any impact on  
27 population size. And the way that is calculated,  
28 that's 2 percent of all the cows in the herd plus 15  
29 percent of the bulls. That's how I developed this  
30 line. This is what the actual harvest has been going  
31 back to the late 1990s. And so you can see harvest  
32 really hasn't varied all that much. We get good years  
33 and bad years. This is total harvest. This is  
34 subsistence harvest plus the non-local harvest, the  
35 guys that come in the fall.

36  
37                   And you can see that for a long, long  
38 time, the harvestable surplus was way higher than what  
39 we were taking, and that's why we've got -- or we've  
40 had 30 years of unlimited harvest. There hasn't really  
41 been any limit on harvest out there. There's been a  
42 six-week closure on cows just to correspond with  
43 calving, but 5 caribou per day under State regs, and up  
44 to 15 caribou per day under Federal regs. So that's  
45 not a limit.

46  
47                   But where we are now, this is where we  
48 are right now, and it looks like the harvestable  
49 surplus equalled, it's just barely above what the  
50 harvest was in 2013, 2014. And if this trend

1 continues, we're probably going to go above the  
2 harvestable surplus. And what that means is, you've  
3 all heard me say, I don't think hunting started this  
4 decline. I think it was weather first. I think it's  
5 predators now. But I think we're at the point where  
6 harvest, if they remain the same with the declining  
7 herd, harvests are going to start contributing this to  
8 decline and make it worse. That's the main thing I  
9 want you to see from this graph.

10

11 What I've done here is show the Board  
12 of Game, just to remind them, this is the intensive  
13 harvest objective under State regs. What intensive  
14 management law says is if this herd goes below 200,000  
15 caribou, or if the harvestable surplus drops below  
16 12,000, that's the bottom of the blue, the State has to  
17 consider predator control. They have no choice, that's  
18 in law. That law's been around for a long, long time.

19

20 What the green is, this is State  
21 subsistence law, and this is the amount necessary for  
22 subsistence users. This was determined by Subsistence  
23 Division a long, long time ago, probably back when  
24 Hannah was working for Subsistence Division. You guys,  
25 you were part of coming up with this range of numbers.

26

27 What this says is when the harvestable  
28 surplus goes below 8,000 caribou, we have to eliminate  
29 non-resident hunters, and we'll start managing harvest  
30 for resident hunters through subsistence hunts, Tier II  
31 hunts usually.

32

33 So both of those things are in law.  
34 They don't require any kind of proposals or anything.  
35 That's just what's going to happen under the State side  
36 is as this line right here goes down.

37

38 So any questions about this.

39

40 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
43 Percy.

44

45 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Jim, thanks for  
46 that information. I read that thing in Proposal 202.  
47 Something you said earlier caught my thought there was  
48 finding -- And it had to do with calves that came to  
49 town after their mothers or cows were killed.

50

1                   So, I don't see nothing in there, I  
2 wonder if we need to put something in the about  
3 shooting cows with calves, because most of the time any  
4 hunter can tell if there's a cow with a calf. They  
5 usually always are together. I think it's something  
6 you might want to consider, too.

7  
8                   MR. DAU: Thanks, Percy. We sure  
9 thought about that, and for this first round it's not  
10 in the proposal, you're right. We don't have anything  
11 in there about shooting cows with calves. That's been  
12 a staple of moose management for decades in Alaska.  
13 You know, in almost no part of the State that I'm aware  
14 of can you shoot a cow moose with calf. But I think  
15 it's easier to tell with moose than it is for caribou.

16  
17                   Anyway, that's another thing, it's not  
18 in the proposal, but if you and Mona, I can't remember  
19 who's coming down to the Board of Game meeting, if you  
20 want to make that comment to the Board of Game, gosh,  
21 by all means do so, because we're looking for ways to  
22 try and reduce mortality of caribou. And it's  
23 something we thought about, it's just not in this draft  
24 of the proposal.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Jim, yeah,  
27 Percy's right. I don't think we should be able to  
28 harvest females with fawns. I'll tell you one thing.  
29 I was taught by elders like I say. I could tell the  
30 difference between a female that has no calves, but  
31 they're really hard to see. You've got to be able to  
32 -- because the breast always be hanging more than the  
33 ones without a calf will be more into their body,  
34 because it's not full with milk. That's the way I was  
35 taught by Ivan Booth, and I would say, thank you, Ivan  
36 Booth. He knows. And I always tell you that. He's  
37 the only one that I know that could see the difference.

38  
39                   And we need to stop the harvest,  
40 because we need to preserve for the future, because the  
41 calves are the future stock, completely. I think at  
42 this meeting, if I'm there for the State, I'm going to  
43 mention this, that we need to stop the harvest of all  
44 females whether they have calf or not, because these  
45 are our future stock. And I hate to see the caribou  
46 decline, but I think even as Natives we need to take a  
47 step to help our future. This is our -- we can't live  
48 without caribou. We need to do something about this  
49 bad, as they're crashing. I mean, there's no doubt  
50 about it.

1 MR. DAU: Well, you guys will get no  
2 resistance from me. What we were trying to do with the  
3 proposal was make sure that we didn't go beyond what  
4 people would support. It sounds like all the villages  
5 are willing to support more than we put in there. So  
6 again, I know you're going to go down there, Attamuk.  
7 And either Percy or Mona Washington will be down there.  
8 Make that comment to the Board of Game. Again they've  
9 been doing that for moose for a long, long time. I  
10 think the Board is going to be looking for ways to save  
11 calves and to save cows, and to do it in a way that you  
12 guys will support. So by all means speak up.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
15 Hannah.

16  
17 MS. LOON: Thank you.

18  
19 In the 1960s, around there, there was a  
20 real big crash to a point where caribou was not allowed  
21 to be given for dog food. And I think it would be good  
22 to mention, too, for our local residents to make them  
23 aware that caribou is drastically declining to a point  
24 where we have to conserve for human consumption only,  
25 except for the innards that we don't use on the caribou  
26 part. That we shouldn't shoot just to shoot, but to --  
27 and not to give to other people just because they have  
28 dogs. They're not using dogs now to go grocery  
29 shopping or hunting.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 MR. DAU: Yeah. Good point, Hannah.  
34 And right now, just so you know, in State regs and  
35 Federal regs, too, as far as I know, you can't shoot  
36 caribou or moose or sheep or anything and feed them to  
37 dogs. That's illegal. If the trooper catches somebody  
38 doing that, he'll cite them.

39  
40 But I think again you used the word  
41 education, and that's where you need to work with  
42 Megan, and Brittany, and Linda.

43  
44 I agree, because, you know, we all --  
45 I've been around a long time. You guys have been  
46 around forever. It happens. And we can't afford that  
47 any more. You know, when the herd was half a million  
48 strong, nobody -- everybody kind of looked the other  
49 way. We can't do that any more. Things have changed.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Does anybody have  
2 another question.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: On the calving  
7 grounds, I know that's the beginning of life of the  
8 caribou for our winter hunt. How's the grazing up  
9 there for the calving grounds when they go up north to  
10 have their young, because Mother Nature knows if  
11 there's not enough feed, they will have a reduction.  
12 Anybody be interested a plot to see how the moss is up  
13 there.

14

15 MR. DAU: Yeah, that's a good question.  
16 Yeah. In fact, the USGS had a guy up there, Dave  
17 Gustein, working in cooperation with another guy from  
18 the Park Service, Kyle Joly, and they had some of that  
19 LLC money. And I think they were up there for two  
20 years. I think the funding is done. It was a two-year  
21 project. They also did the same project over to the  
22 east around the Teshekpuk herd. So they've got a  
23 comparison.

24

25 I haven't seen the results. I wasn't  
26 part of the study at all, but I've talked to those  
27 guys, and what I understand was they were astounded at  
28 how productive the vegetation is over in the Western  
29 Arctic Herd calving area compared to the Teshekpuk  
30 calving area. And some of the information they're  
31 getting on body condition from the Teshekpuk Herd, it  
32 kind of bears that out. It looks like the Teshekpuk  
33 Herd is going down, too. That herd is less than half  
34 of what it was at its peak. But in contrast to this  
35 herd, we don't see any indication at all that these  
36 caribou are food limited. These caribou were fat in  
37 the fall. All the hunters tell me that, that's what I  
38 see. Even in the spring time, if you have an easy  
39 winter, everybody that's getting caribou right now,  
40 telling me the same thing. Man, this much fat on the  
41 cows. These things aren't food limited. The  
42 Teshekpuks, it seemed like they might be. A different  
43 situation.

44

45 The other thing I wanted to say was a  
46 friend of mine, her name was Peggy Cruapatch (ph), she  
47 did her master's thesis back in the -- it was probably  
48 late 70s, early 80s, she and John Bryant looked at  
49 vegetation up there on the calving grounds in the  
50 Utukok Hills. And so not only can we compare

1 conditions right now to conditions farther east, we can  
2 compare conditions now to what they were way back, you  
3 know, 20, 30 years ago.

4  
5                   Anyway, to answer your question, I  
6 think things are find up there. I don't get any hints  
7 from anybody that there's problems on the calving  
8 grounds of food.

9  
10                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

11  
12                   Go ahead, Raymond.

13  
14                   MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15  
16                   The calving of caribou and the  
17 reindeer, the history of calving, and I suppose that  
18 you don't know, and then maybe all the people here that  
19 know, when the calving season's happening for the  
20 reindeer herders and the caribou, because there's also  
21 something that you guys should learn are staying with  
22 the caribou when all the calving. They report from the  
23 reindeer herd, about like 10 reindeer herding area here  
24 60 years ago, they watch their herd very closely during  
25 the calving, because when they are born, within a few  
26 minutes the ravens gets them. And they're real  
27 helpless, they can't walk. That's something, Jim,  
28 that you should -- you know, to look at it and then see  
29 what they are. That's the report from the reindeer  
30 herders 65 years ago. The same thing to caribou.

31  
32                   MR. DAU: Yeah, that's an interesting  
33 observation. Back when I was first coming out to  
34 Northwest Alaska, I didn't work with caribou. I worked  
35 with the reindeer industry out of Nome. I worked with  
36 a herder, Larry Davis. And then I actually had a job  
37 with the college. I was a reindeer research associate.  
38 And it's exactly what you said. We spend, the herders  
39 spent probably more time with their herd during fawning  
40 than they did at any other time of year. And it wasn't  
41 so much ravens when I was down there. It was brown  
42 bears. Brown bears could get into a group and get 14,  
43 15 fawns in a night.

44  
45                   But what we have done up on the Western  
46 Arctic Herd calving groups is we've actually tried to  
47 minimize our presence up there just to avoid  
48 disturbance. We go up and we fly the surveys, but  
49 we've not been going up there in helicopters. You  
50 know, some herds, they go up there and they weigh

1 calves as soon as they're born, try to get weights.  
2 There's lots and lots of activity with helicopters.  
3 And people around here have always told me, and people  
4 from the North Slope, they said, we don't want you up  
5 there with a helicopter during fawning, you know,  
6 during calving. We want you to leave them alone. So  
7 we go up and do the calving ground surveys, and that's  
8 it.

9  
10 The other thing I should say though is  
11 in the Teshekpuk Herd, this other fellow, my  
12 counterpart, Lincoln Parrett, they just did, they're  
13 finishing up a calf mortality study where they did go  
14 out with a helicopter during -- well, they've done it  
15 -- they've gone up there several times a year, but  
16 they're putting collars on newborn little calves.  
17 They're tiny little collars, and they expand as the  
18 animals grow. But he did it specifically to look at  
19 what was killing them. And what he found, I don't have  
20 his slides here, but he found that wolverines were  
21 getting a lot of them, way more than I think in this  
22 heard. But wolverines kill a lot of Teshekpuk calves.  
23 Golden eagles get a lot of them. I can't remember  
24 about ravens. He didn't lose -- I don't think he lost  
25 hardly any on the calving grounds to wolves, because  
26 there's no wolves up there. And I don't think he lost  
27 many to bears until they got down around the mountains.  
28 But wolverines were a big predator on those new calves.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

31  
32 MR. MOTO: I was just wondering, you  
33 know, the last few years we've had this inclement  
34 weather where we have rain in the middle of winter, and  
35 freezing. Have you ever estimated how much mortality  
36 rate we have because of that, or is there any way you  
37 could figure out how are declining so much, you know,  
38 because I know that some of them have a hard time  
39 trying to get it, because sometimes the ice, you know,  
40 gets about that thick some places. I know around  
41 Deering, it's been pretty thick. So I was wondering  
42 about the mortality rate because of the inclement  
43 weather.

44  
45 MR. DAU: Yeah, a good question,  
46 Calvin.

47  
48 We know what the mortality rate is. We  
49 estimate that every year based on the collared caribou.  
50 The connection that I can't make with data is I can't

1 say that they died of ice, or that they died of wolves  
2 necessarily, or that they died of, you know, something  
3 else. But I've got this chart here. This shows two  
4 things. The blue line shows calf survival through  
5 time, so that's this line. And then the red line shows  
6 adult cow mortality. You guys have seen this in the  
7 past. I wasn't going to show this to the Board of Game  
8 unless they asked what you just asked.

9  
10 But we started getting these weird  
11 winters, you know, back right around in here somewhere.  
12 And all these early really high adult cow mortality  
13 years, those were years when we had these warm spells  
14 in the middle of winter and we had rain. And I was  
15 flying out and picking up a lot of collars back them  
16 with the Cub and digging them up with a shovel. And I  
17 was going through that snow, and it was terrible. It's  
18 like you say, you had a half an inch, three-quarters of  
19 an inch of ice in places. So those were the first  
20 times that I saw mortality rates approaching 30 percent  
21 of the collared cows.

22  
23 You know, I'll make a jump here. I  
24 think it was the ice. And I say that -- I don't think  
25 it was wolves, you know. It certainly wasn't hunters.  
26 And I say that partly because of what I saw at the  
27 carcasses when I dug them up. You dig those carcasses  
28 up, you can tell an animal is starved. All you've got  
29 to do is break a long bone, you look at the marrow.  
30 And if they've starved, the bone marrow don't  
31 completely fill the cavity, the bone marrow cavity.  
32 It's not white, it's red. It looks like red bloody  
33 snot is what it looks like. So you can tell that they  
34 starved. And all those animals had that kind of bone  
35 marrow.

36  
37 But the other thing, it was not just  
38 looking at the dead ones that I dug up, it was looking  
39 at all the caribou that survived those years, and  
40 talking to hunters. Caribou were in terrible shape  
41 those years that we had the ice.

42  
43 And so what you just asked about is  
44 what I think has started this decline down. I think it  
45 was these midwinter thaw events with ice.

46  
47 Since that time, you know, predator  
48 numbers have been going up, and I think that the role  
49 that predators are playing has changed, but I think if  
50 there's any one smoking gun that started this decline,

1 it's what you're talking about, it's weather.

2

3                   It's not just winter weather though.  
4 It's also summer weather, because we've had two die-  
5 offs since I've been around this herd. And I think  
6 both of those die-offs were predisposed by what  
7 happened during the summer. Caribou were already in  
8 bad shape when they were coming off the North Slope. I  
9 don't know exactly why that was. You know, I've got my  
10 guesses. Probably everybody's got their guesses, but  
11 it's not as simple as just rain in the winter. It can  
12 be summer conditions, too, and those two things acting  
13 together, you know, it can be awful for caribou.

14

15                   MR. MOTO: The reason I brought that  
16 up, we noticed that when we had -- right after the rain  
17 and freeze, we supposed to have blizzard. A couple  
18 weeks ago we had a blizzard with no blowing snow. So  
19 we know that all the snow is under the ice, you know.  
20 That's why I brought it up, because it was unusual to  
21 see 40 miles an hour wind with no blowing snow. And  
22 this is something that we really wonder what's going  
23 on. And one of the good things about it, you don't  
24 have to walk in the blinding blizzard, you know, but  
25 this is something that -- that's the reason I brought  
26 it up.

27

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

30

31                   MS. LOON: in Selawik this fall there  
32 was no snow from falltime to maybe December/January,  
33 around there, plus it was late freeze up. And by  
34 January 14 my daughter and her boyfriend got two  
35 caribou close by shelter cabin. And then I heard from  
36 this one during their discussions, comments, that  
37 caribou were fat, and they were pretty healthy. So,  
38 you know, during that period from October to January,  
39 it was hard to go out on the tundra with those big  
40 niggerheads, and you would do a lot of damage to your  
41 snowmachine anyway, so they was treasuring and trying  
42 not to break their snowmachines, because it's too  
43 expensive to buy parts. So it was not until maybe  
44 January, around there, when we started to get one or  
45 two or three.

46

47                   MR. DAU: Yeah. The same thing up  
48 here. The only place where I saw really any snow was  
49 the Upper Kobuk before just recently. And they didn't  
50 have deep snow by their standard. And last year, you

1 know, we had an easy winter, too, and the winter  
2 before. This is really our third consecutive winter  
3 where it's been hard to get around by snowmachine. And  
4 the last two years we've had really pretty low  
5 mortality rates for the herd. So the little bit of  
6 rain we've got and it hasn't created that ice like  
7 Calvin was talking about, or like I was talking about.  
8 Caribou have come through well.

9

10 This winter is not over yet, but, you  
11 know, we kind of had a bye on winter until just  
12 recently where most of the caribou are. I'm hoping it  
13 will be a good year for them again. So far it doesn't  
14 look like it's going to be bad year based on the  
15 collars that I can follow. You know, the mortality  
16 rate's not going through the roof. It doesn't look  
17 unusually high so far, but the winter's not over. We  
18 don't know.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
21 Raymond.

22

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

24

25 This is something that a lot of people  
26 have asked. Why is this herd declining so fast from  
27 490,000, now we're down to -- I don't know how much it  
28 numbers now, probably 50 percent less. Why are they  
29 disappearing? I mean, what's happening? Nobody's here  
30 to give us the right answer, what's happening. You  
31 know, that -- because I know for the predictions of  
32 this herd, I heard that 55 years ago from Paul Rader, I  
33 checked to see, that he said there would be so much  
34 caribou, you'll be seeing them right from your back  
35 door and your front window. And they just laughed at  
36 him, they didn't believe him there'd be so much  
37 caribou. And then they'll start disappearing. They'll  
38 be disappearing, and it will be all gone, and they  
39 won't come back. And he said, hang on to your  
40 reindeer.

41

42 So the people ask the question now  
43 what's happening, why are they declining. You got any  
44 information on that, Jim?

45

46 MR. DAU: Yeah, I sure do, Raymond.  
47 Well, the short answer, again I'd go back to the same  
48 slide. The reason they're declining is we've got more  
49 adult cows that are dying than we have female cows  
50 surviving. So a long as that's going on, the only

1 thing that can happen is the herd's going to go down.  
2 So that's the why. High adult mortality, low calf  
3 survival.

4  
5 But then the next question of, well,  
6 why is that? And that's I think what you're really  
7 getting is, you know, why are these two lines going the  
8 way they're going. So what I've got -- oops -- this is  
9 based on just collared caribou, and it goes back to I  
10 think the early -- yeah, the early 1980s, and so last  
11 winter I went through all of our telemetry data, and I  
12 want to know, of all the collared caribou that we get  
13 to, what did we figure out what was killing them.

14  
15 So the first thing I looked at was just  
16 natural mortality versus harvest. And so that's what  
17 this graph shows. The red down here are collared  
18 caribou that were killed by a hunter. That's the  
19 percentage. Those collared caribou that were killed by  
20 hunters. This is natural mortality. And so the main  
21 thing to get from this slide is that for, you know, 30  
22 years natural mortality has been way, way higher than  
23 harvest. And that's why I say, I don't think harvest  
24 started this decline going down. It was natural  
25 mortality.

26  
27 So this is all kinds of natural  
28 mortality. There's lots of things that kill caribou,  
29 you know, in nature. Starvation. There's wolves.  
30 There's bears. There's they fall through the ice.  
31 They have accidents. All those things.

32  
33 So the next thing I did was for just  
34 the black part now, I'm just talking about natural  
35 mortality, that's what this slide gets on. I looked at  
36 -- I tried to figure out what all the different sources  
37 were, and I keep subdividing my data and my sample  
38 sizes get too small, so the only break I could make was  
39 predators versus everything else. And by predators I  
40 mean wolves, brown bears, black bears, wolverines,  
41 lynx, anything, golden eagles. If it was killed by a  
42 predator, it's black. Everything else put together,  
43 starvation, disease weather, accidents, all those are  
44 red. And so from this graph, what it looks to me like  
45 is that most of the mortality is natural mortality, and  
46 most of the natural mortality is caused by predators  
47 now.

48  
49 The one thing that's uncertain in all  
50 these graphs is that I'm sure that some of these

1 caribou that I get to that have collars, the reason the  
2 wolf got them, or the bear got him was because of these  
3 icing events that Calvin mentioned, that I've  
4 mentioned. You know, they were on their last legs and  
5 a wolf caught him, and he finished them off, and that's  
6 attributed to a predator. There's no way I can break  
7 that out.

8

9 And so the point I want to make is that  
10 in these charts there's some overlap, and there's some  
11 uncertainty. But for most of the data we have, it  
12 looks like predators are a big cause of what's going on  
13 now.

14

15 But I'll go back to what I said  
16 earlier. I think that what started this decline wasn't  
17 predators. It was weather.

18

19 So does that answer your question,  
20 Raymond?

21

22 MR. STONEY: Yes, sir. Thank you.

23

24 MR. DAU: You bet.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hey, Jim, you  
27 mentioned earlier that on the calving grounds a lot of  
28 birds and wolverines are killing the calves. I think  
29 if drastic, it works, I think we need to have an open  
30 season on the calving grounds of all predators, not by  
31 naming them, the eagles, the wolverines, and the bears  
32 in the calving ground, to preserve in the name of  
33 caribou. I think that's -- we need to start right  
34 there, because once they get healthy enough, they will  
35 -- there's a chance for them to survive is what we need  
36 to do. We need to take steps and look at all levels.

37

38 MR. DAU: And what I told you, that was  
39 based on that calf mortality for the Teshekpuk Herd.  
40 We've never done it in this herd. But maybe that's  
41 something you want to look at in the future for this  
42 herd is to do what they did up there. And even thought  
43 it's distasteful to people. People don't like us  
44 messing with baby caribou on the calving grounds. I  
45 know that, and that's why I've not come to you guys in  
46 years past and say, hey, we need to do this study. I  
47 tend to not to ask you guys to do things that I know  
48 you don't want to do. But maybe with this herd going  
49 down, maybe it's important enough now that we need to  
50 do something like that in the future.

1                   But the last slide I've got, all you  
2 guys are usually about four slides ahead of me with  
3 your questions. We'll talk a little bit, because I  
4 know the Board of Game is going to want to talk about  
5 predator control, because they're hearing it from the  
6 villagers, and it's one thing that the State has said  
7 they were going to do for the last 15 years or more, is  
8 that they're not just going to sit by and watch moose  
9 and caribou populations go down.

10  
11                   But I don't know that -- I think it  
12 will be a tough sell, Attamuk, to get the State to  
13 endorse killing golden eagles. They're not going to do  
14 that. I don't see that many golden eagles in the  
15 Western Arctic Herd calving grounds. I don't see any  
16 wolverines, but, heck, I guess to see about three or  
17 four wolverines a year in all the flying I do. They  
18 could be there and I just wouldn't see them. But,  
19 anyway, the calving grounds is one of the two areas  
20 where I think the State could do predator control just  
21 based on land ownership. So, you know, you're thinking  
22 along the same lines that I am. And I'll show you the  
23 slide here in a minute.

24  
25                   Okay. So this last slide, it's been a  
26 long time since we were talking about it, but this is  
27 harvestable surplus, and this is everything. This is 2  
28 percent cows, 15 percent bulls. This is harvest. So  
29 I've lumped bulls and cows here. When you actually  
30 manage caribou, you can't do that. You can't lump them  
31 all together. It's really important to separate out  
32 bulls and cows, because the effects of taking cows are  
33 so much different than taking bulls.

34  
35                   So what I've done in this next slide,  
36 this is a harvestable surplus just of bulls, and this  
37 dotted red line, that's the harvestable surplus for  
38 cows. And this is two percent of the cow population.  
39 This is 15 percent of the bull population. And the  
40 first thing you probably notice is, wow, this top line  
41 looks like the same line up here when you lump them  
42 together. And the reason for that is, is most of this  
43 harvestable surplus is bulls, because, remember, we're  
44 taking 15 percent of the bulls. We're only taking two  
45 percent of the cows. So you can see that bulls really  
46 are important in this whole concept of harvestable  
47 surplus. What we have for bulls is going to dictate a  
48 lot of what the Board of Game can even consider doing  
49 for regulatory actions.

50

1                   So here's the harvestable surplus for  
2 bulls, and this is the harvest of bulls. And we still  
3 have more bulls than what we're taking, but this coming  
4 year they're probably going to be pretty darn close.

5  
6                   The scary thing is down here. Here's  
7 the harvestable surplus for cows, and this is what  
8 we've taken. So for the last three years, we've  
9 already taken more than two percent of the cows from  
10 the herd. We haven't taken a lot more. You know, it's  
11 a pretty small number, but the trend is pretty clear,  
12 it's pretty consistent. We're taking more cows than we  
13 probably should already.

14  
15                   What this shows, this is total harvest  
16 expressed as a percentage of the herd. People want to  
17 say -- they say, well, yeah, you're taking, you know,  
18 15,000 caribou, but the herd's big. That's a real  
19 small percentage of the hers. And they're right. For  
20 a long, long time we were taking about three percent of  
21 the herd, but in recent years this has started going  
22 up. And the reason for that, it's not because harvests  
23 have gone up. Harvests haven't gone up. You can see,  
24 this is total harvest right here. If you put a line  
25 through that, that's flat. Harvests haven't gone up.

26  
27                   Interestingly, harvests haven't gone  
28 down. Even though we've got less than half as many  
29 caribou as we had 10 years ago, that hasn't been  
30 reflected in harvest. Even though caribou are coming  
31 down later in the fall, that hasn't affected total  
32 harvest. People are still able to get caribou. Even  
33 though they're coming down, you know, villages like  
34 Buckland and Deering and Koyuk and Shaktoolik, they're  
35 taking more cows, because they're getting down there  
36 later. They're still taking the same number.

37  
38                   But as the harvest stays the same, and  
39 you get a declining population, that means you're going  
40 to be taking an increasing proportion every year. And  
41 that's why I say, if somebody comes to me and says,  
42 well, you know, you're making this case that's it's  
43 really not hunting, it's predators and it's weather, we  
44 shouldn't reduce hunting at all. That's kind of what I  
45 heard from the Seward Peninsula RAC. I think they're  
46 off base, because we're at the point where hunting is  
47 going to start adding to these effects of weather and  
48 predators. We're going to make things worse if we  
49 don't start cutting back. And that's apparent in this  
50 slide.

1                   If you look at the last three years,  
2 we've taken five and a half percent of the herd.  
3 Before that, for the previous 10 or 15 years, we were  
4 taking about three, three and a half percent of the  
5 herd.

6  
7                   So what I've done here, again that was  
8 this slide here. This is bulls and cows combined  
9 again, and I've told you you can't do that. And so  
10 what I've done is I've broken out bulls on the top,  
11 cows at the bottom. And what I've done is I've  
12 projected this out for three or four years, what's  
13 coming in the future. If the herd continues to go down  
14 like it has, and if harvests stay flat like they have,  
15 this is what's going to happen in the future. We're  
16 going to be taking, you know, 15, maybe 20 percent of  
17 the bulls out of the herd every year. I don't think we  
18 can sustain that. You can see for a long, long time,  
19 we were only taking, you know, four to six percent of  
20 the bulls. And if you remember my bull/cow ratio  
21 chart, the bull/ cow ratio has been going down.  
22 There's no way we're going to be able to increase that  
23 up to 15 percent and have bulls stay the same. We're  
24 going to start driving bulls down faster.

25  
26                   This really isn't going to have a big  
27 effect on your numbers though. I think the numbers are  
28 going to be pretty similar, the total number,  
29 regardless of whether you're taking 15 or 20 percent of  
30 your bulls. What's going to happen though is you're  
31 not going to have -- the first thing you're going to  
32 lose is you're going to lose your big bulls. We've  
33 seen this over and over and over again in the State.  
34 Your big, mature bulls are going to go away. Everybody  
35 wants big, mature bulls. What do you guys shoot in  
36 September? You shoot big bulls because they've got the  
37 most fat. You don't shoot little bulls until you have  
38 to. What do these trophy hunters shoot out here?  
39 They don't care about fat. They care about antlers.  
40 They want big bulls. Everybody wants big bulls. Those  
41 are going to be the first to go away if we don't do  
42 something.

43  
44                   A lot of these big old bulls, they're  
45 going to die within one or two years, so in biology, we  
46 call that compensatory mortality. If you didn't shoot  
47 these things, they're going to die within one or two  
48 years anyway. They get all rutted out, they get  
49 skinny, they starve, they get killed by bears. They're  
50 going to die.

1                   That's why I say that this trend right  
2 here really isn't going to affect your numbers very  
3 much. It's going to affect what you've got left to  
4 shoot.

5  
6                   But this things down here, this line  
7 with the cows, this is just barely bumping up. And,  
8 you know, in the next three or four years, we're still  
9 going to be well below five percent of the cows. But  
10 if you double this, if you go from one and a half or  
11 two percent up to four or five percent, this is what's  
12 going to affect your total numbers. Even though it's a  
13 much, much smaller increase in the percentage of cows  
14 that you take, every time you kill a cow, you kill her  
15 daughters and her granddaughters and her great  
16 granddaughters. That's exponential growth, and that's  
17 why that's going to affect our numbers.

18  
19                   Hannah.

20  
21                   MS. LOON: How many -- I don't know how  
22 to word it. (In Inupiaq)

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: She's asking how many  
25 bulls versus -- I mean, how many females will a bull  
26 have is what she's trying to say. She's trying to ask  
27 that, the number. You know, when they're all fighting  
28 for their females.

29  
30                   MR. DAU: Yeah, it doesn't take very  
31 many bulls to get the job done, Hannah. You can --  
32 we've driven bull/cow ratios in other parts of the  
33 State where we haven't done anything. When the  
34 Mulchatna Herd crashed, they went from about 200,000  
35 caribou down to about 30. At the same time that crash  
36 happened, we drove the bull/cow ratio all the way down  
37 to about 13 bulls per 100 cows, and they were still  
38 producing calves. So one bull can service lots and  
39 lots of cows. And it's the same thing with moose. And  
40 unfortunately the State's got lots and lots of evidence  
41 that, you know, you can have pretty low bull/cow ratios  
42 and still have decent calf production.

43  
44                   The one thing that they say, there have  
45 been some studies done, that if you eliminate your big  
46 bulls, that the cows, they don't want to breed with a  
47 teenage bull or a little bull, so they won't breed.  
48 They'll put it off. And the first time they ovulate,  
49 they go through estrus, they won't breed. And the  
50 second time they may not breed either. They're waiting

1 for, you know, Big Ed, and there is no Big Ed. He's  
2 been eliminated. He's gone. And so finally on their  
3 second or third estrus, they'll finally breed, then  
4 they will have a calf, but they'll have that calf  
5 later. And what they've done, some studies with moose,  
6 calves that are born late don't have as much time to  
7 get big and fat before fall. And they say that those  
8 calves have lower survival if they are born late. So  
9 it's not just a matter of making calves, you've got to  
10 make calves that are going to survive until they get  
11 old enough to make calves of their own.

12

13 But anyway, you can drive your bull/cow  
14 ratio down pretty low, Hannah, before you get into  
15 biological problems. We've got 40 bulls per 100 cows  
16 right now. We've got no biological problem yet with  
17 bulls.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

20

21 MR. MOTO: Okay. I was wondering, you  
22 touched a little bit about the inclement weather in  
23 summer. On the calving -- where they calf, have you  
24 ever determined how much of their feed there dry up  
25 because of the lack of moisture or something. Is that  
26 something that would make the mortality rate a little  
27 better, worse, or whatever.

28

29 MR. DAU: Yeah, that's a good question.  
30 And I don't have a lot of information about that.  
31 Again, I go back to just what I've heard, you know, the  
32 work that Dave Gustein and Kyle Joly have done up on  
33 the calving grounds. Their transect, they've got a  
34 north/south transect that starts at the mountains and  
35 it goes pretty much all the way up to the coast, up by  
36 Point Lay. And what they said is productivity for the  
37 Western Arctic Herd calving grounds is much higher than  
38 they found farther east. I don't know what other herds  
39 they've done this with, you know, more inland herds.

40

41 But it sounds to me like in recent  
42 years, even though the snow cover is pretty much gone  
43 now by the time I get -- I get up there and I do  
44 calving ground surveys. I start around the 5th of June  
45 and I'm usually done by the 15th. In the last 10 years  
46 it's been amazingly different than the first 15 years  
47 that I was up there. I used to go up there and I'd put  
48 on all my winter gear and everything, because there  
49 would be a foot of snow up on the calving grounds when  
50 I was up there, and that's what those calves were being

1 born into. For the last 10 years, there isn't any snow  
2 up there. It's not that there's less snow. The only  
3 snow you see is in the big overflow ice fields in the  
4 rivers, and in the downdraft sides of the mountains  
5 where there's been big, big drifts formed. Big icy  
6 drifts. But out in the regular tundra where cows are  
7 having calves, there's no snow.

8

9 But it doesn't seem like -- at least if  
10 I've got the story straight from Dave and Kyle, that  
11 that hasn't affected vegetation productivity.

12

13 MR. MOTO: The reason I brought that up  
14 is I know that if the cows don't feed well, they don't  
15 produce enough feed for the calves. So that might be  
16 some of the reason you mortality rates on the calves,  
17 because the cows don't produce milk that they need?

18

19 MR. DAU: It's possible, but again, you  
20 know, from what we've seen so far, it doesn't seem like  
21 that's the case now. But this whole business with  
22 summer conditions, food is only part of that. I think  
23 it's equally important, it's not just what's there to  
24 eat, but whether or not caribou have time to eat it.

25

26 The other big factor that goes on in  
27 the summer is insects. It's mosquitos, it's bot flies,  
28 and it's warble flies, you know, the ones that make the  
29 kummuks (ph) on their back, and the worms in the back  
30 of their throat. The mosquitos. And when you have  
31 really bad insect conditions, those caribou, they don't  
32 feed. There can be all kinds of food out there, and  
33 they don't take time to feed. What they do is they go  
34 up on mountain tops to get into the breeze, or they run  
35 out to the beach where there's nothing to eat, they're  
36 in the sand. I've seen some caribou standing a quarter  
37 mile out into the ocean to get away from bugs. There's  
38 nothing to eat out there. Or the last thing they do is  
39 they run like the dickens. If there's no wind, they  
40 make their own wind. And these caribou can -- I've  
41 seen them go over 50 miles a day.

42

43 So this whole business about climate  
44 change, and warming, and vegetation productivity in the  
45 summer, there's another component of that, and that's  
46 insect harassment.

47

48 The other thing that these bugs do is  
49 when they drive caribou into these big, huge herds,  
50 sometimes these hers, they'll stand in one spot, and

1 it's like they're in a corral, and they run in place,  
2 they run in a big circle. I've seen this before.  
3 There's a German term for this. Anyway, when that's  
4 happening, lots and lots of cows get separated from  
5 their calves. And lots of calves get trampled. So  
6 what I said to you guys earlier about hunting with  
7 snowmachines and boats and splitting up cows and  
8 calves, well, the insects do the same thing in the  
9 summer. And that might be one of the things that's  
10 going on with that summer mortality that we're seeing  
11 on calves. It may not be food related; it may be bug  
12 related, because we have such a long period now where  
13 there's no snow. It's -- again, when I started back in  
14 '88, I'd go to the North Slope and I was wearing my  
15 parka. I go to the North Slope now for calving ground  
16 surveys, I've got bug dope in my pocket. I've seen  
17 mosquitos in early June. It's amazingly different.

18  
19 MR. MOTO: I also was wondering, you  
20 know, the last few years we've had a lot of volcanic  
21 explosion. And that's the reason we get a lot of acid  
22 rain or -- in that area, you know. What effect does  
23 that rain have on the feeding ground?

24  
25 MR. DAU: I don't know about acid rain.  
26 What I know about acid rain has to do usually with  
27 pulpwood production, like down in Southeast Alaska  
28 where they've got mills and they're grinding up trees  
29 to make paper and plywood and things like that. You  
30 look at hillsides behind some of those big mines, and  
31 the spruce trees are dead. And they say that's a lot  
32 of acid rain.

33  
34 Up here what I've usually heard about  
35 acid rain.....

36  
37 MR. MOTO: You have not asked a  
38 scientist, because I know one time they had bad rain up  
39 in North Slope area because of that radiation or  
40 something.

41  
42 MR. DAU: Yeah. That's what I was  
43 going to say, is instead of hearing about acid rain up  
44 here, the major concern is radio isotopes or radio  
45 nucleates. And that goes back -- you know, you talk to  
46 people in Point Hope, and they get pretty ramped up  
47 about what happened in the 50s and 60s with Project  
48 Chariot, because they buried contaminants in soil to do  
49 soil studies.

50

1                   When I worked for the reindeer industry  
2 down in Nome, they had me go out and collect lichens in  
3 reindeer range, and we specifically looked for evidence  
4 of the nuclear testing that was done in the Aleutian  
5 Islands back in the 60s. You can tell, you can trace  
6 those isotopes to the actual bombs that were set off,  
7 because of their signature, their isotopic signature.  
8 And so it's not just, you know, there's isotopes or  
9 there's not. There's isotopes from Amchitka, you know,  
10 in 1966.

11  
12                   The other thing they wanted me to look  
13 for, they wanted the samples for, was they wanted to  
14 look for evidence of isotopes from Chernoble back in  
15 1986. And what they found, and there's data going all  
16 the way back to the 60s on isotopes, not just on  
17 vegetation either, but in caribou and people and  
18 wolves.

19  
20                   Anyway they found that isotope levels  
21 are pretty low. They're lower than they predicted they  
22 would be back in the 60s. So so far out here there's  
23 no evidence that there's any radioactive contaminants.

24  
25                   The last thing I can say about that is  
26 that when we've done collections up around Red Dog,  
27 we've specifically looked for radio isotopes in all of  
28 those samples, and they've always come in really low.  
29 So for this herd, you know, we don't need to worry  
30 about that yet.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I hate to  
33 interfere, you know, but I think we need to go back to  
34 Proposal 202 and keep it at that level, Jim. That way  
35 we could go on with our meeting. We need to get away.

36  
37  
38                   Thank you.

39  
40                   MR. DAU: And I need to get going so I  
41 can fly. But I've got just a couple more slides here  
42 and then I'm done. Where was I. Too far. Bear with  
43 me. Okay. We've gone through that. This is about my  
44 last slide. I've got one more after this.

45  
46                   Anyway, all this slide shows, these are  
47 the recommended amendments to Proposal 202. All of  
48 these have been put forth by the Advisory Committees or  
49 the Western Interior RAC, or -- let's see, the North  
50 Slope is out of there. Oh, I'm sorry, all this time

1 we've -- sorry. There.

2

3                   After going to all these meetings,  
4 there was no way I could keep all the dates straight in  
5 my head. I needed something to get all these dates in  
6 the same place. And so what this -- every one of these  
7 bars is a recommended set of dates to close resident  
8 caribou hunting, and this is the cow closure here.  
9 This is the bull closure here. But every one of these  
10 is a set of dates that was put forward by an Advisory  
11 Committee. Fish and Game doesn't have any dog in this  
12 fight at all. We didn't make any of these dates up.  
13 This is just from the ACs.

14

15                   So what I did, here's all the dates  
16 from the -- for the cows closed. I just -- what this  
17 colored area is, that's just the mean or the average  
18 date when people would have -- they would close the cow  
19 season, and that -- the average date was April 10th and  
20 it would go through August 13th. That's just the mean.  
21 Nobody came up with that date specifically.

22

23                   And this is when they would close it  
24 for bulls. The average date was October 13th. And  
25 this one had the most agreement, because everybody  
26 pretty much knows when bulls go stink and nobody says,  
27 you know, we should be harvesting bulls when they're  
28 stink. When to end that, there was more variability,  
29 but the average day was February 4th.

30

31                   And it gets really confusing, because  
32 it goes past the end of the year, so this is actually  
33 18 months right here. This is a year and a half. And  
34 I've shown what the regulatory year would be, and then  
35 here's a calendar year. But if the Board of Game did  
36 something like this, if they adopted something like  
37 these average dates, there could be no time of year you  
38 could not kill a caribou. If it's white, bulls and  
39 cows are both open. You could kill anything. In this  
40 blue period, bulls would be open, but cows would be  
41 closed, so this is basically summer. Spring and  
42 summer, early part of fall. Then you get into fall  
43 time, you know, October 13th, you would close bulls,  
44 but you could still kill cows. Here you could kill  
45 anything, and then here again bulls are open, and cows  
46 are closed. It just starts repeating.

47

48                   So that's what we've got so far. This  
49 goes beyond what Proposal 202 would do. And you guys  
50 heard me in Kiana say that Proposal 202, the five

1 things that we started with, that's a cream puff  
2 proposal. It doesn't save many caribou. It doesn't  
3 affect many people. And if you guys really want to try  
4 and stay ahead of the game, come up with something like  
5 this. You know, make your comments to the Board of  
6 Game that you want to do more. That's what all these  
7 ACs did.

8

9 And then the last thing I've got to  
10 show you -- anybody got question about this before I  
11 move on. Lance.

12

13 MR. L. KRAMER: Jim, I'd close it  
14 before. I wouldn't want any of these closed  
15 completely, to cows and to bulls completely, because it  
16 will make criminals out of us. Because people when  
17 they go out in the country to get those five caribou,  
18 if they only come across some cows in the spring, then  
19 they're going to be criminals. It shouldn't be closed  
20 completely. There should be a mixed bag limit. Maybe  
21 three bulls, two cows, you know what I mean, for  
22 spring. The same thing with the fall. Should be maybe  
23 two bulls, three cows. Because if you close it  
24 completely to bulls, somebody in Buckland who wants to  
25 get a young bull, that trooper that busted that time  
26 for wolverine, he'll be right on him, and then our  
27 people will be in court. That's not good to close it  
28 completely. You've to have mixed bag limits here.

29

30 MR. DAU: Yeah. You know, what I would  
31 say is make that comment to the Board of Game, just  
32 like these guys are going to make these comments,  
33 Lance. That's another way to do it.

34

35 I think, you know, in terms of  
36 enforceability, you get into problems in both  
37 directions if you do that. The enforcement officers,  
38 they have a hard time, you know. And I think hunters  
39 -- I think hunters can have a hard time, too, but, you  
40 know, I'm open for anything. I don't care what you  
41 guys do. What I want to see you people do is reduce  
42 the harvest. And I want to see it done so that you  
43 guys aren't criminals. I want to see it done so that  
44 you can support it. But anything we do that's going to  
45 have any affect, it's going to hit hunters. I mean,  
46 you're going to feel the pain.

47

48 MR. L. KRAMER: Yeah. Well, we'll be  
49 taking less cows here if there's a mixed bag limit, you  
50 know. You can only take two a trip, or two whatever.

1 But either way, it will be saving cows still. Saving  
2 bulls still. And that's important. But you can't do  
3 things to the extreme, because you're going to give  
4 that trooper a lot of ammo against our people. You'll  
5 see. He'll be landing next to people in Noorvik  
6 springtime, and if they've got a cow on the ground,  
7 boy, he'll be writing them a ticket right now.

8

9 MR. DAU: That's right. That's right.

10

11 MR. L. KRAMER: They'll be in jail,  
12 guys, because of that.

13

14 MR. DAU: Well, the only way to stay  
15 out of jail if they close cows is to make sure people  
16 don't kill cows I mean, that's the.....

17

18 MR. L. KRAMER: Unless you have a mixed  
19 bag limit during that time.

20

21 MR. DAU: Yeah. No, that's another  
22 option I said, you can make that to the Board of Game.  
23 That's what I would suggest, you know, if that's the  
24 way you want to go.

25

26 MR. L. KRAMER: Yeah.

27

28 MR. DAU: But I've said to everybody in  
29 Fish and Game is it doesn't do any good to come up with  
30 a set of regulations that you guys aren't going to try  
31 and follow, because there's not enough enforcement in  
32 the entire State of Alaska to force you guys to do what  
33 you don't want to do.

34

35 Enoch.

36

37 MR. MITCHELL: You know, for the people  
38 in Kivalina the Western Arctic Herd come real late  
39 nowadays according to Stan Hollington, I talked with  
40 him. But they were out there, bulls anyway. They  
41 don't bother with them really any more. They come  
42 through late and they already left. And they're  
43 depending on the young bulls and the cows.

44

45 MR. DAU. Yeah. I think people that  
46 are having a hard time getting caribou, that any  
47 caribou looks pretty good if you've been sitting there  
48 for 10 days and haven't seen anything. And it's going  
49 to get worse.

50

1 I've got just ne more slide and then  
2 I'm done. Do you want to

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

5  
6 MR. DAU: I told you I was going to  
7 show the land status, because the Board of Game is  
8 going to put me there anyway. The yellow is BLM. The  
9 green is the Park Service. If there's a cross hatch,  
10 that's a wilderness area. That means there's different  
11 policies within the park to manage this land versus a  
12 green that's not cross hatched. There's some  
13 wilderness area in Fish and Wildlife. Fish and  
14 Wildlife lands are red. Blue is State. Gray is  
15 Native-owned lands.

16  
17 So it looks to me -- in the past, the  
18 Bureau of Land Management at least on occasion has  
19 allowed the State to do predator control, so there's  
20 lots of yellow, there's lots of blue, there's lots of  
21 Native-owned lands up here. This is the calving  
22 grounds right here. That's one area where the State,  
23 if they want to do predator control, they might try it  
24 up here. This is where they are in the summer. The  
25 other area is down here at the base of the Seward  
26 Peninsula. Lots of BLM land, State land.

27  
28 There's predator control already  
29 happening over here around Allakaket. It has nothing  
30 to do with caribou. It has to do with moose. But  
31 there's probably only about two areas where the State  
32 could really even think about doing predator control.  
33 It's there and there.

34  
35 I'm not saying the State's going to do  
36 i. If you guys are reading the paper, listening to the  
37 news, all you hear is, you know, low oil prices.  
38 Production's going down. The State doesn't have a lot  
39 of money. Predator control is way expensive. This is  
40 a long way from gas. It may not be feasible to do it.

41  
42  
43 All I'm saying is if the State wants to  
44 even consider doing it, they've really only got about  
45 two areas. One's the North Slope, and one's down here.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy, can you put  
48 your phone on mute, please.

49  
50 Jim, I've just got a quick question.

1 Can you point out Ambler to me on the map.

2

3 MR. DAU: Ambler is right up in here,  
4 right on the edge of this blue. Kobuk/Shungnak is up  
5 in there,

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

8

9 MR. DAU: That's what's called the  
10 Kobuk Boot, that's part of Gates of the Arctic.

11

12 So that's all I have. That's a long  
13 time.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Jim. And  
16 if you're done, I think we need to take a short break.

17

18

19 And, Melinda, we need to go back to the  
20 agenda.

21

22 MS. BURKE: Okay.

23

24 MR. DAU: And I had one last thing I  
25 wanted to say. And it's not in this presentation  
26 though, but the one thing that's come up in the  
27 villages over and over, and it came up last year in  
28 Kiana, is the Federal bag limit in Unit 23, 15 caribou  
29 per day, bulls, cows. In Kiana all you guys seemed to  
30 think that's pretty darn high now for this herd going  
31 down. So what we talked about then was trying to get  
32 regulations consistent. I think it would be -- you  
33 know, as things come down, Lance was talking about  
34 enforcement, if you've got different State regs from  
35 Federal regs, everybody's confused. Nobody knows  
36 exactly where they're hunting. My recommendation to  
37 you is to think about reducing that Fed bag limit in  
38 Unit 23. It's the highest bag limit in the State of  
39 Alaska, 15 caribou. You could take 15 cows per day  
40 legally right now. It will keep you out of jail, but  
41 it could -- you know, if people are actually doing  
42 that, it could put your caribou herd in the dumps. So  
43 that's one thing I'd encourage you to think about.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Jim. That  
46 was on the back of my mind, that we need to put a  
47 proposal to take a reduction for the Federal side. But  
48 that's a lot of caribou. Like if I take my three boys,  
49 I can't afford to take 45 caribou back. So that's way  
50 too much. And I understand what you're saying and I

1 hear it from the villages, the Federal need to take a  
2 reduction to the State, comply. That way they won't  
3 say, I'm under this rule.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 Go ahead, Enoch.

8

9 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. Jim, you know,  
10 does the caribou, their feeding habits, does that  
11 affect the birth rate. You know, to where they eat  
12 lots, they make more pups?

13

14 MR. DAU: Yeah, it does. There was a  
15 study done by a guy that I worked wit, Ray Cameron,  
16 and he looked at body weight as an indication of body  
17 condition. And if cows don't have a minimum amount of  
18 fat by the time of rut in October, they don't ovulate,  
19 they don't even go through rut. They don't get bred.  
20 So it will affect your pregnancy rate.

21

22 And one of the reasons for doing  
23 calving ground surveys, it's a back door way to  
24 estimate body condition the previous fall. The number  
25 of calves that hit the ground in June really isn't all  
26 that important in terms of numbers. We can have a low  
27 calf production in June and still have high recruitment  
28 the following spring and have lots of them survive.  
29 You can have years when lots and lots of calves hit the  
30 ground, but most of them die. It doesn't do you any  
31 good.

32

33 But, yeah if caribou -- it's mostly the  
34 females, it's not the males. If they don't have X  
35 amount of fat on them, they're not going to ovulate.

36

37 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. When I fly over  
38 that Red Dog Road, even during the summer, I could see  
39 -- I get sad on both sides of the road, all along  
40 there, that's contaminated stuff on the road there.  
41 And when I drive through there during the winter, right  
42 on the snow I could see a coat of that stuff on there.  
43 So over time that stuff builds up quite a bit. It's in  
44 the ground up place, and if it rain and snow and melt,  
45 that stuff is going to travel through the ground to the  
46 rivers and affect the fish.

47

48 Also the caribou, they cross this road  
49 every year, maybe more than twice a year. And when  
50 they cross this road, they get this stuff on their

1 hooves, their paws, their hooves and they need their  
2 hooves to eat, you know, they feed themselves. And I  
3 was wondering if that stuff affects them when they walk  
4 on that road. And maybe we should do something about  
5 cleaning up that contaminated stuff on the side of the  
6 road. And not only the caribou cross, there's wolves,  
7 fox, wolverine, and use their paws, too, to eat, and  
8 stepping on that stuff, it contaminate them or  
9 something, affect their system.

10

11 MR. DAU: Yeah. The Park Service did a  
12 study looking at dust on top of the vegetation, leaves,  
13 so they're not talking about in the vegetation tissue,  
14 but just dust coating the leaves, and they found  
15 increased levels of metals along the dust shadow of the  
16 Red Dog Road. That was very, very clear. WE've done  
17 two collections -- actually three collections of  
18 caribou up around the Red Dog Road, right along the  
19 road. And we've had those analyzed for metal levels.  
20 And even the one year there were caribou that spent the  
21 whole winter there, and it was actually concerns from  
22 Noatak and Kivalina why we actually went up and did  
23 that.

24

25 Anyway in the tissue samples, there  
26 were no elevated levels of metals in any of those. So  
27 even though they were there for a whole winter, they  
28 weren't there long enough, and they weren't picking up  
29 enough to have measurable changes in their tissues, and  
30 so, you know, the vet that was doing that said at that  
31 time that the caribou were save to eat.

32

33 But I told Red Dog, I said, you guys  
34 are killing the wrong thing. You know, these caribou  
35 -- I figured out for Red Dog, they asked me, how much  
36 time do caribou spend near our road, because they're  
37 thinking about the same thing you are. It is really a  
38 small percentage of the time, and it's really a small  
39 percentage of the herd that contacts that road very  
40 much.

41

42 But what I told them, you're killing  
43 the wrong thing. what you need to be looking at are  
44 mice and parky squirrels and ptarmigan, and resident  
45 species, and see what they have. And I don't know -- I  
46 think they did that, but I don't know what the results  
47 were. Maybe Ken or somebody from the Park Service  
48 would know.

49

50 But in terms of caribou, I can tell you

1 from the three collections we've done, we've looked at  
2 tissues from caribou, and they said so far no increased  
3 mineral levels. They're save.

4

5 MR. CLEVELAND: When did you say this  
6 collection was done? When was that?

7

8 MR. DAU: We've done three. The first  
9 one was a long time ago. It was in the 90s, probably  
10 in the mid 90s. And the most recent one I think was  
11 probably -- it was five years ago, because they wanted  
12 me to go up and do it this year. And they said, every  
13 five years we want to do this. And so I went up there  
14 and flew around. That's the last time I flew this  
15 winter was a month ago to see if there was enough  
16 caribou to do a collection this year. So it was five  
17 years ago was the last one. And then there was another  
18 one sometime, you know, five years before that. So  
19 probably 5, 10, or 15 years ago roughly is when the  
20 three collections were done.

21

22 MR. MITCHELL: Well, that mine's been  
23 there for quite a bit, and it's going to be there for  
24 quite a bit more. So what's going to be happening,  
25 it's going to keep building up along the road there,  
26 and it's going to get worse. So if the last time it  
27 was done five years ago, I think maybe we should do it  
28 again and continue doing that for the safety of our  
29 people and animals.

30

31 MR. DAU: I agree. And I think Red Dog  
32 is thinking the same thing as you. I think because of  
33 the concerns that came out of Noatak and Kivalina, they  
34 started covering their loads, they started wetting  
35 their loads down before they leave the mine. I think  
36 they're treating the road now to keep the dust down so  
37 it never gets kicked up. They've done several things,  
38 but you're right. That stuff accumulates over time.  
39 There's not two ways about it. And I think people  
40 should continue to look at that.

41

42 The other thing I'll say is these  
43 caribou, not just there, but everywhere, those caribou,  
44 they go to that dust shadow, because that dust shadow  
45 is the first place that goes snow free in the  
46 springtime, and they like not having to dig. So not  
47 only is it there, it actually becomes an attractant for  
48 the caribou, not because they want the metals. They  
49 just don't want to deal with the snow.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. Thank  
2 you, Enoch.  
3  
4 We'll get to Hannah and we'll go on our  
5 break after.  
6  
7 MS. LOON: Thank you. I like to see  
8 that kind of map, like BLM color, blue color. And  
9 that's what's confusing to most of us about access.  
10 And thank you, we need to see that all time for OSM to  
11 know when they're talking about. If Federal is talking  
12 about jurisdiction, we need to see these all the time.  
13  
14 And going back to female calves, you  
15 know, us humans get checked on our blood and our -- to  
16 see what we're low on and if we're diabetic or if we're  
17 lacking calcium, or if we're lacking protein, and if  
18 we're emaciated. Have you ever tested females, put  
19 them to sleep for a while and check their milk content  
20 and check their -- whatever their vitals and study  
21 them?  
22  
23 MR. DAU: No, we haven't done that.  
24 What we've done, we've said every five years or so the  
25 Department is going to kill 10 to 15 caribou and do a  
26 health assessment. We've done that at Onion Portage  
27 during the counting project.  
28  
29 So we take tissues of every piece of  
30 that caribou that the vet can get her hands on, and she  
31 sends those to a lab and looks at them. But I don't  
32 think any of the cows that we've gotten, even those  
33 that still had a visible udder, there was no milk in  
34 the udder. The udder tissue was big, but there was no  
35 milk in it. So we haven't tested milk.  
36  
37 All the blood that I've drawn over the  
38 last 25 years, we get that tested for disease, but  
39 that's the only thing we've used the blood for. I take  
40 that back. We've given blood to geneticists and  
41 they've used it to look at relatedness to other herds,  
42 but none of the body condition stuff that you're  
43 talking about, Hannah. No.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
46 Jim.  
47  
48 MR. DAU: Thank you, guys.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: A lot of good

1 information.

2

3 I think we need to go back to -- we  
4 need to take a short break, and we need to go back to  
5 our agenda. And we're on the funding notifications,  
6 right, Melinda.

7

8 MS. BURKE: Well, Mr. Chair, since we  
9 just had Jim here, and I know that the Council does  
10 have some comments that they want to formulate on  
11 Proposal 202, I have a draft letter ready, so while  
12 it's fresh in everybody's head, if you would like to, I  
13 can jot down some recommendations, if the Council would  
14 like to write a letter to the Board of Game regarding  
15 this issue.

16

17 So I would suggest maybe wrapping up  
18 and talking about that just a little bit before we move  
19 on.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead.

22

23 MS. BURKE: So do you want to do a  
24 break?

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. A short break.

27 15 minutes.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think we could --  
34 Calvin, you need to go on.

35

36 MR. MOTO: Oh, I'm not on break now.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, your break is  
39 over with. You've got no choice. I'm giving you no  
40 choice.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We need to resume  
45 this meeting. I hate to be pushy, but we need to  
46 resume this meeting.

47

48 So, Melinda, you can take over on the  
49 agenda. Thank you.

50

1 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Since we just  
2 had the Jim Dau presentation, and while it's fresh in  
3 everybody's head, I know this Council does wish to  
4 comment on Proposal 202, and I have here on the screen,  
5 for everybody on the phone, just a rough outline of a  
6 draft comment letter that will be going to the Board of  
7 Game as soon as Enoch and I get this finalized. And so  
8 I'm ready to take down what the Council recommends  
9 specific to Proposal 202. And we have Chris up here,  
10 OSM wildlife chief, to help if you guys have any  
11 questions in getting through the language, comments,  
12 and recommendations on Proposal 202. Mr. Chair.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. I  
15 think what the Board needs to do is come out with dates  
16 with taking the females. We all know by late March that  
17 the production of calves is right in the females, and I  
18 think that's the time we need to come out with a date  
19 for taking of females, starting end of March or first  
20 of April. And all the way time they have them in July.  
21 And that's a time to take probably up to a year for the  
22 calf survival rate. I mean we have to take these steps  
23 in order for us to be able to have caribou in the  
24 future.

25  
26 And taking of bulls, the taking of  
27 bulls I know by October 10 or so, that they start  
28 getting in rut, so we need to close taking of bulls  
29 even to sport and Natives right around first, mid  
30 October, let's put it that way, because they usually --  
31 they start getting -- we need to think of these dates  
32 like this.

33  
34 And what we need to do is come from the  
35 Federal that we need to have a reduction of our take  
36 from 15 to 5 a day. That's a lot of caribou, 15. I  
37 think these numbers were given years ago when they were  
38 taking a lot of caribou for different other reasons.

39  
40 So anything else from the Council, I'm  
41 open, and Melinda will be open for right now. But  
42 we'll try to keep it right to this Proposal 202.

43  
44 Go ahead, Raymond. Or go ahead, Chris.

45  
46 MR. MCKEE: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. It's  
47 hard for me to write and listen at the same time. So I  
48 just want to make sure that I -- what did you say about  
49 -- did you mean no harvest of cows with calves starting  
50 at the end of March, beginning of April, or -- I just

1 want -- would you please just reiterate that, because I  
2 want to make sure.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, right around end  
5 of March, first of April. We need to start take --  
6 stop taking of cows.

7

8 MR. MCKEE: Okay. That's what I  
9 thought you meant, but.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.

12

13 MR. MCKEE: .....I don't think that's  
14 the way it came out.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So right after  
17 calving.

18

19 MR. MCKEE: Sure.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And if we talk to  
22 more, I would like to go to the villages, if Melinda  
23 has any funds, to take about how long should we not  
24 harvest females with calves, because I know up to a  
25 year calves could stay up to. Like Jim said it, too,  
26 we all know that being Native. Thank you.

27

28 Go ahead, Raymond. Okay. You're okay  
29 now.

30

31 Anyone else, and anything else you  
32 need, Melinda.

33

34 Go ahead. Go ahead.

35

36 MR. CLEVELAND: Did you say that no  
37 hunting the females after April 1; is that what I  
38 heard?

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Right around there.

41

42 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, and actually if we  
43 could -- if you have an idea of when -- I know you have  
44 a beginning date for both that and for -- and the  
45 closure of bulls around mid October, but we would also  
46 like to have the other end of that, when the closure --  
47 you, a period. A beginning and end of those periods.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. The bulls  
50 would in rut -- of smelling right about January. I

1 could be corrected, anyone hat know, you know, if I  
2 need to be corrected, the Council, or if they hear me  
3 on the radio -- I know they're not on radio, on these  
4 dates, because we don't want bulls that are in rut  
5 during the winter. You could smell them even the  
6 season is over with, you know, because they stay smelly  
7 that long.

8

9 MR. MCKEE: Right. So maybe the end of  
10 January then, is that.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The Council think in  
13 the end of January of taking bulls coming from here.

14

15 MR. CLEVELAND: The bulls are good to  
16 eat December, January.

17

18 MR. MCKEE: Well, I'm just -- you know,  
19 maybe mid October to end of January for a bull closure;  
20 does that sound reasonable.

21

22 MR. CLEVELAND: The first of January.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The way I hear it  
25 from Verne is probably first of January.

26

27 MR. MCKEE: The first of January.

28

29 MR. CLEVELAND: That would be good, end  
30 of January.

31

32 MR. MCKEE: End of January's okay?

33

34 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.

35

36 MR. MCKEE: Okay. Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because what we're  
39 trying to do us protect the reproduction and make sure  
40 they increase, because we hate to see them take  
41 reduction, but I think the steps need to be taken.  
42 They need to start from there.

43

44 Anyone else on their thoughts.

45

46 MR. MITCHELL: Starting date October  
47 10th?

48

49 MR. STONEY: October 30.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Or right around for  
2 closure. For closure, October 10 on pulls.  
3  
4 MR. STONEY: Okay. Just October 10?  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: October 10.  
7  
8 MR. STONEY: I just write 10.  
9  
10 MR. CLEVELAND: January 30?  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Through January 30,  
13 yes.  
14  
15 MS. LOON: Are you talking about calves  
16 or bulls?  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Bulls, we're talking  
19 about bulls. We close the season for bulls,  
20 recommending season, we'll see if we'll adopt it or  
21 not, October 10 for bulls and reopen January 30.  
22  
23 MR. STONEY: Oh, 30. Okay.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Right. Correct me.  
26  
27 MR. MCKEE: Well, I mean, I think from  
28 what I understand, I had it as -- and, you know, you  
29 absolutely can do anything you want -- October -- the  
30 closure for bulls from October 10th to the end of  
31 January, so you could have it say open it up February  
32 1st. Would that seem reasonable or is that going too  
33 late?  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. We're saying  
36 the same thing, it's just.....  
37  
38 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, different.....  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: .....that in January  
41 I think there's 31 days.  
42  
43 MR. MCKEE: Okay. And also, I know you  
44 said end of March, first of April for the beginning of  
45 the closure of cows with calves. Are you thinking  
46 maybe keeping that closure until the end of June or  
47 what does the Council think of that?  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Before we move on, so  
50 we won't get mixed up, let's finish with the bulls

1 first.  
2  
3 MR. MCKEE: Sure. Okay. Yeah.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And get the calves  
6 when we're done with the bulls. I don't want to mix  
7 them up, and going back and forth.  
8  
9 MR. MCKEE: I understand. I  
10 understand.  
11  
12 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So everybody is happy  
15 with the bulls for now?  
16  
17 Go ahead, Hannah.  
18  
19 MS. LOON: Slow down. Let's start with  
20 the calves first, or bulls, please.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Bulls from  
23 October 10, closure on bulls from October until the 1st  
24 of February.  
25  
26 MR. STONEY: MITCHELL: Until the 1st  
27 of January.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Whatever you -- what  
30 you guys think? We need your thoughts now.  
31  
32 Turn your mic on, Enoch.  
33  
34 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. October 10 to end  
35 of January, and start resuming hunting on February 1st.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Now, Hannah,  
38 we go to the females.  
39  
40 Wait, let me back up. We all agree so  
41 far? Calvin. That dates we just come out with.  
42  
43 MR. MOTO: Yeah.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You're okay with the  
46 dates we come out with?  
47  
48 MR. MOTO: No.  
49  
50 MR. CLEVELAND: That's just for Unit

1 23, right?  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Pardon? That's for  
4 Unit 23.  
5  
6 MR. CLEVELAND: That's just for Unit  
7 23.  
8  
9 MR. McKEE: Correct.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Someone in the back  
12 had.....  
13  
14 MS. SWEENEY: I was just going to say I  
15 think we lost Percy on the phone.  
16  
17 MS. LOON: I think we need to have.....  
18  
19 MS. BURKE: Percy's not feeling well.  
20  
21 MS. LOON: We're working on this one.  
22  
23 MS. SWEENEY: Right. I understand. I  
24 was just going to say.....  
25  
26 MR. MOTO: I know. I know. I'm still  
27 opposed to that closing of bulls. That's the way I  
28 feel.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Your mic, Calvin.  
31  
32 MR. MOTO: Oh. Yeah, I'm opposed to  
33 that, because I don't think it will be enforceable,  
34 because a lot of -- we have -- that's our only meat in  
35 our area is caribou. We don't take five. A lot of  
36 times they take maybe one or two each and that's it.  
37 Nobody ever take five caribou per day.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Calvin, what  
40 we're trying to set up here is the closing date for  
41 bulls October 10. We're not talking about the take of  
42 how many caribou right now. Just the closing of the  
43 bulls. October 10 through February 1st.  
44  
45 MR. CLEVELAND: 30th.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I mean 30th. Sorry.  
48 Open at February 1. Sorry.  
49  
50 MR. MITCHELL: Closed October 10

1 through end of January.

2

3 MR. STONEY: January.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. That's closed.

6 That's open the 1st, yeah. Yeah. You get it now,

7 Calvin?

8

9 MR. MOTO: Pardon?

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Did you hear me?

12

13 MR. MOTO: Yeah.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We're trying

16 to put you on the same boat.

17

18 Yeah, go ahead.

19

20 MS. SWEENEY: No, I think that Calvin's

21 comment addressed it.

22

23 I was just going to say that I had

24 heard comments from people from Buckland and Deering

25 area that harvest later, that sometimes they do take

26 those smaller bulls in the winter like after Christmas.

27 I don't know. I just know that they have a different

28 situation, because they get them later in the

29 migration.

30

31 MR. CLEVELAND: The smaller bulls might

32 fall under calves, and not bulls.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Yeah, go

35 ahead.

36

37 MR. MCKEE: And I will only say that

38 that's a good point that was just made here, but I

39 would only reiterate that right now all we're doing is

40 kind of putting together the proposal, and that it's

41 going to go through a lot of review. And, not only

42 that, but it's going to come to this Council again for

43 further review, and there will be opportunity for

44 public comment. And so I think we'll have the

45 opportunity to kind of -- you'll be able to weigh those

46 kind of deliberations once you have an actual analysis

47 in front of you. But that's a good point to be made.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, this comment

50 right now is all -- it will be open for comments later

1 and they will make changes to their section of Unit 22.

2

3 MR. McKEE: Right.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Or unit for Buckland  
6 area and Deering, they could make, you know, add their  
7 section if they want to open it to young bulls, you  
8 know. I've got no problem with that.

9

10 MR. McKEE: Okay. I think -- so are  
11 most people on the Council on board with the bulls  
12 then, or have we cleared up the confusion I hope? I  
13 want to make sure that we're absolutely clear on that  
14 before we go on. I don't want to move too quickly.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,  
17 Hannah.

18

19 MS. LOON: Calvin opposed because like  
20 Brittany say, Buckland, Deering, you know, they go  
21 through Onion Portage, Selawik, Kiana, and while we  
22 have water, and their hunting is good around  
23 wintertime. And when we don't have caribou in our  
24 areas, we depend on Buckland to give us caribou. I  
25 think we need to put a clause some place in there,  
26 because of the migration timing to Seward Peninsula  
27 area, a little clause, smaller bulls are taken.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
34 Calvin.

35

36 MR. MOTO: One of the reasons I'm  
37 opposed, if you're going to say we can't take bulls  
38 October to January, we might as well close caribou  
39 hunting altogether, because, you know, we usually get  
40 for Christmas feast, Thanksgiving feast, potlucks at  
41 home, because we have funerals in the winter. We need  
42 those for our potlucks and stuff like that. So we're  
43 going to say October to January, might as well just  
44 close hunting caribou altogether.

45

46 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead Verne.

49

50 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, Cal, that's just

1 for the rut, the bulls are closed because we don't take  
2 no stink bulls anyway by that time. We're just saying  
3 that they rut about that time of the year, from  
4 October. We're not saying we're going to close the  
5 whole, everything. It's just the bulls that are in rut  
6 about that time of the year.

7

8 MR. STONEY: Just the bulls only.

9

10 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair. Also the last  
11 three years we've had 10 to 20,000 caribou never leave  
12 our area in the spring. They stay around there year  
13 round. We have, if you go up in the Imruk Lake area,  
14 which is about 40 miles. This is why I am opposed to  
15 it, because we have about 10, 20,000 caribou now that  
16 never leave our area in the summer.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
19 Enoch.

20

21 MR. MITCHELL: Yes. Calvin, there's  
22 some of the villages that depend on hunting those  
23 caribou, cows and the little bulls in Kivalina. They  
24 reach there real late and by the time the bulls rut,  
25 but they still hunt females and young bulls, and so  
26 we've got to consider other villages when we consider  
27 these, too.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. And right now  
30 if they want to make some -- if you want to make a  
31 change for our area, you could say for  
32 Deering/Buckland, Unit 23 section could be open to  
33 young bulls. You could put that in there. That's what  
34 you're really trying to say. We've got no problem with  
35 that, especially Kivalina where when they don't get any  
36 bulls, but the bulls go by there in rut, with the  
37 section leave it open, whatever the villages want.

38

39 Go ahead. They need to you up on the  
40 mic. Your voice.

41

42 MR. L. KRAMER: Yeah. This is Lance  
43 Kramer, Kotzebue. here's no sections in Unit 23. Nome  
44 area has sections, but we don't have any in 23. And  
45 that's why I suggested don't close them completely to  
46 bulls or to cows. Have a mixed bag limit, you know.  
47 In that October 10 through January 31st, maybe make it  
48 maybe make it two bulls, three cows. That way if  
49 Deering want to get a young bull in December, a young  
50 one, they could get it, you know, and not be illegal.

1                   And so the same thing with the spring.  
2 Don't completely close out the cows in the spring.  
3 Maybe make it only two cows and then three bull, you  
4 know what I mean? Bag limit. That way people could  
5 still get food for their table. So I would suggest  
6 having mixed bag limits during those times.

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We're just  
9 trying to talk about the bulls. Then we'll get to  
10 females later. Because what we're trying to do is find  
11 a way the Board of Game could accept. We're not trying  
12 to make criminals out of anybody, because I'm one of  
13 them. We're all one of them here, but we need to come  
14 out -- because we never hunt bulls on rut. Think of  
15 that.

16  
17                   Go ahead, Cyrus.

18  
19                   MR. HARRIS: Good morning. Cyrus  
20 Harris, Kotzebue.

21  
22                   The whole idea behind this is to try to  
23 figure out how to eliminate the rapid rate of declining  
24 our caribou, of our Western Arctic Caribou Herd here.  
25 And we went through a long discussion with this same  
26 idea at the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group  
27 meeting, which is Proposal 202. And these are similar.

28  
29                   But just to clarify some information on  
30 the closure of bulls. And when we say bulls, we're  
31 saying bulls in the rut. But there's still a question  
32 on the younger bull, that two-year old bull that's not  
33 mating. So traditionalist speaking, and living out in  
34 the country and hunting these herds as they're going  
35 by, we -- and when we're selecting out of a herd and  
36 the bulls on the rut, we purposely don't take that  
37 rutting bull. But if we can, we'd select a younger  
38 bull. So that kind of clarifies some of Calvin's  
39 question on openings and closure in that area.

40  
41                   But the whole idea behind this is to  
42 also avoid horn hookers, antler hookers from getting a  
43 bull in the run that's running through October and up  
44 until January.

45  
46                   And the closure for the cow, and it's  
47 sometimes in April, mainly because as -- you know, we  
48 all hunt caribou during the springtime. We hunt them  
49 late also, but right now they're carrying, and as April  
50 comes by, they're even bigger yet, and they'll be

1 dropping here within the next month or so, so that's  
2 the purpose of the decision why we decided the closure  
3 of the cows within April, and then we couldn't quite  
4 figure out the length of time for the cow closure,  
5 perhaps -- and it's written down there on Proposal 202.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So what I'm hearing  
10 is we need to put a wording in there where they could  
11 hunt young bulls, because most Natives could tell the  
12 difference between a young bull, and adult bull. So  
13 you guys -- and that way it will ease off Calvin and  
14 ease off others, that way they could hunt young bulls.

15

16 Raymond had his hand first up. Verne,  
17 you'll be next.

18

19 MR. STONEY: Okay. Mr. Chairman. Now,  
20 we're talking about the bulls, you know, for the dates  
21 of October 10th through January 1. However, you know,  
22 that we're just talking for Game Unit 23 only. If you  
23 see the situation about the bulls in further south like  
24 in Unalakleet, they harvest their bulls in the latter  
25 part of October, because they know how to prepare a  
26 rutting bull. They know how to do it. So regardless  
27 of its conditions, our dates, you know, is going to be  
28 different than Unalakleet. They all get their bulls  
29 early in October, but they know how to fix it. They  
30 know how to prepare that herd, even though they're  
31 rutting. So, anyway, that if this proposal become  
32 effective, I don't think the -- well, I'll say this, I  
33 hope it don't affect Kivalina -- not Kivalina, but  
34 Unalakleet.

35

36 MR. MCKEE: We're only talking about  
37 Unit 23.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.

40

41 MR. STONEY: Yes.

42

43 MR. MCKEE: That's all we're talking  
44 about.

45

46 MR. STONEY: Okay. So that's for 23  
47 only.

48

49 MR. MCKEE: Correct.

50

1                   MR. STONEY: So otherwise, if the  
2 people down in that area want to make their proposal  
3 unit, I'd be happy to do it that way, to the way of  
4 living.  
5  
6                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Raymond,  
7 Unalakleet is a lot different unit.  
8  
9                   MR. STONEY: Yes. Yeah.  
10  
11                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Yeah, go  
12 ahead, Verne.  
13  
14                  MR. CLEVELAND: This is just for the  
15 declining of the caribou, right, like right now. But  
16 later on when the caribou go up, like more, we'll have  
17 to do another proposal, right, to change everything?  
18  
19                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, we could come  
20 out with another proposal if the caribou start  
21 increasing back again.  
22  
23                  MR. MCKEE: Correct. Yes.  
24  
25                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, we could make  
26 changes to it.  
27  
28                  MR. MCKEE: Yes.  
29  
30                  CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: But right now in the  
31 name of the declining caribou, and to preserve, they  
32 need to take steps. Everybody will don't like it, but  
33 we have to live with it.  
34  
35                  And I understand that young bulls need  
36 to be taken and females at certain time when they never  
37 get. But still in steps.  
38  
39                  MR. MCKEE: And I understand the  
40 discussion about younger bulls. To my knowledge, we've  
41 never had anything like that in regulation, and I'm not  
42 sure how it would be handled in regulation. My  
43 suggestion now would be to try to keep the proposal  
44 that you submit now as clean and simple as possible,  
45 and allow the analysis process to go through. And then  
46 let it come back to you, and so everybody has an  
47 opportunity to review, including the public, review the  
48 analysis and then at your fall meeting, if you want to  
49 make some further adjusts, we can do that. And it  
50 would just make it.....

1 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Wait. Wait.  
4  
5 MR. MOTO: If you'll look at -- oh,  
6 sorry.  
7  
8 MR. McKEE: And then at that time at  
9 the fall meeting, it will be a simple matter of us, say  
10 if we supported whatever proposal you submitted to us,  
11 we could simply support with modification. We could  
12 modify it at that time after further comment, and it's  
13 not a problem. It's completely part of the normal  
14 process.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Calvin, what  
17 do you say, we get a proposal, and when it come back in  
18 September, we could make amendments to it for what  
19 you're saying. Right now keep it simple as possible.  
20  
21 MR. MOTO: Yeah.  
22  
23 MR. McKEE: And that way people will be  
24 able to -- the public and people in your community will  
25 have the opportunity to review it and have, you know,  
26 that I think would be -- it's a better position for  
27 people to come back and say, hey, we've seen this. We  
28 like this portion, but we don't like that. Can you  
29 change it. And I think that's -- in my opinion, it's a  
30 better way to go.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And you understand?  
33  
34 MR. MOTO: I look at that -- I mean, if  
35 you look at the map you'll see that the Bering Land  
36 Bridge is real close to us, and that's where most of  
37 our caribou stay in the winter. And if the proposal, I  
38 may concede and say we'll go ahead, but I just wanted  
39 you to be aware of the fact that most of the Bering  
40 Land Bridge is very close to us, and most of the wild  
41 animals, games are around that. Ken knows that. So I  
42 -- you could sway me by giving me a cup of apple cider.  
43  
44 (Laughter)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, no. Calvin, we  
47 understand what you're trying to say. But what we're  
48 saying is Bering Land Bridge is on different unit.  
49 We're talking about Unit 22, okay, when the time comes,  
50 you would be changing -- and you could go through Nome

1 on your other dates. Okay.

2

3 Yeah, go ahead, Chris.

4

5 MR. MCKEE: I was just talking to  
6 Melinda. Go ahead.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Uh-huh. Because so  
9 far the dates even with the public we could come out  
10 with, because I think these dates is pretty much what  
11 these Northwest Alaska live on. Not live, we live by,  
12 because we don't hunt when they're in rut. That's a  
13 waste of caribou.

14

15 And these need to be included for the  
16 sporthunt to close right around October 10, to close  
17 all sporthunting. So that will come in the future.

18

19 So is everybody, including the public  
20 happy with the dates what we come out with, October to  
21 February. So we could move on to the calves.

22

23 Go ahead, Verne.

24

25 MR. CLEVELAND: Would that put in the  
26 bag limits, too, from five to three per day? Would  
27 that go with that, or would that be in a different  
28 proposal.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Well, the Federal is  
31 15, and what we need to do is later we'll come out with  
32 we need to take a reduction from 15 to 5 a day.

33

34 MR. MCKEE: And I think we're going to  
35 get.....

36

37 MR. CLEVELAND: And then from five a  
38 day to three a day?

39

40 MR. MCKEE: In the Federal currently in  
41 Unit 23 is 15, and I think that what we're talking  
42 about is 5. But I think we'll get to that, but I want  
43 to make sure that we get this bull issue worked out  
44 completely before we move on to the next thing.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. That's what  
47 I'm trying to do is just take care of the bulls for  
48 now.

49

50 MR. MCKEE: Right.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll get to take  
2 later. Just keep it on the bulls for now. That way we  
3 won't get mixed up.

4  
5 Go ahead, Raymond.

6  
7 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8  
9 I'll tell you what, you know, that I've  
10 been with this thing for almost like 15 years now with  
11 the bag game limits on Federal lands, State land.  
12 Here's is my point. We are talking about the bag  
13 limits on State and Federal, I say it again. Let's say  
14 you decide to hunt on Game Unit 23, and then you see a  
15 caribou right down here. Of course, it's in sate  
16 in the state land and it's right there on the State  
17 land, and it's just five feet away. The next thing you  
18 know, he's right there, he's on the State land. Which  
19 one are you going to follow. Which one are you follow  
20 when you've got 15 from this one here, and then only 5  
21 from the other one.

22  
23 That's a point, I brought that out so  
24 many times we. We don't have to make these differences  
25 from Federal lands and State land. Like i said  
26 earlier, let's just put one umbrella up, five a day  
27 both Federal and State land.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We.....

30  
31 MR. STONEY: Otherwise they'll --  
32 that's a different categories within five feet apart.  
33 Otherwise that's Federal land caribou, and they know it  
34 belongs to the Federal, and right there five feet away  
35 it's on State land. That's confusing.

36  
37 MR. McKEE: An excellent discussion to  
38 have when we get there.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Your comment  
41 is well taken. We understand what you're saying,  
42 Raymond.

43  
44 Okay. For the bull, are we done,  
45 including the public for now.

46  
47 Go ahead, Enoch.

48  
49 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman. I think  
50 we accomplished hunting season, and we should

1 accomplish the bag limits now for bulls.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We need to go to the  
4 cows. We need to go to the cows. We were just on  
5 bulls. We'll get to the bag limit later.

6

7 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Before noon  
10 hopefully.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We need to go  
15 to the cows.

16

17 MR. MITCHELL: We need decision.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So if somebody  
20 besides me could come out with possibly dates for the  
21 cows. If we could talk from there.

22

23 Go ahead. Who want to go first. The  
24 dates for the cows.

25

26 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair. I've got  
27 some. And I think cows, maybe there's two types of  
28 cows, I mean, two types of seasons in there I'm  
29 thinking, because there are females that are pregnant  
30 and they're going to be carrying a baby in them for so  
31 long, and then after that they're going to be taking  
32 care of them for like at least a year. So if we see a  
33 pregnant one we probably don't even touch it. And  
34 females with no calves, those I might be hunting. So  
35 that's got to be put in there somewhere. We hunt the  
36 females with no calves, even in August, September when  
37 you can't hunt the bulls.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch. Go  
40 ahead, Hannah.

41

42 MS. LOON: Yeah. We want to make sure  
43 that the female cows should carry their fetuses to full  
44 term. We want to make sure that -- considering we know  
45 how to identify them, you know, with no antlers or  
46 whatnot in early spring, as soon as they -- while  
47 they're carrying them to having their babies. That way  
48 no interference in harassing or any form like that to  
49 the female cows, that we should just be very careful to  
50 protect them.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. To get the  
2 conversation started on dates, I'll just up dates out  
3 there, and they're open for change from anyone. From  
4 April, but I have a question about -- maybe we should  
5 ask Johnson or someone, Johnson Stockler, reindeer  
6 herder, about when the fawns be able to survive by  
7 themselves. We know they stay with their mom up to a  
8 year. But we need to come out with dates. I will just  
9 say no hunting female from April 1st or mid April,  
10 whatever anybody could come out with dates, because we  
11 need to come out with dates and about when we could  
12 reopen of taking of females. Because we know right  
13 from freeze up we will take females until around Marc,  
14 end of March or mid March, because they're -- so what  
15 do you think about your dates? I think what you need  
16 to do is for the cows we need to put April as a  
17 question date. So whatever you guys think. Anybody.

18

19 Go ahead, Enoch. Raymond, I'm sorry.

20

21 MR. STONEY: For the cows, you were  
22 correct, that if we have to do some discussion with Mr.  
23 Stockler, because he's in Buckland. He's a family  
24 reindeer herder. But, however, that I know by the  
25 looks of these cows, these cows are pretty well ready  
26 to have their through in the first week of May or the  
27 middle of May, and, you know, that's the dates. And  
28 then just like you said, Attamuk, I think that we  
29 should start closing it for cows in April, April 1,  
30 something like that, and then reopen sometimes after  
31 June 30 or something like that for cows.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Chris.

34

35 MR. McKEE: Yeah, and I would only  
36 remind you to take a look at the spreadsheet you guys  
37 have here with the way the other AC's came down on it,  
38 too. The majority of them seem to agree with you,  
39 Member Stoney. I see a lot of April 15th to June 30th,  
40 but there's -- you know, the Western Arctic Working  
41 Group is April 1 to July 31st. So there does seem to  
42 be some relative agreement around the starting date,  
43 whether you want it to be the beginning of April, the  
44 middle of April, it's still up to you. But there seems  
45 to be at least some general time period agreement  
46 between several of the ACs.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. For the

1 reopening for females, I think July 1 is kind of early,  
2 because the young that were just born that year, it's  
3 still very dependent on the mom. I wish I knew a date  
4 that they could be able to fend for themselves by how  
5 many weeks to how many months.

6  
7 Remember, Jim said that he's seen fawns  
8 stay with their mom up to a year. I believe him, but  
9 we probably could change it to -- we hunt by August  
10 30th or so start. We start hunting caribou with boat.  
11 And that's the time, like Enoch and I and a few others  
12 know the difference between a female that don't have a  
13 fawn, but there's only few. It's hard to distinguish,  
14 to say, except the one that know it, because everybody  
15 could learn it, but it's really kind of hard to  
16 explain.

17  
18 So I think we need to come out with  
19 those dates. And I think right about labor day they  
20 usually start hunting falltime. I'm just throwing out  
21 dates, and they're welcome to change.

22  
23 Yeah, go ahead, Enoch.

24  
25 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, on these females,  
26 you know, the pregnant ones carry their baby and then  
27 they watch their young ones for a year. I think those  
28 ones should be not continued harvesting at all. And  
29 then the females with no calves, those are the ones I  
30 think we should put seasons and bag limits on. And  
31 leave the ones that are pregnant alone.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
34 Verne.

35  
36 MR. CLEVELAND: As a hunter I try to  
37 get caribou before they get kubucks (ph) on their back.  
38 And that's about right now, about March. Because  
39 they're used up by April 1, because they got a lot of  
40 worms on their back and stuff. That's why I made a  
41 proposal, or one attempt to stop hunting April 1 on  
42 females, because there's a lot of worms on them, on the  
43 back, in faces, too, stuff like that. Like right now  
44 they're prime. Right now with the females. But after  
45 March, then they're a lot warble on their backs and  
46 stuff like that. That's why I wanted just April 1 to  
47 July 31st, because when I did one of those females with  
48 a lot of maggots, it's horrible. As a hunter you can  
49 tell. And it's no use to hunting for one with a lot of  
50 warble and stuff on them.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
2 Chris.

3  
4 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, through the Chair.  
5 Member Cleveland. And again I think that not only from  
6 a reality in the field standpoint, but from a  
7 cleanliness standpoint in terms of starting off with a  
8 proposal, sometimes that might be a better way to go.  
9 Just keep those dates a little bit cleaner. And then  
10 again once this proposal has gone through analysis,  
11 it's been reviewed by public, and then you guys meet on  
12 it. If at that time, after that level of review, you  
13 come back and say, well, that seemed like a good idea  
14 at the time we made the proposal, but upon further  
15 review, we actually think we should do this. A good  
16 way to go.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

19  
20 So so far, it sound like majority of us  
21 is agreeing to close females around April 1st. Right?

22  
23 MR. STONEY: Right.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You have it. Now we  
26 need to come out with a date to reopen it for fall  
27 time. And I would say right around, an idea, just  
28 throw a number out, is end of August. That way in  
29 falltime when we want to take females, we could take  
30 females at -- I mean, open it back. That way they  
31 won't be illegal.

32  
33 Go ahead, Verne.

34  
35 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. I'd go further  
36 than that, instead of August I'd probably go October.  
37 I think that would be a lot safer for females, for the  
38 calves, because by that time it's cold anyway, so  
39 calves would be able to survive by themself.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

42  
43 MR. CLEVELAND: October, November.

44  
45 MS. LOON: Yeah. We would like to  
46 insure that calves are not separated from their moms.  
47 In consideration for the mortality rate of the female  
48 and their calves, so Dau discussed that a lot of time  
49 calves will not survive, because something chased them  
50 or something like that, and calves will separate from

1 their moms.  
2  
3 Thank you. October sounds like good to  
4 me.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.  
7  
8 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
9  
10 Verne, you know, the dates you put in,  
11 I'm in very, very in favor of it, you know closure for  
12 females April 1. And then reopen in October. That's  
13 very acceptable dates for females.  
14  
15 That's where we should go with it. Mr.  
16 Chairman.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Recommendation  
19 is to reopen the females on first part of October.  
20  
21 MR. MCKEE: Okay. That was going to be  
22 my next question, whether you wanted it to be the  
23 beginning of October or at the end of October. I  
24 wasn't clear what Verne was.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because the bulls are  
27 about rut.  
28  
29 MR. MCKEE: Yeah.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Not always, but  
32 majority of them will be on rut right around first part  
33 of October.  
34  
35 MR. MCKEE: Right.  
36  
37 MR. STONEY: October 1, something like  
38 that.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Verne.  
41  
42 MR. CLEVELAND: That is what I was  
43 going to say, thanks. You took the words out of me.  
44  
45 MR. MCKEE: Okay. Thanks. I just  
46 wanted clarification. Thank you. October 1 then.  
47  
48 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,

1 Cyrus.

2

3 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 You know, at this point and thought  
6 we're speaking of two different kind of cows comes  
7 after July. Now, comes after July you're going to have  
8 some cows that got a surviving calf, and then you're  
9 going to come up with some cows that the cows didn't  
10 survive the first couple of months. So being  
11 selective, and being also a berry picker, in August,  
12 you know, if I to run into a cow that's got a calf, I  
13 most likely leave it alone. But if I run into a cow  
14 that doesn't have a calf, that's a whole different ball  
15 game here. So it's something that we have to consider.  
16 A cow without a calf or, you know, a cow that's with a  
17 calf.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Cyrus.

20 That's the thought that was on my mind, but the time --  
21 like I said, there's a few of us that run into females  
22 without a calf, and we know the difference.

23

24 Go ahead. If you would come up to the  
25 mic.

26

27 MR. L. KRAMER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I  
28 agree. I would say April 1st to June 30th, you know,  
29 for that cow season, closed cow season. And then after  
30 June 30th, they drop their calves, you know. And then  
31 what you can do is you can also put in this proposal,  
32 after June 30th, no taking of cows with calves until  
33 October, you know what I mean.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. And what I'm  
36 hearing cyrus, right around July 1st they starting to  
37 regain their weight, bulls and females. Maybe we could  
38 come out with a date you're saying in June. I would be  
39 more comfortable if we reopen females at July. That's  
40 just before berry -- right around berry picking time.

41

42 Unless you're thinking -- anybody got  
43 different dates. I'm open right now. Put it on the  
44 table, we need to talk about, we need to agree, because  
45 I don't want to go against anyone. I want to make it,  
46 you know, open, but we need to do it, and I want to do  
47 it the right way.

48

49 Go ahead, Hannah.

50

1 MS. LOON: Now I remember Kivalina  
2 always get -- sometimes they (In Inupiaq) caribou in  
3 falltime because the caribou goes to the coast to cool  
4 off, when they (In Inupiaq) on (In Inupiaq), that is  
5 when they get them.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Are you talking about  
10 the females or the bulls at Kivalina?

11  
12 MS. LOON: I'm not aware of that.  
13 Sorry.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because I've seen  
16 both down the coast. Both female and bulls.

17  
18 Okay. Anybody thought of those --  
19 anybody comfortable with the dates of July so far on  
20 the females of reopening. Everybody happy, the July  
21 date is okay? Cyrus. Verne.

22  
23 MS. LOON: Yes.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Raymond.

26  
27 MS. LOON: Yes.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The rest of the board  
30 members. Because we need to come out with dates, and  
31 I don't want to make criminals even out of me. If I  
32 see it, and I want fresh meat in July.

33  
34 Go ahead, Enoch.

35  
36 MR. MITCHELL: When you're talking  
37 about these pregnant females with new calves. Those  
38 are two different hunts, and it seems there should be  
39 two different seasons for these two.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, but being a  
42 Native, we all know we don't hunt caribou, hardly hunt  
43 caribou summertime, because before we used to hunt them  
44 when we didn't have the freezers and generators, what  
45 we do now have today. We used to get meat to put fresh  
46 food on the table. But times are change, and we need  
47 to come out with dates in the name to preserve our  
48 caribou for the future.

49  
50 So if everybody's okay with July 1st,

1 we will throw that date out there. I'm comfortable  
2 with July 1st. I don't know about the others.

3

4 And I understand what you're saying,  
5 Enoch. What we know, a few of us know the difference  
6 between a female that don't have a calf. And I think  
7 we're few in numbers. And I'm not going to say -- And  
8 I'm going to go with the dates whether I see the female  
9 without fawn or not. I will go with dates, and I could  
10 live with the dates.

11

12 Go ahead, Chris.

13

14 MR. MCKEE: I just want to make sure I  
15 have some clarification. So going along with what was  
16 stated earlier, you're thinking about saying no harvest  
17 of cows from April 1st to June 30th, and then no  
18 harvesting of cows with calves starting July 1; is that  
19 -- am I correct? Yes?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

22

23 MR. MCKEE: Okay. All right.

24

25 MR. L. KRAMER: That's good.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Yeah.

28

29 Go ahead, Enoch.

30

31 MR. MITCHELL: Now I forgot what I was  
32 going to say.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. MITCHELL: Oh, yeah, does these  
37 require -- maybe it will apply to local and non-local.  
38 I mean, we're going to -- after these are documented,  
39 both local and non-local are going to follow these?

40

41 MR. MCKEE: This is only for Federal  
42 subsistence regulations on Federal lands. So it  
43 doesn't apply to -- I want to be very clear on what  
44 you're asking or what I'm going to be answering. It  
45 only applies for Federally-qualified subsistence users  
46 in Unit 23. That's what we're talking about now.

47

48 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. I'm just bring  
49 that up to point that, because of, well, as we Natives  
50 know when we can hunt the females with no calves, and

1 we know whether it's a female with no calves, and that  
2 one we could get. And it is documented down when the  
3 non-local come up and hunt, which they do, they  
4 probably won't understand what we're talking about.

5  
6 MR. MCKEE: Well, the non-locals  
7 wouldn't be allowed to hunt under these regulations  
8 anyway. They'd have to hunt under State hunting  
9 regulations.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: On Federal lands,  
12 yes.

13  
14 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. I just wanted  
15 that clarification. Thank you.

16  
17 MR. MCKEE: It's a good point.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.

20  
21 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22  
23 And that's one thing I'm very confused  
24 now about the opening for the cow; however, that if the  
25 proposal has passed with varying of your dates of July,  
26 that I'll say this, Mr. Chairman, if this cow has a  
27 calf, I don't think we should harvest that, because by  
28 the July, that calf would be very, very small, and I  
29 seen what happens. Just like human being, if you  
30 harvest the mother of that calf, and that calf stayed  
31 there for days and days and days, because the mother's  
32 gone. So if we're in favor of this and opened the  
33 season for cow in July, that's when it go through, you  
34 know, that's the thing that all of us are aware of. If  
35 the proposal is passed, I think in the language you say  
36 you can harvest that cow as long as they don't have a  
37 calf. That's my point. Mr. Chairman.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I get you.

40  
41 Go ahead.

42  
43 MR. L. KRAMER: Yeah. And that's what  
44 we're talking about, Raymond. When we open the cows in  
45 July, it will only be to cows with no calves.

46  
47 MR. STONEY: With no calves.

48  
49 MR. L. KRAMER: No calves.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Chris  
2  
3 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, and I'm in an attempt  
4 to try clarify that. So I just want to repeat it on  
5 the record again. So we have no taking of cows from  
6 April 1st to June 30th; no talking of cows with calves  
7 beginning July 1st. But we need an end date to that.  
8 But does that clarify?  
9  
10 MR. STONEY: Yes.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. We hear what  
13 you're saying.  
14  
15 MR. MCKEE: Okay. Yeah.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We're trying to say  
18 that.  
19  
20 MR. MCKEE: Sure. Yeah.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Cyrus, you  
23 had something.  
24  
25 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. Well, so this  
26 discussion just happened right now, but on the opening  
27 of cow, once you've opened the cow season, I would  
28 suggest in the language, cows without a calf or  
29 something of that nature.  
30  
31 MR. MCKEE: Could you say that again?  
32 Sorry.  
33  
34 MR. L. KRAMER: On the opening of the  
35 cow season, which is.....  
36  
37 MR. MCKEE: April 1st. April 1. Uh-  
38 huh.  
39  
40 MR. L. KRAMER: The opening of the cow  
41 season. Closing April.  
42  
43 MS. LOON: When you reopen it.  
44  
45 MR. L. KRAMER: When you reopen.  
46  
47 MR. MCKEE: Oh, gotcha.  
48  
49 MR. L. KRAMER: I would suggest cows  
50 without a calf.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, we already.....  
2  
3 MR. L. KRAMER: Not necessarily just  
4 cows.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: .....Cyrus, reopen  
7 it, but without -- because the will be with the mom.  
8 That's what we're really saying on layman terms. Open  
9 it without calf following or something like that. Calf  
10 with a female, with a mom.  
11  
12 MR. MCKEE: I think it states the same  
13 thing, it's just different language.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It is. We're all  
16 saying the same thing, because a few of us know the  
17 difference, but we're trying to get it opened,  
18 especially with the guys in camp and stuff like that,  
19 you know, for the females.  
20  
21 MR. MITCHELL: So open only to the  
22 cows?  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Open only to the cows  
25 without fawn in July.  
26  
27 MR. STONEY: Yeah.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If you see a fawn, a  
30 female with a fawn, please don't harvest it. I don't  
31 know how else to say it.  
32  
33 MR. MCKEE: I think we have it here,  
34 and is that okay?  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So that's what  
37 I'm comfortable with.  
38  
39 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. And look at it this  
40 way, on the bear season, you're unable to get a sow  
41 with cubs, right? But you can get a sow without cubs.  
42 So it's the same language you would put in that, on the  
43 cow caribou.  
44  
45 MR. MCKEE: Okay. I think we're okay.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We're okay.  
48 Everybody happy with it.  
49  
50 Go ahead, Chris.

1 MR. MCKEE: We still need an end date,  
2 so no harvesting of cows with calves starting July 1st  
3 until?  
4  
5 MR. MITCHELL: October 10th.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: October. Uh-huh.  
8  
9 MR. MITCHELL: October 10th is good.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Say October, because  
12 we just try to hunt females after freeze-up, but it's  
13 freezing up late and late every year.  
14  
15 MR. MCKEE: So October 10 is okay, or  
16 do you.....  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: October 10 is fine  
19 with me. How about you? Anybody else, we'd like to  
20 hear.  
21  
22 MR. STONEY: October 10 to January 1.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: October is fine.  
25  
26 MR. MCKEE: Okay.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Now.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Just one more thing.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Now, the numbers. We  
33 take 15 per day. I would say let's reduce our take to  
34 five caribou per day to comply with the -- well, I  
35 don't want to comply with the State, but those are the  
36 numbers. That way they won't guess how many they could  
37 take in the State land or the Federal land. Just throw  
38 in one number from reduction, from 15 to 5 a day.  
39  
40 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, it's not a matter of  
41 complying with the State. I think the important part  
42 to make it -- like Member Stoney was saying, let's just  
43 make it one so we can avoid confusion, because with  
44 such a patchwork of ownership, keep it simple.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, everybody.  
47  
48 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

1 MR. MOTO: Thank you. Just for the  
2 record I'd like to say that the last couple weeks, the  
3 hunters said that the caribou are starting to go east  
4 from -- because they're -- are they -- we're kind of  
5 wondering if they're trying to go early to the calving  
6 grounds or something, because it's kind of unusual for  
7 us to see the caribou this time of year east of Deering  
8 instead of west of Deering. So I was wondering what  
9 was going on. Was it the climate or what, because I  
10 know the last couple years they left early. And then  
11 they come around late. So I don't know. I just  
12 thought I'd put that in, to let you know what's going  
13 on in our area, because a lot of people don't know  
14 what's going on in our area.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

17  
18 Go ahead, Chris.

19  
20 MR. McKEE: I would only say that, you  
21 know, I think that would be something to maybe -- a  
22 question that might be better to Jim. And even, I  
23 think like he mentioned earlier this morning, he might  
24 not even have such a good idea about what's going on.  
25 You know, caribou are hard animals to figure out,  
26 especially now with the way the climate and the weather  
27 patterns are changing, it's a real difficult thing to  
28 try to nail down.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.

31  
32 Raymond, you got something.

33  
34 MR. STONEY: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman,  
35 about the bag limits for Federal and State land.  
36 Otherwise, in our area, we've got three different  
37 agencies that we hunt. We hunt on NANA land, we hunt  
38 on BLM land, and we hunt on Park Service land, so  
39 otherwise the BLM and Park are Federal land. So it  
40 would be obvious that if I was hunting, and I happened  
41 to get five caribou on the State land or on NANA land,  
42 of course, within 10 feet there's another bull that has  
43 15, because he's on the Federal land, he can get 15.  
44 So like you said, Mr. Chairman, I think we should keep  
45 the situation to where we can at least look at it to  
46 five a day from both State and Federal land.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.  
49 Thank you. Yes, that's what we're saying, we need to  
50 reduce it, and that way they will be both the State,

1 the other Federals to five a day.

2

3 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, it sounds like we  
4 have pretty good agreement on that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay.

7

8 MR. MCKEE: I think we're good.

9

10 MR. MOTO: What Raymond brought up  
11 about owned land, you know. In the villages,  
12 especially around area, most of our land is owned  
13 either by a corporation or State. Our village, we own  
14 -- the only part of land we own is like -- but what  
15 confuse us, who regulate on our corporation land. Is  
16 it still under State jurisdiction I wonder sometimes,  
17 or is it -- because we have our own patrol, you know,  
18 NANA. Also on the -- it's kind of confusing for us to  
19 figure out who is going to get after us if we hunt here  
20 or hunt there, you know. So I thought I'd just bring  
21 that up, because we're -- we thought we owned our own  
22 land, but we don't.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
25 Calvin.

26

27 Go ahead, Chris.

28

29 MR. MCKEE: Just for the record, on  
30 State and private lands, State game regulations apply.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Okay. Thank  
33 you.

34

35 MR. CLEVELAND: Lunch time.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We leave caribou  
38 pretty quick. We'll go on lunch.

39

40 So everybody's comfortable. I get the  
41 feeling they're all comfortable to take a reduction on  
42 Federal land, take from 15 to 5 a day.

43

44 So everybody who is the Board, all in  
45 favor signify by saying -- I know it's not a proposal,  
46 but make it short and sweet. All say aye in favor.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any opposed.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Aye.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll -- with  
4 the dates that we come up with.  
5  
6 Is there anything else we need to do  
7 for the caribou before we break for lunch.  
8  
9 MR. MCKEE: I don't believe so. And  
10 Melinda has been taking pretty careful notes of this,  
11 and I will work with her to formulate what we need to  
12 submit a proposal.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And if you take these  
15 back to your villages in September, if you want to make  
16 changes to these, that could be done then. Let's just  
17 get this started and just start on the process for now,  
18 okay.  
19  
20 Go ahead, Raymond.  
21  
22 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
23  
24 I'll say this now since we have  
25 accomplished a big step here, you know, for us here on  
26 Game Unit 23. However, my point is now that I'm so  
27 pleased of what we have done. This is the first time  
28 we ever come up with, you know, proposed changes and  
29 with our strong voice recommendations here. I'm very  
30 proud of you gentlemen in a well, well job done. It's  
31 the first time we've done it.  
32  
33 Thank you.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.  
36  
37 Go ahead, Chris.  
38  
39 MR. MCKEE: And just to reiterate one  
40 more time, I know I've said it before, but it can't be  
41 emphasized enough that because of that, and because of  
42 the importance of the RACs and the Federal proposal  
43 process that now that you have a proposal on the  
44 record, this is going to hold a tremendous amount of  
45 weight with the Federal Board, so I agree. Excellent.  
46  
47 And I'd also like to commend Jim Dau  
48 for his presentation, because I think it was  
49 tremendously helpful focusing our efforts today. So I  
50 want to thank him on the record as well.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank  
4 you. Yes, you guys ready to go on lunch until?  
5  
6 MS. BURKE: 1:15.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: 1:15. We'll resume  
9 our meeting at 1:15.  
10  
11 MS. BURKE: And before folks sign off  
12 on the phone, I know we have our usual people out  
13 there, do we have anybody brand new that's joined us.  
14 We want to make sure especially if there's any public  
15 or tribal folks on the line that we acknowledge you and  
16 see if you have any comments. Anybody brand new join  
17 us today.  
18  
19 (No comments)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Melinda, for the  
22 record Percy asked to be excused.  
23  
24 MS. BURKE: Yes.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So we put it on  
27 record for this afternoon. Thank you.  
28  
29 MS. BURKE: Okay. We'll come back at  
30 1:15 all you on the teleconference.  
31  
32 (Off record)  
33  
34 (On record)  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll call the  
37 meeting back to order at 1:23 in the afternoon.  
38  
39 And we're going to go back to the  
40 proposals. The one we talked about at Kiana in the  
41 fall, proposal ideas. It's this one here.  
42  
43 So go ahead, Melinda  
44  
45 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair.  
46  
47 And just for the folks on the phone,  
48 when we had our fall meeting in Kiana, the Council  
49 discussed several ideas for possible proposals to  
50 submit this fall.

1 I drafted up just a real short bulleted  
2 rough summary for the Council's benefit, and I think  
3 now would be a good time since we're still discussing  
4 the call for proposals, for the Council to discuss some  
5 of those ideas and bounce them, and if we have any  
6 Staff members who want to kind of talk about any of  
7 them or any questions that you have, I think now would  
8 be a really good time while we're all here, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
11 And I think -- my main question back to you in return  
12 would be, see how we are doing with our agenda to  
13 finish on time for you guys to catch your flight,  
14 because everybody wants to leave, you know.

15  
16 MS. BURKE: Sure. I think we're doing  
17 pretty well. I know that Ken is going to try to -- Ken  
18 needs to do his before 4:00 o'clock. So I think if we  
19 keep moving along and kind of stay focused, I think  
20 we'll be okay, Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. So  
23 everybody see that Northwest -- at our fall meeting at  
24 Kiana, these are ideas we came up with at Kiana, you  
25 see the one with the bullets in there. And what the  
26 plan on this, we'll put it on proposal form on some of  
27 these.

28  
29 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. We can  
30 help you. Any of these you want to turn into a  
31 proposal, we can certainly do that today.

32  
33 And I wanted to throw out as well, I  
34 was looking at the -- and I'll have a draft copy for  
35 you here in a minute, I was looking at the draft annual  
36 report for 2014, and the transporter issues is one of  
37 the ones that the Council discussed last year. So if  
38 there's any points about transporters, I know one of my  
39 suggestions would be to put some of that in the annual  
40 report and kind of beef up that topic. All of the  
41 agency heads see it, and that annual report really goes  
42 a long way in communicating the concerns of the region  
43 to the Federal Subsistence Board. And that just struck  
44 out at me when I was reviewing that draft.

45  
46 I think Chris might have something.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead,  
49 Chris.

50

1 MR. MCKEE: And I would add that I  
2 think that that would have -- since I already discussed  
3 earlier that, you know, the issues of transporters and  
4 access isn't really something that the Federal Board  
5 has jurisdiction over, I think it would be a much more  
6 excellent way to make the Board aware of your concerns  
7 regarding transporters, and the agencies, if you  
8 instead of going the proposal route, adding those  
9 concerns to your letters. I think that would go a lot  
10 longer way. It would be more effective in my opinion  
11 to getting those concerns addressed than going through  
12 a proposal which would not make it past the vetting  
13 process in my estimation. So it's certainly up to you  
14 to decide what you want to do, but I think that that  
15 would get your -- putting it in a letter and sending it  
16 in that fashion would probably have more of an impact.

17  
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

21  
22 Okay. I think, Enoch, you understand  
23 that, that we'll let the landowners worry about the  
24 transporters and outfitters being there, and we could  
25 suggest to them that we need to have a decline in  
26 numbers, because at the Squirrel River and the Aggie,  
27 there's too many. Transporters are being -- the spike  
28 hunters is what is hurting us. You hear what he's  
29 saying?

30  
31 So I think we need to take it step-by-  
32 step, Melinda, you could maybe help us out and start  
33 off with bullet one, and we'll go down in order. That  
34 way we won't go back and forth.

35  
36 MS. BURKE: Yes. And, forgive me, Mr.  
37 Chair, I think I gave away my copy.

38  
39 Chris, can you read that first bullet.

40  
41 MR. MCKEE: Yes. It says, space  
42 sporthunting windows to give lead caribou a chance to  
43 cross.

44  
45 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. On this one  
48 here, what we're trying to say, the sporthunters need a  
49 chance for the caribou to from north towards south, you  
50 know, in an area, because to them, if they see caribou

1 on the other side, they will try to get what they  
2 could. And they need to hunt on this side of the river  
3 is what they're really saying. I don't know how else  
4 to say it. Correct me if I'm wrong. I know it's like  
5 that with the Natives. We like to hunt on this side of  
6 the river, you know, after they cross. And it should  
7 be to all.

8

9 Go ahead, Enoch.

10

11 MR. MITCHELL: Isn't this one of those  
12 that's not likely to pass.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

15

16 MR. MCKEE: Yes. In my estimation  
17 Member Mitchell is correct. And this is another  
18 example where I think that instead of going a proposal  
19 route, it would be better to write a letter and address  
20 your concerns to the Board of Game, because you're  
21 talking about sporthunting here, and Federal  
22 subsistence regulations don't cover sporthunting on  
23 Federal lands. That's State. So that would be my  
24 suggestion. And I've already mentioned this to --  
25 Melinda and I have discussed this.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So what you're  
28 saying is we need a letter from this body here to the  
29 Game of Board for them to look into.

30

31 MR. MCKEE: Correct. Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Maybe,  
34 Melinda, you will write up a letter now what we're  
35 trying to say.

36

37 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'll  
38 capture all of your comments and I can have a draft  
39 letter -- I can have a rough draft ready for the  
40 Council to review and take home with you, and I can  
41 guess this finalized, started through the process in  
42 the office. So I'm ready to take down any observations  
43 and points the Council would like to include in that  
44 letter at this point if you would.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

47

48 MR. MITCHELL: On this one, I think the  
49 Board here was going with local and non-local instead  
50 of sporthunting, on the language.

1 MS. BURKE: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. MITCHELL: So instead of  
4 sporthunter, I think the Board of Game would go with  
5 local and non-local. So I guess we could change that  
6 to non-local.  
7  
8 MS. BURKE: Okay.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. To the board,  
11 everybody comfortable with what Enoch is saying, what  
12 we're saying.  
13  
14 Go ahead, Enoch.  
15  
16 MR. MITCHELL: On this, you know, I was  
17 the one that brought this up, this space their camps.  
18 What it is is to space these non-local above -- this is  
19 pertaining to the area above the seaway that's  
20 currently in use.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You're moving  
23 to bullet 2, so, okay, I understand. I saw what you're  
24 saying Enoch. So everybody comfortable with bullet  
25 one, that's what I'm asking.  
26 Go ahead, Verne.  
27  
28 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, as long as it  
29 won't turn around on us in the long run. I mean it  
30 will make regulations for sportshunters, and later on  
31 it turn around on us, to us. Can we make some wording  
32 somehow that the sportshunters won't turn around to us  
33 in the long run.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Chris.  
36  
37 MR. MCKEE: Just for clarification,  
38 through the Chair, Member Cleveland. You're worrying  
39 that maybe some proposal will come through the Federal  
40 side to do the same thing for Federally-qualified users  
41 as well; is that what you're saying?  
42  
43 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes. As long as it  
44 don't -- we make just regulation, then the  
45 sportshunters will go after us.....  
46  
47 MR. MCKEE: Well, there's the.....  
48  
49 MR. CLEVELAND: .....in the long run it  
50 will turn around.

1 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, there's nothing to  
2 stop anybody from submitting a proposal to try and do  
3 that. I would only suggest that if something like that  
4 happened, in my estimation all that would have to  
5 happen would be for this Council to not support such a  
6 proposal. And the chances of it making it through and  
7 being approved by the Board are not good.

8  
9 MR. CLEVELAND: I mean, some of them  
10 sportshunters are millionaires, billionaires, you know,  
11 and you know they can always buy somebody out, and I'm  
12 afraid if -- somebody talked to me about this, and he  
13 sort of made some sense. That's why I brought it up.  
14 As long as it don't turn around towards us.

15  
16 MR. MCKEE: I can feel confident enough  
17 to say on the record that like I've mentioned before,  
18 that the Federal subsistence process is a bottom-up run  
19 program. It is run by the people, it's run by the  
20 users, and it's run by the Regional Advisory Councils.  
21 I can feel comfortable putting my name on the record  
22 and saying that nobody's going to get bought out.

23  
24 MR. CLEVELAND: Can you state that  
25 again?

26  
27 MR. MCKEE: You hear it here first.

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Yeah, Enoch  
32 had your hand up first.

33  
34 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead,  
37 Enoch.

38  
39 And, Raymond, you'll be next.

40  
41 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. And I was going  
42 to the next step on these. The number 1 bullet?

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, number 1  
45 bullet. We'll get to.....

46  
47 MR. MITCHELL: Yes, on those windows to  
48 give caribou a chance to cross. I think this needs to  
49 be developed to let the leaders cross before the  
50 sportshunters come in, so they won't e diverted.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, we hear what  
2 you're saying. I think there's problems in their  
3 education. They need to express and write out in the  
4 wording. So we hear what you're saying, Enoch.

5  
6 Go ahead, Raymond.

7  
8 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9  
10 On these sporthunters, as you know, and  
11 we all know, that they get their permits from Big Game  
12 Commercial Service Board, and they're designated to  
13 hunt in a certain area. If there's any situation where  
14 -- well, I don't know how to say that, but I know  
15 they're assigned to hunt in this area, and the Big Game  
16 Commercial Board select these hunting sites for these  
17 people that wanted to hunt in the public land. So is  
18 there any regulations to interfere with local  
19 subsistence hunters when they're hunting in the same  
20 area.

21  
22 MR. McKEE: In terms of hunting in the  
23 same area, I'm not really sure what the restrictions on  
24 the hunting guides are, not being the Federal land  
25 manager myself. All I can tell you is that they would  
26 be hunting under different regulations. They would be  
27 hunting under State game regulations, not the Federal,  
28 but beyond that, I can't really say for sure.

29  
30 MR. STONEY: The reason why I say that,  
31 because it doesn't affect the Squirrel River very much,  
32 except for Kivalina, more like in the Noatak River.  
33 You know, there's people, for non-resident hunters and  
34 the local hunters at the same time. And it's a very  
35 complicated situation at the Noatak River. So I don't  
36 know how we'd have to handle that, you know.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Raymond, we could  
39 recommend to the State Board of Game that this is what  
40 we want coming out of here is what Chris is saying. So  
41 far on the Federal side for us, we're okay,  
42 sporthunters can't go to the Federal lands to hunt.

43  
44 MR. McKEE: Well, it depends on what  
45 Federal lands you're talking about. Now, National  
46 Preserves, yes. So on Noatak National Preserve, they  
47 can under State regulations.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,  
50 Melinda.

1 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. And Chris  
2 and I were talking about this a little bit yesterday,  
3 and I did review some of the transcripts from our  
4 meeting in Kiana. And this Council put some really  
5 great verbiage on the record regarding this issue when  
6 you made this original list. So if the Council is  
7 comfortable with what you've stated today, I can cross-  
8 reference that with the notes and the transcripts from  
9 the Kiana meeting, and I think we will have some great  
10 language that you folks have already put on the record.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

13  
14 With that we could met -- I mean, we  
15 could go on to the second bullet, limits on place on  
16 transportation to Noatak rivers and space out the  
17 camps. So the space out the camps is what -- you mean  
18 the dropped off hunters is -- what are you trying to  
19 say it here.

20  
21 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

24  
25 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chairman. This one  
26 is pertaining to the upper boundaries of this area on  
27 the Noatak River. So what's happening there is like I  
28 say even in Noatak we wait on this side of the river,  
29 and there's so much camps right there. It was too much  
30 activity when the caribou come down, the females  
31 anyways, but in drops and the boats and through that,  
32 but even the females didn't cross and the bulls didn't  
33 even bother coming out, because too much activity, too  
34 many camps on the other side of the river. The iron  
35 (ph) is -- we're waiting on the edge of the river at  
36 them, and there's a lot of camps right here. There's a  
37 landing strip beyond there where they're crossing. And  
38 even elders tell me it's the first time they've been  
39 skunked, you know, however many years they go hunt,  
40 because of that, and it wasn't their fault that they  
41 get skunked. There's too many camps behind them, too  
42 much movement. You know, when they're going to cross,  
43 we be quiet and wait, and don't move, until the females  
44 cross, get they're crossed and the bulls would come up.  
45 They'd wait a few minutes and then they would cross,  
46 and then we'd go hunt. Sometimes when there's too much  
47 movement, too much activity that they didn't even  
48 cross. They went back up and then they'd cross, go  
49 further upriver.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
2 Enoch.

3  
4 Go ahead, Chris.

5  
6 MR. MCKEE: Again like I mentioned  
7 before, this seems in my mind to be more of an access  
8 issues, so again it's not something that I would see  
9 the Federal Subsistence Board as having jurisdiction to  
10 be able to effect any real change. So again, talking  
11 to Melinda, I think this would be another case where I  
12 think you would have a much bigger impact if you  
13 addressed your concerns in a letter in this case to the  
14 National Park Service.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,  
17 Melinda.

18  
19 MS. BURKE: It would also be in the  
20 annual report as well.

21  
22 MR. MCKEE: Correct, yes. Sorry.  
23 Thanks.

24  
25 MS. BURKE: Yes. So you would have  
26 those two avenues. We would have the transporter issue  
27 as your second item in your annual report, and then  
28 also we would have an additional letter sent directly  
29 to the Park Service.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. I  
34 understand what you're saying.

35  
36 Go ahead, Verne.

37  
38 MR. CLEVELAND: Well, then I'd add on  
39 that to no camping on the north side of the river, just  
40 to camp on the south side, like on the Kobuk.

41  
42 MR. MCKEE: That can certainly be  
43 something that you could add into your letter  
44 absolutely, yes. So, in fact, if you -- now would be  
45 the time to maybe give Melinda some ideas about, you  
46 know, what you want to see in that letter.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Everyone would  
49 be comfortable if we say no camping on the north side.  
50 We're all trying to say that, and we try to address

1 that, you know, when we're out there, we try to say on  
2 the south side of the river.

3

4 MR. CLEVELAND: One more.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead,  
7 Verne.

8

9 MR. CLEVELAND: What about a no fly  
10 zone on the north side, and fly zone on the south side,  
11 like we do the Kobuk, same way. No fly zone on caribou  
12 migrating on the north side, the fly zone on the south  
13 side of the river.

14

15 MR. MCKEE: Again, in discussion with  
16 Melinda, that's something that, you know, add into your  
17 letter.

18

19 MR. CLEVELAND: 500 feet minimal.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That one would be  
22 hard to control.

23

24 MR. MCKEE: Yeah.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because it's under  
27 FAA.

28

29 MR. MCKEE: Right.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And I know it's under  
32 FAA.

33

34 MR. MCKEE: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because I approached  
37 them and I asked them once.

38

39 MR. MCKEE: But I think it's still --  
40 you know, I would still encourage you to include it in  
41 your letter. I mean, there's nothing wrong with --  
42 more information is always better than less in my  
43 opinion. In this case at least.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Then, Verne,  
46 we'll put it on the letter. I understand your concern,  
47 no fly zone and certain footage, because I've seen  
48 planes less than 200 feet. I've seen that.

49

50 MR. CLEVELAND: That's probably me.

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. If you want to  
4 admit it, I'll ask them to cite you.  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,  
9 Raymond.  
10  
11 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
12  
13 I know the regulations for -- just like  
14 Mr. Cleveland said about the no fly zone, I know that  
15 the no fly zone in the Noatak Valley is north of Noatak  
16 and all the way up to Sapun, almost like 80 miles. And  
17 then the no fly zone is within five miles from east  
18 side of the river, when they're flying, you know, for  
19 the season, they have to be within five miles inland,  
20 because it's written on the fly zone situation.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You're talking  
23 about the Noatak. Okay. I gotcha.  
24  
25 MR. STONEY: Yes, I'm talking about the  
26 Noatak Valley, yeah. But like at the Squirrel, it's a  
27 little bit different, because it's under control by  
28 BLM, it's just one mile from each side of river.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
31 Raymond.  
32  
33 Go ahead, Hannah.  
34  
35 MS. LOON: Thank you. There should  
36 also be wording in Mitchell's proposal to have those  
37 transporter and guide places or camps, is that what we  
38 were referring to, camps? Near migratory traditional,  
39 present migratory say for caribou to go through.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. I hear  
42 you.  
43  
44 And if we keep on going on this bullet  
45 here, and if they do not want the meat -- it's really  
46 important that they try not to waste the caribou. And  
47 they could bring it to the Natives without them  
48 spoiling. It's hard to say, because if they go too  
49 early, within two, three days they started to spoil.  
50 And I don't know if the guide, transporter,

1 outfitters's willing to spend gas to transport his meat  
2 so his clients could be in the regulation, because  
3 that's a hard one. I would like to see them bring the  
4 caribou, the meat to the villages. I understand this  
5 part right here completely, but trying to put it in  
6 wording, I think we need to -- if the Park Service, the  
7 Noatak Preserve could say, transporters, can you bring  
8 the meat in at a certain time before they spoil.

9

10 I think the wording need to be  
11 something like that in there, because a lot of caribou  
12 who get caught to early will spoil. Even me when I go  
13 hunt, if I go hunt early within less than three days, I  
14 want to be home so my caribou won't spoil and I won't  
15 waste. That's the way I see it on this waste of the  
16 meat on bullet two.

17

18 MR. MCKEE: Okay. I think Melinda's  
19 capturing that.

20

21 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, ma'am.

24

25 MS. BURKE: I believe that we did a  
26 good job of covering the last bullet point as well with  
27 the transporter issues. I've taken that language and  
28 put it in as well. So I think that we can check that  
29 last bullet point off as well as covered under the  
30 transporter annual report item, and the follow up  
31 letter as well. Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

34

35 Okay. Everybody comfortable with  
36 bullet two. We could move on.

37

38 Okay. On bullet 3's proposal,  
39 controlled use area, fluctuate with -- on the Federal  
40 control.

41

42 MS. BURKE: Oh, that's a typo. I think  
43 it was supposed to be -- that was a typo on my part,  
44 Mr. Chair. It should say migration. Controlled use  
45 area to fluctuate with the migration.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Any thoughts  
48 on it from the Board here.

49

50 MR. CLEVELAND: I do.

1                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead,  
2 Kramer.

3  
4                   MR. M. KRAMER: I think I was the one  
5 that brought this one up. I think it would be a good  
6 idea for the controlled use area to be able to  
7 fluctuate with the migration. That way it gives the  
8 local people of Noatak, and it gives our caribou the  
9 ability to move with ease. You know, if they're  
10 willing to go with that and, you know, see our side,  
11 what we do. I think that if the Federal Subsistence  
12 Board were to see what the numbers we're taking in  
13 Noatak, you know, such low numbers and not very many  
14 people got caribou. I think they'd really look at it  
15 and say, you know, we need to see if we can allow this  
16 change to be able to accommodate the local people being  
17 able to harvest animals without having to worry about  
18 aircraft and camps everywhere. But I was the one that  
19 brought that up for non-resident hunters.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

22  
23                   Verne, you had your hand up.

24  
25                   MR. CLEVELAND: I was just going to say  
26 what Mike said about, no bears per person, like one --  
27 instead of one, make it two; is that what you were  
28 saying, Mike? Yeah.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's what you  
31 were saying.

32  
33                   MR. CLEVELAND: That would be a good  
34 idea. If we can put it into words somehow and then --  
35 instead of catching one, make it two.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
38 Verne.

39  
40                   Anything else on bullet three. Go  
41 ahead.

42  
43                   MR. STONEY: Thank you. This right  
44 here what you just hand out, it's just for Noatak and  
45 not the Squirrel River, 10 -- about 10 miles apart.  
46 It's almost down on the bottom up there. It's written  
47 down.

48  
49                   MR. MCKEE: The second to last bullet  
50 there, is that what you're.....

1 MR. STONEY: Yeah.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, okay. We were on  
4 bullet three. You're further down.  
5  
6 MR. STONEY: Yeah.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll get there in a  
9 minute, Raymond.  
10  
11 MR. STONEY: Okay.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thanks.  
14  
15 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. All  
18 right, Chris.  
19  
20 MR. MCKEE: Just a little more  
21 clarification on that third bullet, because it does go  
22 on to discuss -- it says increase ability for non-  
23 residents to take more bears and wolves. Member  
24 Kramer, were you the one that came up with this bullet  
25 then? What was your thinking along that, just for  
26 some.....  
27  
28 MR. M. KRAMER: Most of it was for, you  
29 know, the fluctuation of the controlled use area. And  
30 for the purpose of more bears being taken. That would  
31 be by guides. And I think if we were to either drop  
32 the -- you know, see if the State can lower the ticket  
33 fee for bears, or what is that, the permit fee. I  
34 believe it's \$500 per bear or something, or more. If  
35 they were able to, you know, lower that and make it a  
36 little more feasible to were they can afford to take  
37 two of them. It's not money in our pockets, but it's  
38 money out of the guide's pockets, but, you know, his  
39 clients are being able to harvest several bears. And  
40 that would alleviate a lot of the pressure on a lot of  
41 the sheep, moose, you know, caribou. It would help in  
42 the long run.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank  
45 you. You understand what he's saying?  
46  
47 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I do. I just want to  
48 make clear with Melinda that this is going to the.....  
49  
50 MS. BURKE: Board of Game.

1 MR. MCKEE: Board of Game, yes.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: Yeah, I think, yeah, this  
4 would -- we'll include this in the Board of Game letter  
5 as well.  
6  
7 MR. MCKEE: Right. Okay.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
10 It's not like I'm trying to rush this, but I'm trying  
11 to do it by each bullet. That way we won't go back and  
12 forth here with the Board members.  
13  
14 MR. MCKEE: No, no, that's -- yeah.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So everybody  
17 comfortable so far. on bullet three.  
18  
19 (Council nods affirmatively)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Melinda, Chris, you  
22 got that?  
23  
24 MR. MCKEE: Yes, Mr. Chair.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Bullet four.  
27 I better start putting numbers. Bullet four, Red Dog  
28 during caribou migration not to have drilling or  
29 blasting during caribou migration.  
30  
31 For your information, I thought this --  
32 through the State of Alaska we did this for the Western  
33 Arctic Caribou Herd a few years back, and they comply  
34 with it. As Walter said, they comply with it at the  
35 time, and when the caribou were near crossing, the  
36 trucks to stop until after they cross. I think it was  
37 for three days, correct me if I'm wrong.  
38  
39 MR. MCKEE: I think you're on that. I  
40 vaguely remember. I don't remember the exact length of  
41 time, but I do remember there being a letter  
42 previously. And so what we're talking about here would  
43 be a letter to Red Dog themselves.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.  
46  
47 MR. MCKEE: Yeah.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.  
50

1 MS. LOON: Isn't the road under ADA?  
2 And if it's under ADA, it's State. That's my question.

3  
4 MR. MCKEE: Yes. It's a State-  
5 maintained road I believe.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Go ahead, Verne.

8  
9 MR. CLEVELAND: I'm the one that  
10 brought this up to have drilling and blasting stopped  
11 during caribou migration. Because they stopped the  
12 trucks from rolling, why can't they stop the drilling  
13 and blasting. And the president of Cominco was there,  
14 or Teck, when I brought it up, and I talked to him  
15 after the game. He said, yes, he would see what he can  
16 do. But I haven't heard from him ever since. So maybe  
17 put it to writing, I will be happy.

18  
19 MR. MCKEE: Yes, absolutely. That  
20 would absolutely be the way to go.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. That was part  
23 of the idea, and the other thought that came up at one  
24 time for the Western Arctic Caribou was not the sound,  
25 but the vibration from the ground. We don't know how  
26 far, you know, it will travel.

27  
28 MR. MCKEE: Yeah.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That was the thought.  
31 I remember that really because that was brought up,  
32 that was one of my questions at the time on this one  
33 here, on bullet four, for blasting. And they complied  
34 with it I thought for a little while. I don't know  
35 what happened after.

36  
37 Go ahead, Melinda.

38  
39 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I'm happy to do  
40 a little research after the meeting looking the letters  
41 that this Council, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
42 Working Group as well, has written. And I think we've  
43 got some good discussion on the record. And if we need  
44 to do a follow up, we have some good rationale, so I'll  
45 do a little bit of research and get back to the  
46 Council, if that's okay.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

49  
50 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, that's great, because

1 I'm not too sure of the history myself either. So  
2 thank you.

3

4 MS. BURKE: Uh-huh.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any more thoughts  
7 from the Board on bullet four.

8

9 Go ahead, Mike.

10

11 MR. M. KRAMER: I think at our next  
12 meeting it would be feasible to see if we can invite  
13 Red Dog. They have their own subsistence committee,  
14 you know, and I don't understand why they're not a part  
15 of this Board as is. But I think it would be wise to  
16 invite them to come to our next meeting, and all their  
17 members, including the Teck Cominco Staff, or their  
18 environmentalist, to be able to see our concerns and be  
19 able to understand where we're coming, because I know  
20 we're Federally-recognized, but I don't think they are.  
21 But it would be wise to include them in our meeting so  
22 they could see, you know, what kind of concerns we  
23 have, because we're below them. You know, they're -- I  
24 know there's some Kivalina, I'm not too sure if there's  
25 any from Noatak, there might be a few Kotzebue people  
26 maybe on there, but I think it would be wise to have  
27 them at our next meeting, and I think it would be wise  
28 to have them at our future meetings, so they could  
29 continually understand our concern.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,  
32 Mike.

33

34 I'll get to you, Chris.

35

36 MR. MCKEE: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, the subsistence  
39 committee is from Kivalina and Noatak for your  
40 information.

41

42 So go ahead, Chris.

43

44 MR. MCKEE: Yeah. And I would just  
45 suggest that that would be a good thing to add to the  
46 letter, to invite them to come to the next meeting.  
47 And Melinda's got it.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: They've attended  
50 Western Arctic Caribou Herd meeting, the working group,

1 before, too. So they pretty much comply. For your  
2 information.

3

4 Okay. Go ahead, Hannah.

5

6 MS. LOON: I work in Red Dog for so  
7 many years and have worked closely with environmental  
8 people in translating their environmental issues with  
9 Kivalina and Noatak. And quite often we have heard  
10 questions from local people in Noatak, mostly Noatak,  
11 complain about the blasting and the air, the smell that  
12 comes with it, because we always smell it right there  
13 at the pack. It smells. It's got a strong smell. And  
14 when they blast, they always ask environmental, does  
15 that have any effect, I mean, because animals have good  
16 hearing, like fox and caribou, and they're north of us.

17

18 Noatak is north of us, and Noatak never  
19 get any caribou for so many years. And one time  
20 Kivalina didn't get caribou for five years. And those  
21 that went to Shungnak several years ago said they  
22 really enjoyed having caribou. So just imagine having  
23 no caribou for five years. So that's good questions to  
24 -- because we're in a separate entity, so we need to  
25 hear from the Red Dog side and their subsistence. I'm  
26 glad this is finally going to be discussed.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,  
31 Hannah.

32

33 Go ahead, Verne.

34

35 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, on the  
36 Subsistence Board from Red Dog -- for Red Dog, I  
37 approached them. I approached NANA and it was already  
38 written that only Kivalina and Noatak. And I told them  
39 that it's not just them; it's affecting us, Kotzebue  
40 and Noorvik, all the way up the river. Can we get  
41 another subsistence board to go to Red Dog besides  
42 Kivalina and Noatak, because it's affecting all of us.  
43 I brought it up to NANA to see if they could rewrite  
44 that so we could have a subsistence board from  
45 Kotzebue, Noorvik, Kiana, Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk,  
46 Selawik, on this whole area, because it is certainly  
47 affecting us. And I haven't heard anything yet from  
48 them.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.

1                   So I think what we need to do, Melinda  
2 need to write a letter to Cominco and address that  
3 issue. I hear what you're say. I understand what  
4 you're say. Teck Cominco, I'm sorry. To Teck Cominco,  
5 you need to write a letter saying the rest of Northwest  
6 Alaska to be included in the seat for the subsistence  
7 committee.

8  
9                   MS. BURKE: And is this someone who  
10 works for Red Dog, Mr. Chair.

11  
12                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: He retired. I don't  
13 know who's their new guy. The guy that they -- Hannah,  
14 you know the new one.

15  
16                   MS. LOON: The new guy is Wayne Hall.  
17 It's not Teck Cominco. It's now just Teck.

18  
19                   MR. CLEVELAND: Or go to NANA. I think  
20 they have a lot to do with it, too.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Maybe address to  
23 both, to whoever has -- you know, NANA is part of it,  
24 and they could talk and Cominco and Teck. Maybe  
25 address it to all. That way we won't miss out anyone.  
26 And they might say you mailed it to the wrong one.  
27 Let's put it that way.

28  
29                   MS. BURKE: And do we -- with that  
30 suggestion of adding someone, do we have a volunteer  
31 that want to put their name in, or should we just ask  
32 for the spot and then follow up with a name later.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Just coming from the  
35 Federal Board, RAC, with all our names in it.

36  
37                   MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, with all of our  
38 names.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: With all our names in  
41 there.

42  
43                   MS. BURKE: Okay.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: They all know us  
46 anyhow. NANA knows all. A few are known at Cominco.

47  
48                   MR. CLEVELAND: They avoid us.

49  
50                   (Laughter)

1 MS. BURKE: They won't avoid us.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. With that now,  
4 let's see. Number 5.  
5  
6 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.  
9  
10 MS. BURKE: This is one, I should have  
11 mentioned it when I discussed the last bullet point. I  
12 think we've kind of covered this one as well during the  
13 transporter discussion. So if there's anything that  
14 anybody else wants to add, but I think that one as well  
15 could be lumped in with the other transporter points  
16 that we made.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You're talking  
19 about number 5, bullet 5. Yeah. Okay. Thank you.  
20  
21 Yeah, I know we touched on some of  
22 these as we go, you know, they're real close.  
23  
24 So number 6, the caribou declining.  
25 You all could see that. And anything thoughts on it.  
26 Or any question. Chris.  
27  
28 MR. MCKEE: I would say that this is  
29 another example of a letter that would be best posted  
30 to the Board of Game.  
31  
32 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.  
35  
36 MS. BURKE: I was going to say we could  
37 also -- if you want to, we could put some points on  
38 this discussion in the letter that we send on Proposal  
39 202 as well.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. And some of  
42 those letters, I mean, you could say about when we  
43 would say, the reason why we have a concern due to  
44 declining of the caribou.  
45  
46 MR. M. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. Who  
49 had -- right. Go ahead, Mike.  
50

1 MR. M. KRAMER: Did we already do our  
2 agency reports, because I would like to see what was  
3 the stats on the guides and the transporters from last  
4 fall to see, you know, what the numbers. To see if  
5 it's already having an impact on them. I know that  
6 there was one transporter that came up here, and the  
7 caribou were so late he didn't get any clients, and he  
8 just left.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Chris.

11  
12 MR. MCKEE: That's coming up. So the  
13 answer to that would be, no, we haven't gotten there  
14 quite yet.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, we're not  
17 there. Okay.

18  
19 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

22  
23 MR. MITCHELL: On this caribou decline,  
24 I thought we had a rough number to put in there I guess  
25 or something that -- there's (indiscernible), the  
26 caribou can move in part. Ten miles is maybe only 10  
27 minutes (ph). And we could change that to like three  
28 miles maybe. Or no?

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: On this one here, I  
31 think we could suggest to the land owners, that Noatak  
32 Monument, and, you know, to the land owners, right,  
33 Chris, Because they get permission for the transport  
34 and outfitters to land and drop off hunters.

35  
36 MR. MCKEE: Right, you certainly could  
37 address that to the Park Service. Yeah.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: They're the ones that  
40 give permission for transporters/outfitters to land  
41 and.....

42  
43 MR. MCKEE: Correct.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: .....drop off  
46 hunters, so I think that need to go to the landowners.  
47 Okay. Thank you.

48  
49 MR. MITCHELL: Three miles, change the  
50 landing to three miles.

1 MS. BURKE: Got it.  
2  
3 MR. MITCHELL: Change it to three  
4 miles.  
5  
6 MR. M. KRAMER: Mr. Chair.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.  
9  
10 MR. M. KRAMER: I know that this fall  
11 there was such crazy urgency for people to get caribou  
12 up the Kobuk. I was there. I saw the crazy urgency.  
13 I mean, I saw people shooting caribou with 12-gauge  
14 shotguns and birdshot. You know, I mean, this day and  
15 age right now, I guarantee if any of you guys went to  
16 the store today, I bet you guys wouldn't be able to  
17 find any .22 shells. Shells are being hard to come by  
18 nowadays, you know. And the requirement is rimfire  
19 only. It's pretty difficult when you can't find  
20 rimfire in a community such as Kotzebue. You know,  
21 Uncle Obama, he's trying to restrict everything  
22 nowadays. He doesn't understand that, you know, we  
23 live by these rimfire ammunition. It's crazy. I mean,  
24 you go down there to Cabela's and they get bought out  
25 in a day, you know. Fifteen pallets of .22 rimfire  
26 shells. I don't know who's buying them, but, you know,  
27 I mean certainly places like this, it doesn't have the  
28 opportunity to get some of them shells for people that  
29 are up here. And it's such a crazy urgency.  
30  
31 I've seen bullets, you know, skipping  
32 across the water past my boat and about 10 feet in  
33 front of my boat. I don't like to put my kids through  
34 that, you know. Around here we call that combat  
35 hunting, but I try not to put my kids through that. I  
36 don't ever want them to see that kind of action going  
37 on. I'd like to be able to see them, you know, pull up  
38 and be able to take what they want.  
39  
40 But there was a lot of people that were  
41 cut off. We were one of them that, you know, pull --  
42 we were there first. We were watching a bunch of bulls  
43 about a mile back, and we just sat there and monitored,  
44 and then another boat pulled up and they said, hey,  
45 Mike, you were here first, you get first crack at  
46 whatever. And then four other boats pulled up, and  
47 before the bulls even got a quarter away across the  
48 Kobuk River, two boats already took off. We had to  
49 rush down the bank and head over there, and, you know,  
50 we just got what was left.

1                   You know, they're not following the  
2 rules of the river. And as I was always taught by the  
3 elders, you know, that whoever is there first, they get  
4 first crack at what crosses. And if elders pull up  
5 even after I pull up there, to me they get first crack.  
6 Elders get first crack any time, you know, at caribou.  
7 And that's the way I was raised. Elders come first.  
8 And then, you know, everybody else after.

9  
10                   But there was such a crazy urgency that  
11 people were going to be restricted on hunting caribou.  
12 Some people hadn't seen caribou in so many years. I  
13 know there was eight boats from Noatak that were up the  
14 Kobuk. You know, they made that long journey to go up  
15 there to go harvest caribou, and yet there was -- I  
16 swear it was like I-90 right there above Kiana. Like  
17 I-90. There was boats going up, down, and there was  
18 boats everywhere along that river. We watched caribou  
19 for four or five hours just right on the other side of  
20 the trees going back and forth, back and forth, back,  
21 come towards the edge of the river. There were planes,  
22 we saw a couple of 206 flying right over the hill right  
23 across from Kiana. There's such a crazy urgency for  
24 people to fill their freezers, you know.

25  
26                   I think all the necessary steps that we  
27 take to prevent some of this craziness will help us all  
28 in the long run, and it will help preserve our caribou.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.

31  
32                   I was there and I see it, too, It's  
33 something we need to do. And I think if we try to come  
34 up with something, I think we'll going to get pressure  
35 from all the hunters, because everybody is battling to  
36 get their caribou at the time. I understand what  
37 you're saying, and I feel, and I watch it, and I see  
38 it, too. That's why I move up the river away from the  
39 rest of the crowd, to get my caribou. You know, I  
40 understand what you're saying. And it gets scary.  
41 Just like the only rule we have with hunting beluga, we  
42 don't shoot when there's a boat in front of us. But  
43 it's different now. These younger generation has no  
44 respect.

45  
46                   I understand what you're saying. So I  
47 don't know how to approach what you just said, of how  
48 to go about it completely. Because it's for the whole  
49 state, because I watched people from Shishmaref, coming  
50 from Shishmaref, try to get their caribou, and they

1 didn't want to fight with the rest of -- they had  
2 respect. They thought they were from Kiana. They had  
3 respect for other boat, because it's their land, this  
4 is their river, and they held back. And I had to go  
5 tell them, I said, I'll take you upriver to get your  
6 caribou. And they thanked me, that was -- because  
7 after that long trip. You think Noatak is far from  
8 Shishmaref, especially when it's windy. That's a long  
9 ways. They were thankful. They got their caribou.  
10 Don't get me wrong.

11  
12 I understand what you're saying, and I  
13 don't know how to go about this. So the table's open  
14 to all.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Nothing. Go head,  
19 Melinda.

20  
21 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I think those  
22 are really great points, and we did discuss some of  
23 this in our meeting in Kiana this fall. I'd like to  
24 work with Mike on perhaps turning this into an annual  
25 report item, and conveying some of those direct  
26 observations that you folks had about hunting last  
27 fall. I think it's really important for the Federal  
28 Subsistence Board to hear. So I think this would be a  
29 really great annual report item.

30  
31 Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Last year was  
34 different, Mike. Everybody knows it, because the  
35 caribou was late, and everybody was there when they  
36 were crossing. One phone call to each village, you  
37 know, and everybody was there together. Completely  
38 different last fall. It's one of those things. That  
39 never usually happen, because they use to cross -- I  
40 man, they used to -- we use to hunt the whole summer.  
41 Just last summer was different. Our open time was  
42 completely different last summer.

43  
44 Go ahead, Verne.

45  
46 MR. CLEVELAND: I patrol the rivers  
47 with Purcell Security. And this last fall was the  
48 craziest. I mean, we had boats from everywhere. You  
49 could tell which boat come from which village,  
50 especially when you know all these river, the Kobuk

1 River. But when you see another boat from a different  
2 village, you know who it is.

3

4 But this year, man, it was crazy. I  
5 mean it was like Mike said, that whole shoreline was  
6 just full of boats. And those caribou come out, they  
7 just go wham, you know. They don't wait for nobody.  
8 It's gone. And it's pretty difficult to -- we're lucky  
9 nobody got hurt. I mean, they call it combat hunting,  
10 and when you know -- you hear bullets zinging by. I  
11 had some guys that was hunting with me, they were  
12 ducked down in the boat. Couldn't even go over to  
13 shoot, because so many -- And it's crazy.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I understand.  
16 They couldn't -- Because last year the migration was so  
17 late, and the crossing was just about towards the end  
18 of the freezing, and there were so many boats. I  
19 understand what he's saying completely. I was scared,  
20 that's why I moved up the river. I got lucky with  
21 these other boat that come some, you know, without no  
22 incident. And I hear what Mike is saying, I hear what  
23 Verne is saying. I see it, Raymond see it. We talked  
24 about it, you know. It's something we have to live  
25 with and something we all don't like it, but it's  
26 something -- because caribou were so late. Their  
27 timing. I don't know how to address this except to  
28 talk about it. Or else I don't know what to say,  
29 because it did happen. It's the scariest year I ever  
30 seen, let's put it that way. We were lucky.

31

32 Okay. That's -- I think we covered  
33 bullet seven pretty much, unless someone want to touch  
34 up on it, on bullet seven. You can see it there.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I think this  
39 Council's done a really great job of working through  
40 these ideas. I really appreciate the assistance of the  
41 Staff that's here in the room. You know, like Chris  
42 mentioned, we just want to make sure that we're giving  
43 you folks the proper information to take this down the  
44 correct avenue so that it is put in front of the people  
45 that need to see it, so I think this Council did a  
46 really wonderful job of following up on your proposal  
47 ideas from the fall.

48

49 And I wanted to just remind the Council  
50 as well, on Page 20 -- you know, we still do have the

1 open call for proposals. And on Page 21 it's a real  
2 simplified version of how to submit proposals. So  
3 please, you know, relay that to your communities. If  
4 ever anyone needs assistance or has questions or, you  
5 know, wants some guidance on how this process works,  
6 please have them call us. Have them call them call us.  
7 We've got a great Staff there at the office, and we'll  
8 help communities, individuals, and tribes work through  
9 these processes. So I think the Council did a really  
10 wonderful job today of working through the call.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Melinda.

13

14 Go ahead, Verne.

15

16 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. And in hunting  
17 like that, maybe we should have at least someone Fish  
18 and Game checking for hunting licenses, because some  
19 people jump in a boat, whoever's in the boat should  
20 have a hunting license, whoever's old enough to have a  
21 hunting license. If not, they're busted. And maybe  
22 that will send a message to hunters that if you go  
23 boating or hunting, you've got a rifle in the boat, and  
24 you don't have a hunting license, you're busted. I  
25 mean, that's just regulation. Rules. You've got to st  
26 art putting them out and letting people know that if  
27 you're in a boat, you must have a hunting license, no  
28 matter what. If you've got a gun in the boat, you're  
29 hunting. We should address that to our own people and  
30 make sure they understand it. That's the only way to  
31 get -- we, or myself, I try to get mine January 1. I  
32 pack rifles all the time, so I wouldn't get busted.  
33 Because one guy got busted from Deering to here for  
34 carrying a rifle. He got busted for -- he said it was  
35 just for protection, but, no, the Fish and Game look at  
36 it a different way, that he was hunting. That's why he  
37 got busted. So we should send a message to our younger  
38 folks that if they want to hunt, get them a hunting  
39 license. And everyone's that of age in the boat to  
40 have a hunting license.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.

45

46 Go ahead, Calvin.

47

48 MR. MOTO: One other thing we have to  
49 consider. All our different activities going on in the  
50 summertime, we have to start looking at some of the

1 mining operations, because they're doing a lot of core  
2 sampling around our area, leading to falltime. Maybe  
3 this is why the caribou are leaving our area so late to  
4 go up. In the spring. And we get -- we've had some  
5 drilling done around our villages for -- we asked them  
6 for what, they never let us know, but they've been  
7 doing a lot of core sampling along the -- between  
8 Candle and Deering. This is the migration route for  
9 the caribou, you know. And it's kind of disturbing to  
10 us, because the thing about it is they won't hire local  
11 people. They don't want us to see what they're doing.  
12 So not only do we have to contend now with  
13 sporthunting, we have to contend with the mining  
14 people, the oil people, and the gas people. They say  
15 there's a lot of natural gas on the Seward Peninsula,  
16 and they're doing a lot of exploring around there, and  
17 disturbing our different species of not only caribou,  
18 but other stuff, you know. This is something that we  
19 -- they hire a couple guys, and then they said  
20 something, and they sent them home. So I'm -- this is  
21 something I thought I'd bring up besides sporthunting  
22 issue.

23

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

24

25  
26 Is there any other question. Go ahead,  
27 Melinda.

28

29 MS. BURKE: Calvin, do you want me to  
30 add that to the running list of annual report items.

31

MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.

32

MS. BURKE: Okay.

33

34  
35  
36 MR. CLEVELAND: I got one more.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Verne. One  
39 more and we'll move on.

40

41 MR. CLEVELAND: What about us bird  
42 hunters. They only give us lead shots. What do we --  
43 if there's any lead shots on the rifles. And they make  
44 it illegal to hunt with our lead shot. Can we make it  
45 illegal with the lead bullets on game animals. We  
46 certainly can't get no lead shot for birds. And I see  
47 some lead in some of my shells, can we make that into  
48 law some way.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think we would have

1 to come in with a proposal for not to use lead shot for  
2 game animals.

3

4 MR. MCKEE: I believe so.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Right?

7

8 MR. MCKEE: Yeah. I believe so.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's the way I see  
11 it.

12

13 MR. MCKEE: But, boy, that's a good  
14 question. That's not one that I'd have an easy answer  
15 for you right now.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Let's put it this  
18 way. Verne, if you want to put up a proposal, you  
19 could get with Melinda to put that in a proposal form  
20 on lead shot, because I don't see it -- I know what  
21 you're saying on migratory birds. If you want to do  
22 that, go ahead. It's something in your thought, that  
23 way it won't bother you, and you could say it's in  
24 there. You could talk about it.

25

26 MR. MCKEE: I mean, it does fall under  
27 a methods and means type of thing, so, I mean, I could  
28 definitely see it going towards, you know, a proposal  
29 route, but I'm not sure where it would go.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thanks, Verne.

32

33 MR. MCKEE: Good question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

36

37 MR. M. KRAMER: Yeah, if we take away  
38 lead, you know, .22 rimfire, they are all lead. .22  
39 magnum, they're all lead. And in our subsistence book  
40 here, it says that only caribou can be taken from the  
41 river with rimfire rifle. You eliminate lead, how are  
42 we going to get these? Spears? You know, we need to  
43 get back to survival here. .22 rimfire shells are  
44 already hard to find. And if they continue to be  
45 harder to find, you know, we may end up starting to use  
46 spears from boats, but I hope it doesn't ever come to  
47 that. I'm hoping that, you know, some of these  
48 ammunition manufacturers can understand such a demand  
49 that they only limit some of these big commercial  
50 buyers to only buy so much, and be able to expand it

1 out to other, smaller commercial buyers, especially in  
2 rural communities like us who depend on, you know,  
3 these rimfire ammunition to be able to provide for our  
4 families.

5  
6 Last year I seen some people using some  
7 big caliber rifles hunting caribou, you know, and  
8 that's -- when one of those goes off, you see everybody  
9 duck in the boat. Everybody's worried where that  
10 bullet is going to go, because, you know, when they  
11 shoot a big caliber rifle in a small boat and there's a  
12 lot of boats around, you begin to wonder where that  
13 bullet is going to go. At least rimfires, you know,  
14 it's a smaller caliber. It doesn't travel that far,  
15 but it is still dangerous in a lot of means, but I  
16 think trying to eliminate lead is pretty hard.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.  
19 That's a nice thought. Thank you. Thank you.

20  
21 So are we done with this for a while,  
22 Chris.

23  
24 MR. MCKEE: For now you're done with me  
25 I believe.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We get to the  
28 agenda. Now we have to go back to (a) rural  
29 determination process review. So whose going to?

30  
31 MS. BURKE: Jeff.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Jeff. On the top of  
34 number 2, Page 2, the top, (a) rural determination  
35 process review. We never do that yet.

36  
37 MR. BROOKS: Do we want to break first.

38  
39 MS. BURKE: No, keep going.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, we'll keep on  
42 going.

43  
44 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Members of the Council. My name is Jeff Brooks. I  
46 work at the Office of Subsistence Management, and I'm  
47 going to brief you on the rural determination process  
48 proposed rule.

49  
50 This is what we talked about last night

1 from 7 to 9 at the public meeting in the evening. I'm  
2 going to give you a slightly different presentation.  
3 I've prepared some talking points to summarize the  
4 proposed rule from the Federal Register notice.

5  
6 I'll start with an overview. On  
7 October 23rd, 2009, the Secretaries of the Interior and  
8 Agriculture announced the initiation of a Secretarial  
9 review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program in  
10 Alaska. The review on how the program is meeting --  
11 the review was focused on how the program is meeting  
12 the purpose and subsistence provisions of Title VIII of  
13 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act,  
14 and how the program is meeting the needs of rural  
15 residence as envisioned when it began in the 1980s.

16  
17 On August 31st, 2010, the Secretaries  
18 announced the findings of the review. It included  
19 several proposed reviews and/or revisions to how the  
20 program is administered and regulated. The objective  
21 is to improve and strengthen the program and make it  
22 more responsive to rural residents of the State.

23  
24 One proposal called for a review with  
25 input from the Regional Advisory Councils of the rural  
26 determination process, and, if needed, recommendations  
27 for regulatory changes. At their fall 2013 meetings,  
28 the Regional Advisory Councils provided a public forum  
29 to hear from residents of their regions deliberate on  
30 the rural determination process and provide  
31 recommendations for changes to the Federal Subsistence  
32 Board.

33  
34 Comments from members of the public  
35 were also recorded during separate public meetings in  
36 the evenings. The Federal Subsistence Board held these  
37 meetings in Barrow, Ketchikan, Sitka, Kodiak, Bethel,  
38 Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Nome, and Dillingham.

39  
40 In addition, government-to-government  
41 consultations on the rural determination process were  
42 held between members of the Board and tribes and Alaska  
43 Native regional corporations.

44  
45 The Federal Subsistence Board received  
46 475 comments from various sources, included individual  
47 citizens, members of the Regional Advisory Councils,  
48 and other entities and organizations such as borough  
49 and city governments.

50

1                   Based on these comments, the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board developed a recommendation for the  
3 Secretaries that would, if adopted, simplify the  
4 regulations for the process of making rural/non-rural  
5 determinations. The Board submitted this  
6 recommendation to the Secretaries on August 15th of  
7 2014.

8  
9                   On November 24th, 2014, the Secretaries  
10 asked the Board to initiate a rulemaking process to  
11 pursue its recommended changes to regulations for the  
12 rural determination process. This includes public  
13 input, and it is where we are now in the process, and  
14 is what I had talked about last night with the public.  
15 And the deadline for providing these comments is April  
16 1st, 2015.

17  
18                   And I have a handout for you that shows  
19 the timeline. I'm going to ask Melinda to pass it out.  
20 Please pause for a minute.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Jeff.

23  
24                   MR. BROOKS: Yes, Mr. Chair.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Last night you heard  
27 from us was our concerns about this rural  
28 determination. So the one we had last night is pretty  
29 much what you're talking about again or you're you're  
30 just trying to updated us to put it on record.

31  
32                   MR. BROOKS: I'm actually providing you  
33 with an update for the record and also if -- last night  
34 we heard comments from members of the public, including  
35 yourselves. And those will be taken forward for  
36 analysis of the public comments that will go before the  
37 Federal Subsistence Board. So you don't necessarily  
38 have to provide any more comments unless you would like  
39 to.

40  
41                   This morning I received a written  
42 comment from Lance Kramer based on the discussion last  
43 night from his point of view. So I have that, plus we  
44 have what we got last night.

45  
46                   But this update is for you. If you  
47 want to take action and support or oppose or something  
48 else with that proposed rule, you could do that today.  
49 We're not going to require you to take action, but it  
50 is listed as an action item for the Council to consider

1 whether or not to support, oppose, or something else in  
2 general with that rule that is out before the public.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. I  
5 know a lot of different -- like the Western Arctic  
6 Caribou, the Migratory Bird, other, you know. I see  
7 they were all -- they all said something about this  
8 rule here that we're talking about. And so I don't  
9 know how to really say it, so we all want to be able to  
10 harvest whatever in our region, whether we're living in  
11 Kotzebue has -- Northwest Alaska has no problem with  
12 our relatives that live in Anchorage to go hunt and  
13 harvest with us. Why? Because when my relatives come  
14 from Anchorage, I say, I'll take you hunting if you'll  
15 buy the gas. That's \$900 less for me to spend on.  
16 That helps us, too, and makes it easier for us to live  
17 in a high cost of living community as Northwest Alaska.  
18 And if this do pass that rural people can come in to  
19 hunt with us -- what I'm saying is it's going to hurt  
20 us. And we still will have to send them meat. We like  
21 to share with them. It's in our custom.

22

23 So I hope I explained myself enough to  
24 you to understand, because when my relatives come, they  
25 help buy the gas. That's \$900 I don't have to send out  
26 of my pocket.

27

28 MR. BROOKS: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
29 Chair. I do understand. And right now to hunt under  
30 Federal subsistence regulations on Federal lands and  
31 waters, a person needs to be a resident of a rural  
32 community. And the proposed rule that we showed last  
33 night, if it were to be passed as is today, nothing  
34 would change in your region. I mean, all the  
35 communities here in Unit 23 that have rural status,  
36 which is all of them, would maintain their rural status  
37 until something happened that triggered an evaluation.  
38 And then the Board would have to make a determination  
39 whether or not a community is non-rural, or, just for  
40 sake of simplicity, urban. And so you're not going to  
41 lose your status.

42

43 The Board is asking, one, for comments  
44 on this, which you provided last night, and one of them  
45 that we heard is that you would prefer that your  
46 relatives in non-rural places could come and hunt and  
47 have that priority. And that's one that we'll be  
48 taking to the Board.

49

50 But the question today is, does this

1 Council, this Regional Advisory Council disagree,  
2 oppose, support, or something else of the idea of  
3 changing the language of the current regulation which  
4 contains all of those characteristics and criteria,  
5 remember I showed you on -- if you turn that sheet  
6 over, you'll see on the back there's that list again of  
7 old current regs and new regs. One is much longer than  
8 the other. This proposed rule is suggesting that we  
9 take away right now all of those criteria and make it  
10 simple and say that the Federal Subsistence Board will  
11 determine which communities are non-rural, and  
12 everything else is rural.

13

14 And, I don't know, if the Council  
15 wishes to oppose, support, or say something else about  
16 that.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Just the say I see  
19 it, I would accept this proposal regulation with the  
20 changes that made it simple and few. That mean less  
21 chance for citation for our people, and with the other  
22 comments that you received publicly, you know, you  
23 understand. So what you're telling us, you want to  
24 take an action which side, how we want to take this out  
25 of this Board, right?

26

27 MR. BROOKS: This is an opportunity for  
28 the Regional Advisory Council to take action on the  
29 proposed rule if you wish to. I'm not going to  
30 recommend that you do that, but that's what you -- what  
31 is before you is -- and I can read, for the record the  
32 proposed language again, but we covered it pretty well  
33 last night. Essentially the members of the public in  
34 the room were you and some of your Council members.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anything here.  
37 Go ahead, Mike.

38

39 MR. M. KRAMER: Yeah. I see on here  
40 that, what is that, rural determination process, the  
41 Board. Is it this Board or the main Board.

42

43 MR. BROOKS: Are you reading under (a)  
44 the Board determines? Are you reading the  
45 language, Mr. Kramer, of the proposed language change?

46

47 MR. M. KRAMER: Yeah, under proposed  
48 regulations.

49

50 MR. BROOKS: Yes. Rural determination

1 process, the Board determines which areas or  
2 communities in Alaska are non-rural. Current  
3 determinations are listed at such and such a place in  
4 the regs.

5  
6 That refers to the Federal Subsistence  
7 Board, not the Regional Advisory Council.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. So  
10 two of our Council members are gone, so it's really  
11 hard for me to ask right now what they wish to take on  
12 this one here. So I would have to -- just let me think  
13 about this a minute.

14  
15 Yeah, with a lot less regulation in  
16 place, I think we should accept this. I hate to say it  
17 without the rest of the Board members telling me which  
18 way to go or what their thoughts about this.

19  
20 But if anyone here have thoughts on it.  
21 Golly. Go ahead, Jeff.

22  
23 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
24 Well, I believe that Verne and Enoch are will available  
25 between now and the end of the meeting. If that's  
26 case, I mean, if you're not comfortable, you could wait  
27 until they return before discussing whether or not to  
28 do a motion, or if you just want more clarification on  
29 what exactly you're taking action on, or if you don't  
30 want to take action until a later date, that's up to  
31 the Council.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think we should  
34 take a 10-minute break, see what happen, if they come  
35 back.

36  
37 Go ahead, Mike, before we take a break.  
38 Go ahead.

39  
40 MR. M. KRAMER: Yeah. I concur with  
41 you. I think we should wait until the other Board  
42 members come back, and then we'll go ahead and make a  
43 decision. I mean, if all else fails, you know, we  
44 could support with modification.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'd like to support  
47 this, but I'm trying to figure out which way to go  
48 about this. Enoch is back.

49  
50 Let's take a 10-minute break. It might

1 give a chance for Verne to get back. Let's take a 10-  
2 minute break. Early break.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (On record)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Everybody  
9 ready? We will go back from our meeting, 2:40.

10

11 So on this here rural determination, I  
12 need someone to propose.

13

14 MR. MOTO: Why, do I want some  
15 pineapple.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Jeff.

20

21 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Chair. Thank you.  
22 Members of the Council. I will continue briefly with  
23 reading the proposed rule into the record. And then  
24 you're welcome to take your action.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. BROOKS: The proposed changes that  
29 are presented in the Federal Register notice, the  
30 current language that is proposed states, the Board  
31 determines which areas or communities in Alaska are  
32 non-rural. Current determinations are listed. And  
33 part (b) says, all other communities or areas are  
34 therefore rural.

35

36 According to the Federal Register  
37 notice, the Board would make non-rural determinations  
38 using a comprehensive approach that includes things  
39 like population size, density, economic indicators, the  
40 presence of military or industrial facilities, use of  
41 fish and wildlife, remoteness, isolation, and any other  
42 relevant material provided from the public. Also, when  
43 making non-rural determinations, the Board would rely  
44 heavily on the recommendations of the Regional Advisory  
45 Councils. The public will continue to be able to  
46 provide input at both the Council and the Board level  
47 for each determination.

48

49 The proposed process would enable the  
50 Board to be more flexible in making decisions about

1 program eligibility while accounting for regional  
2 differences across Alaska.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
7 Jeff.

8

9 So everybody understand now, we need to  
10 come out with a proposal. Go ahead, Mike.

11

12 MR. M. KRAMER: Yeah. I make a motion  
13 to support this with modification.

14

15 MS. LOON: Seconded.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Hannah.

18

19 MR. STONEY: Question.

20

21 MS. BURKE: We need to know what the  
22 modification is. Mike, did you want to make a  
23 modification, or did you want to make sure that the  
24 Council had an opportunity to comment in the future.

25

26 MR. M. KRAMER: I think it would be for  
27 future comment, just to be able to leave it open to  
28 where if we need to do modification in the future, it  
29 will still be open to do so. But we support it.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

32

33 MS. LOON: Question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been  
36 called for. All in favor for this rural determination  
37 signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

42

43 So back to the agenda.

44

45 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. And we  
46 will have Jeff there still. We have covered -- we can  
47 move back down to 11.c. which is the funding  
48 notification for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
49 Program.

50

1 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Members of the Council.

3  
4 This is Jeff Brooks again from the  
5 Office of Subsistence Management.

6  
7 And this is a quick update, briefing on  
8 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. You may  
9 recall at our meeting in Kiana, and a year ago here in  
10 Kotzebue, myself and Ms. Karen Hyer spoke to you at  
11 length. We had lengthy discussions about research  
12 priorities that you'd like to see in the region  
13 regarding subsistence fisheries research. That's the  
14 program that I'm talking about. And I simply want to  
15 let you know that the notice of funding went out in  
16 January, and so those opportunities are out there on  
17 the street now for people to apply to do subsistence  
18 fisheries research across the State and in your region  
19 in particular.

20  
21 There was a press release that went out  
22 January 9th, 2015. It's called Notice of Funding  
23 Availability for the 2016 Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
24 Program. March 11th, 2015 is the deadline to submit  
25 project proposals.

26  
27 So we have had people working on these,  
28 calling the office, consulting with their partners. We  
29 have not got the proposals in yet. Obviously the  
30 deadline isn't until tomorrow. But there are people  
31 interested in doing work in your region, and they were  
32 made well aware of the priority information needs that  
33 you identified last year.

34  
35 I can make available to you and your  
36 partners the actual funding announcement and all of the  
37 information for that. Every two years this program  
38 opens up for people to apply to for research monies to  
39 do fisheries work. It's available on the internet, but  
40 if anybody wants a copy, I can help you get one for  
41 anybody who you might want to do research with.

42  
43 But again for this call for proposals,  
44 the deadline is tomorrow, but there will be another one  
45 in two years. And I know that might seem a little odd,  
46 me announcing it to you now, but I needed to let you  
47 know that to follow up on the work that we've already  
48 done on what type of research you would like, they did  
49 get their notice out in January, and people are  
50 applying now. And we've had some interest in doing

1 work in your region.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

4

5 Any questions for Jeff.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, thanks, Jeff.

10

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

12 You're more than welcome.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Back to the  
15 agenda, it's one -- is that number 1? FRMP projects.

16

17 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. George is  
18 going to get his computer here open for us, and we have  
19 Brandon Scanlon here, who's going to talk about the  
20 FRMP projects that he's got.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

23

24 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
25 and members of the Council. Thank you for having me.  
26 It was a great segue by Jeff into what I want to talk  
27 about today.

28

29 So, yeah, once again my name is Brandon  
30 Scanlon. I'm the area management biologist for the  
31 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sportfish. I  
32 don't get to Kotzebue as often as I would like. My  
33 area includes virtually everything north of the Yukon  
34 River, so I have Unalakleet, Nome, Kotzebue, and all  
35 the North Slope.

36

37 But these last few years we've been  
38 pretty lucky to get some funding to do some work around  
39 here. And we don't always do a great job of  
40 communicating our projects and our results. And so I  
41 want to talk first about three projects upon Dolly  
42 Varden trout that we've been doing, and then after that  
43 I'd talk about two projects that we are going to be  
44 submitting proposals for to OSM for funding having to  
45 do one with Dolly Varden, and one with sheefish. And  
46 at the end I was hoping to get some questions and input  
47 from the Council on these proposed projects, and if  
48 they would like to see these go forward, maybe I could  
49 get a letter of support at some point.

50

1                   So please stop me at any time if you  
2 have any questions. I've got kind of a lot to go  
3 through, but I'll go fairly quickly as I can.

4  
5                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Brandon, I have a  
6 question. One of them said Kobuk Valley River; is that  
7 the one they're talking, the one in Salmon River for  
8 the trout?

9  
10                  MR. SCANLON: Yeah, that's right. Mr.  
11 Chairman. We're going to -- I'll talk about it at the  
12 end, but, yeah, we're trying to do some work on the  
13 three streams on the Kobuk that we have some  
14 information on trout. But I'll talk -- I'll have  
15 slides on those in just a few minutes.

16  
17                  So we've understood for a long time the  
18 importance of trout to the people in Northwest Alaska.  
19 We don't have great harvest survey information, but the  
20 most recent that we have suggests that folks in  
21 Kivalina and Noatak harvest about combined of about  
22 30,000 fish per year, and it far exceeds the rest of  
23 fish harvest combined.

24  
25                  And we've been doing work on and off on  
26 trout up here for a while, and there's some things that  
27 we think we know and the things we don't know. We  
28 think there's about 150 to 250,000 anadromous trout at  
29 any given time. That's fish that are three years old  
30 or older that have started to go to sea in summer to  
31 feed. We know that they can spawn in one river and  
32 over-winter in a different one, but they always return  
33 back to their natal stream to spawn.

34  
35                  Dollies from Northwest Alaska can  
36 travel to Russian fresh waters and there's almost no  
37 trout in the freshwater between Point Hope and Barrow.  
38 There are some streams there, they're very  
39 unproductive, very small. Some of them dry up, so it's  
40 a little bit of a freshwater fish desert.

41  
42                  And things that we don't know that  
43 we're working on are where the summer feedings areas  
44 are in the ocean, what their summer migration patterns  
45 are while they're out there, if any of the summer  
46 feeding occurs in the new oil ad gas lease areas that  
47 just got sold between Cape Lisburne and Wainwright.  
48 And what the stream of origin is for much of the over-  
49 wintering population.

50

1                   So the first three projects I'll speak  
2 about are the ones we've just completed or we're still  
3 working on. The first one is a satellite tracking  
4 project. Mr. Chairman, you're familiar with it. This  
5 was funded through the Bureau of Ocean Energy and UAF,  
6 and Teck had also pitched in quite a bit. I'll talk  
7 about the Noatak River radio tagging project we've been  
8 doing where we're looking for spawning and over-  
9 wintering areas, and timing of the out-migration in the  
10 spring. And on the Wulik River this past spring we  
11 just started a project to try to count trout moving out  
12 into saltwater with a sonar.

13  
14                   Okay. So this first project, it's all  
15 done. We're going to try to do this on the North  
16 Slope, too. So we're looking as dispersal patterns and  
17 summer ocean distribution of trout in the Chukchi Sea  
18 using satellite tags.

19  
20                   So in Northwest Alaska, trout will  
21 spawn and rear in freshwater. And when they're about  
22 three they start to undergo annual migrations to sea to  
23 feed, but unlike Pacific salmon, they come back into  
24 freshwater to over-winter. They can't handle the below  
25 freezing temperature that the water can get under the  
26 sea ice. They can travel long distances and the  
27 largest spawning/over-wintering areas we know about are  
28 the Noatak, Wulik, and Kivalina Rivers, and there are  
29 smaller numbers in the Kobuk, and Buckland, and Rabbit  
30 Creek, and other places around.

31  
32                   So originally we believe that their  
33 saltwater movements were all fairly close into shore  
34 kind of movements, and they stayed in Kotzebue Sound  
35 area. This is a map of the results from a project Fish  
36 and Game did in the late 80s where they put these  
37 little tiny spaghetti tags out in fish in the Wulik  
38 River in the spring. About 4,000 fish. And over the  
39 next several years as people caught some of these fish,  
40 we would get these tags back and find out where they  
41 ended up. And you can see most of them -- well, most  
42 of them stayed in the Kotzebue Sound area, but some  
43 were caught down by Unalakleet, some went into the  
44 Pilgrim River by Teller, Savoonga, and three fish went  
45 into Russia, and two of them went way up the  
46 (Indiscernible) River, and that's about 1,000 miles  
47 swimming in a fairly straight line from the Wulik  
48 River. So that really opened up our eyes to what kind  
49 of movements these fish can do.

50

1                   So for this project, we wanted to see  
2 if they spent any time in the Chukchi Sea in the  
3 summertime, and specifically if they went into the oil  
4 and gas lease areas. So in this project, our  
5 hypothesis was that Dollies would over-winter in the  
6 Wulik River in this case, spend some time in the Chukchi  
7 Sea during the summer to feed. And our objective was  
8 to describe the summer dispersal.

9  
10                   So if anybody would like to see the tag  
11 we used, I have a dummy one here. So these tags are  
12 pop-up satellite archival tags, and they go on the  
13 outside of the fish. And they used to be very big and  
14 cumbersome and they went on whales and tunas, and big  
15 fish, but as the technology got better, they got  
16 smaller, and they got one small enough to put on a big  
17 trout.

18  
19                   So these tags, while they're on the  
20 fish, they measure and archive temperature, depth and  
21 light intensity every 10 minutes. And on a date that  
22 we program with the manufacturer, the tag will release  
23 from the fish and float to the surface, because these  
24 are buoyant. The antenna will stick out of the water,  
25 and it will transmit all the information to a satellite  
26 for about two weeks. And we get really good location  
27 information on where the fish was when the tag came  
28 off, and we don't need to rely on getting these tags  
29 back to get the information.

30  
31                   So the tags we use, they're about 11  
32 inches long, and they weigh about 40 grams. And we  
33 weren't sure what we were going to find in terms of  
34 where they were going to be in the summer, so we  
35 staggered our scheduled pop-off dates, so we would be  
36 sure to at least get some fish that were in saltwater  
37 when the time for the tag to release. So the one bad  
38 thing about these tags, other than they cost \$4,000, is  
39 they need to be in saltwater for the tagging release  
40 mechanism to work.

41  
42                   So in 2012 we beach seined in June in  
43 the upper river in Kluklock Creek, about 40 miles up  
44 from the mouth, and in 2013 we stayed in Kivalina for a  
45 week and worked with the folks there. They were great.  
46 They let us check their gillnets and let us tag the  
47 really big fish, and we would take the smaller ones out  
48 for them and put them on stringers, and that was a  
49 really neat experience.

50

1                   So the tags go on the back of the fish.  
2 We have kind of a harness backpack system that we use.  
3 This has been used in Atlantic salmon and Arctic char  
4 over in Norway quite a bit, and that's where we got the  
5 idea from, but it's essentially a backpack that gets  
6 sewn on with a stainless steel wire and the tag floats  
7 above -- excuse me -- above the fish just a little bit.  
8 And we wanted to catch fish that were large enough so  
9 the antenna would not touch the tail when they swam.  
10 So we were looking for fairly big fish.

11  
12                   All right. So to try to get a handle  
13 on saltwater movement, we looked at the pop-up  
14 location, so where the fish was when the tag floated to  
15 the surface. And the temperature and depth data that  
16 the tag was archiving while it was on the fish.

17  
18                   So over these two years we tagged 52  
19 fish. They averaged about 30 inches and they were  
20 anywhere from 26 to 37 inches long.

21  
22                   Okay. So here is a map of where we put  
23 the tags out, and this is where they all ended up. So  
24 several of these fish, well, actually went right away  
25 to the Noatak River to spawn. So we tried not to tag  
26 fish that were going to spawn, but it was really hard  
27 to tell by looking at them in the spring if they were  
28 going to spawn or not. They all looked fantastic, so  
29 it was really kind of hard to tell. So these tags did  
30 not release from the fish, the ones in freshwater, but  
31 they were probably in shallow enough water that the  
32 antenna popped out long enough for us to get a  
33 location.

34  
35                   We had some fish that were going down  
36 by Cape Espenberg, they were moving south. One was  
37 caught in the Buckland River which was really  
38 surprising to me by Johnny Haviak. I'd really like to  
39 get down there and do some work on Dollies in the  
40 Buckland. Ian caught one. And we had several pop up  
41 in the Russian Chukchi Sea. One was actually in the  
42 lagoon, a place called the Anguina River. It was  
43 probably going in there to spawn.

44  
45                   For the first -- next few minutes I'm  
46 going to talk about these four fish we have really good  
47 data on.

48  
49                   So we really kind of saw three patterns  
50 of movement. so the first one we call river residents.

1 The dash line is temperature, and the solid line is  
2 depth. So this is -- when we put the tag out, it was  
3 in pretty shallow water, and then over the next few  
4 days it would start to creep downstream a little bit  
5 and get into a little bit deeper, and a little bit  
6 cooler water.

7

8                   And we call this ocean entry. For this  
9 fish, when it left the Kivalina Lagoon, there was  
10 shore-fast ice, and the water before the ice was below  
11 freezing. Salt water can do that just about half a  
12 degree below freezing, and it didn't like that. It  
13 swam very fast to get out from underneath it. And the  
14 next few days, we call this marine transit where it  
15 maintained a fairly steady depth as it was moving  
16 through the ocean, and then marine feeding where once  
17 it got to where it wanted to be, it spent a lot of time  
18 diving.

19

20                   Here's some little more detailed  
21 information on some of their depth. So this fish came  
22 out of the river. It looks like it ran down here,  
23 grabbed a shrimp, but then it stayed pretty much close  
24 to the surface the whole time. But once they got to  
25 that location in the Chukchi Sea, they spent most of  
26 their day diving down to about 50 feet. And they spent  
27 a couple hours in the late morning, early afternoon up  
28 on the surface, probably digesting their food, and then  
29 they started diving again. And we saw this for all  
30 four of these fish. And one fish did this for about 45  
31 days straight.

32

33                   So while these fish that had these tags  
34 on their bag, they spent most of their time in the top  
35 five meters of the water with dives up to about 80  
36 feet. One fish went about 150 feet once.

37

38                   And so we tried to figured out what was  
39 important about this location. And once you look at a  
40 current map, this is a map of all the ocean currents in  
41 the Chukchi and Bering Seas, you'll see what popped up  
42 was a spot where the Siberian coastal current with cold  
43 water came down off Siberia and met up with the warmer  
44 water that's coming up through the Bering Strait, and  
45 there's different salinities and temperatures, a lot of  
46 mixing, and a lot of production of plankton. And this  
47 is also a very important summer feeding spot for  
48 bowhead whales.

49

50                   So we used the temperature of below

1 freezing as a proxy for ocean entry, and that made  
2 sense, because there was a lot of shore ice right  
3 around Kivalina. All four of these fish stayed in the  
4 river for a couple weeks after we tagged them, and they  
5 left the lagoon between the 25th of June and 2nd of  
6 July that year. The distance to that area was about  
7 350 kilometers. That's about 250 miles. One fish got  
8 there in five days. So if you think about the swimming  
9 speed of a fish, this fish -- swimming speed is about  
10 -- cruising speed is about one fish length per second,  
11 so to get there in five days, it swam almost  
12 continuously for five days. This fish knew where it  
13 wanted to go.

14

15                   And so once they got there they spent  
16 all their time diving in this location. One fish was  
17 there for 50 days diving. And they spent most of the  
18 time in the top 15 meters of the water. One fish went  
19 down to about 160 feet. It's not very deep out there.  
20 It's about 150, 200 feet. so they didn't go quite to  
21 the bottom, but pretty close.

22

23                   And we had some other dispersal types.  
24 We had some that stayed in the Wulik River to spawn. A  
25 lot went into the Noatak to spawn. One fish went into  
26 the Buckland, and one went into Rabbit Creek. And, of  
27 course, that fish went over to Russia.

28

29                   So this was great. We only tagged 52  
30 fish out of a couple hundred thousand, so it's hard to  
31 make big statements about what the population is doing,  
32 but this is the first case that we have where we show  
33 that they spend time in the Chukchi Sea in summer  
34 feeding. That spot on the outer continental shelf near  
35 the Chukchi Peninsula is very important. We didn't see  
36 them go into the oil and gas lease areas, but they  
37 certainly might. You know, we tagged so few fish, it's  
38 certainly possible. And they can rapidly transit to  
39 feeding areas. Like I said, 50 kilometers a day was --  
40 or 70 kilometers a day was what one fish was doing.

41

42                   So this projects over. And I was going  
43 to move on to the next one. Does anyone have any  
44 questions about this one.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Excuse me. You  
47 mentioned that these Dollies go to certain rivers, and  
48 you said not Point Hope. I've seen -- that's the  
49 problem with me, I've been all over, and I've been at  
50 Kukpuk and I've seen Dollies at Kukpuk. The one I say

1 in Kukpuk is by Point Hope, in the lagoon on the other  
2 side. And I've been there and I've seen them there.  
3 And when I talk to the people from Point Hope, when I  
4 talk to the elders, at one time years ago, they said  
5 50, 60 years ago, they used to have a lot of trout at  
6 Kukpuk. And not much at Wulik. But it changes. Wulik  
7 and Kivalina River, and now they're migrating more,  
8 because maybe due to Kukpuk is drying up. But I've  
9 seen Dollies at Kulva River, too. I've been there.  
10 I'm sorry, I just live -- I'm an Eskimo. I live it and  
11 I've been there. And I will tell you, and I'm not  
12 ashamed to where I've been or what I've seen. And for  
13 your information.

14  
15                   And I'm the one that caught one of your  
16 satellite tags, and I got plenty upset, because to me  
17 that was a big tag. And just the way I see it, when I  
18 cut the fish, the tag, that wire you protrude cut one  
19 of the fins that go into the body, to the flesh of the  
20 trout. And it's okay, I've got no problem with people  
21 doing studies, scientists and stuff like that, but when  
22 they're hurting the resource itself, that's when I get  
23 upset. And I went to town, for your information, I  
24 went to town, and I bought three drums of gas, and my  
25 wife got mad at me. She said, where are you going.  
26 And I said, I'm talking this tag to Espenberg, and I'm  
27 taking it up the Noatak River, and I wanted to until I  
28 burn out my three drums. Because that's how upset I  
29 was on behalf of the fish.

30  
31                   I felt sorry for the fish. But I don't  
32 mind the study, but what I'm saying, if you could use  
33 smaller satellites. I mean technology today is good,  
34 but when you start having, if they dye off or something  
35 happen to it, because if you hold a fish, the slime too  
36 long, that's the one that's the one that's protected  
37 from the disease of the river, the slime. We all know  
38 that as being Natives, because when you wipe it off and  
39 you throw it back in the river, whatever there's in the  
40 river, that's how they will get sick.

41  
42                   Thank you.

43  
44                   MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
45 I should have been more specific. We knew that there  
46 were trout in the Kukpuk River and in the Kulva. And I  
47 meant to say pretty much north of that, out by  
48 Wainwright, you know, there's nothing for trout up  
49 there.  
50

1                   And our point about the tags is well  
2 taken. We take fish health very seriously, and we  
3 understand that these probably cause some discomfort.  
4 We're very careful tag only the healthiest fish, and we  
5 kept in the pen for one to four hours after we put the  
6 tags in them. And I believe what you're saying about  
7 cutting the fins. You know, it's one of those things  
8 that to make an omelet, you've got to break a few eggs.  
9 We learned so much information from just a few fish  
10 that, you know, we risk causing an injury like that,  
11 but from this study we know a critical feeding area in  
12 the Chukchi Sea. And I think that's probably a fair  
13 price to pay, you know, a fin injury to locate  
14 something that's so critical. And now we know how  
15 important this area is for the fish that people eat in  
16 Northwest Alaska.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, we depend  
19 heavily on trout in Northwest Alaska, particularly  
20 Kivalina and Noatak.

21  
22                   But also for your information, when the  
23 Selawik Wildlife Refuge did a sheefish study, they  
24 implanted the satellite, and actually I was there when  
25 a sheefish was caught, and when they biopsied it. I  
26 was there. There was nothing wrong with the sheefish,  
27 it was healthy, fat, what else could I say, versus what  
28 you were using. I'm not trying to tell you how to do  
29 it, but on the behalf of the -- because I saw the  
30 sheefish versus the trout, I felt sorry for the trout  
31 when the fin was cut, because I know when I cut it, and  
32 my wife was going to cook it, and I said, no, I need  
33 the section where, you know, you put the wire. It was  
34 just a piece of wire and I see it and I cut it real  
35 slow and take my time. That's why I have a concern,  
36 you know. I'm not trying to stop you in the name of  
37 technology and in the name of to do studies. I know  
38 they need to be done. But what I'm saying, be careful.

39  
40  
41                   And thank you.

42  
43                   MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
44 The tags they used for sheefish, these weren't  
45 satellite tags, they were either acoustic tags that  
46 they had to swim by a buoy to get noticed or they were  
47 radio tags that they had to swim by a tracking station  
48 or be located from the air.

49  
50                   Unfortunately this is the smallest tag

1 they have right now or we would have gone smaller.  
2  
3 But those were two different studies  
4 looking for two different things. And, you know, we'll  
5 always keep fish health a priority.  
6  
7 Thank you.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
10  
11 Go ahead, Enoch.  
12  
13 MR. MITCHELL: Brandon, I've got a  
14 couple of questions. I couldn't find -- first  
15 question. How many years does a Dolly Varden live?  
16  
17 MR. BROOKS: Member Mitchell, an old  
18 fish appears 18 years old. They spawn when they're  
19 about seven or eight for the first time, and they'll  
20 spawn every other year until they die.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, because when  
23 Angela Mack, when I did a trout for Wulik on behalf of  
24 Cominco, when Angela Mack, I think you know her, out of  
25 Fairbanks, a biologist, when she biopsied through the  
26 otolith, we had one trout as much as 24 years old, but  
27 that was a big trout I got, and I get it for sample.  
28 And it was from Kivalina and Wulik. I did both Noatak  
29 and Kivalina, sampling for lead -- I mean minerals that  
30 would be extracted from the mine.  
31  
32 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Chairman. May I move  
33 on to the next? Oh, I'm sorry.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch, you  
36 had one more.  
37  
38 MR. MITCHELL: My question's, does the  
39 beaver hurt Dolly Vardens, because we've started  
40 getting beaver in our river, and that area doesn't have  
41 any more fish in it. They had to go down, you know.  
42  
43 MR. SCANLON: Member Mitchell. We  
44 don't have any evidence of that right now. I know  
45 beaver's are a big concern for people around here and  
46 also Norton Sound has got a lot of concerns with salmon  
47 and beavers. You know, under water, beaver dams are  
48 pretty permeable, and small fish can move through them  
49 fairly easily. In the Noatak, as we're talking, I'm up  
50 and downriver in my head looking at the Kugururok, and

1 Kelly, and places they spawn. I don't know if any  
2 beaver dams that are big enough to impede fish passage.  
3 They usually get blown out in the spring. There's not  
4 a bunch of huge trees around there. So at this time  
5 I'm not familiar with any beaver dams or beaver  
6 problems with trout up here.

7

8 MR. MITCHELL: I know 10 people in  
9 Noatak got some water around that spot, and they got  
10 sick. And they call that beaver fever. I mean, that  
11 does affect the stream and that.

12

13 MR. SCANLON: Mr. Mitchell, no, I don't  
14 think that does it. I think it's a water-borne  
15 parasites found in waters that beaver live, and I don't  
16 think affects the fish at all, but it can make people  
17 feel pretty crummy for a couple weeks.

18

19 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. I just wanted to  
20 know that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thanks. Go  
23 ahead, continue.

24

25 MR. SCANLON: Okay. Thank you.

26

27 Okay. So our next project over on the  
28 Noatak River. What we tried to do over there, and this  
29 project was to locate some over-wintering areas and  
30 timing of the out-migration in the spring to see if we  
31 can get a handle on counting them.

32

33 So the Noatak is a much larger river  
34 than the Wulik and it has a lot more spawning fish.  
35 However, in the Wulik in the falltime as part of a  
36 monitoring project with Red Dog, we do aerial surveys  
37 from a helicopter on the Wulik River right before  
38 freeze up to get a count of the Dollies, and we can't  
39 do that in Noatak. It's just so much bigger and  
40 deeper.

41

42 And so in this project, like I said, we  
43 use a combination of radio tags, and we wanted to use a  
44 sonar to count fish moving out in the spring, to get  
45 some idea of how important the Noatak is to over-  
46 wintering fish.

47

48 So, like I said, in the Wulik when the  
49 conditions are good in the falltime, you can see fish  
50 really easily, and there's almost nothing in there at

1 this time besides trout. There's about 4,000 fish. I  
2 took this hanging out of a chopper a few years ago.  
3 There are some chums there that are usually half dead,  
4 and there's a handful of grayling. And I've seen  
5 sockeyes in there recently.

6  
7 And so like for the Noatak, it's much  
8 bigger and deeper and it would be really not feasible  
9 to try to do that, so this project, we put out radio  
10 tags first. We did this over a couple years. We tried  
11 to put some out in the falltime down by the Aggie  
12 before freeze up. We put some on fish in the spawning  
13 tribs, in the Kelly and the Kug and the Nimiuktuk. And  
14 last March we spent a week in Noatak ice fishing with  
15 the locals, and put out some more tags there.

16  
17 And these are maybe what you were  
18 thinking of with the sheefish tags. These are small  
19 radio transmitters. They go inside the fish. And we  
20 knock these fish out so they're asleep when this is  
21 going on, and we've been tagging fish this way for a  
22 long time. We're pretty good at it, and we only tag  
23 fish that appear to be healthy.

24  
25 And so once these fish were tagged, we  
26 put two remote tracking stations on the river. If  
27 you've been up the Noatak, you might have seen them.  
28 They have solar panels on them, and they charge  
29 batteries, and as fish swim by, we get information on  
30 which direction it was going, which fish it was, and  
31 which time. And we also flew a couple flights,  
32 tracking flights, to look for them as well.

33  
34 So this is where the tags got sprinkled  
35 out. We tried to spread it out over the drainage, so  
36 instead of putting them all out in one place, we would  
37 just get information maybe just on the fish that were  
38 in the area that one time. So we tried to spread them  
39 out to get a drainagewide idea of what these fish were  
40 doing.

41  
42 And this is a map of the over-wintering  
43 locations of the fish we found. This is in March 2014.  
44 And what we found here was that they're sprinkled out  
45 quite a long range from around the Kug to about the Eli  
46 River. And what we wanted to do in the spring is try  
47 to count with the sonar, but the way the sonar works,  
48 it can only esonify, it can only track fish if you  
49 have two of them pointed at each other. You'd need a  
50 river width of about 200 feet or less. And the Noatak

1 is so big and so braided that there was fish far enough  
2 down in large water that we didn't think the sonar  
3 would work. So we didn't try it. But for this project  
4 we've done the heavy lifting for when the sonar  
5 technology catches up. So one day when there is a  
6 sonar unit that can esonify four or 500 feet of river,  
7 we'll already now where and when to use the sonar,  
8 because we'll have had this information.

9  
10 So I showed you that map, the over-  
11 wintering fish are spread out far and wide. They  
12 concentrate right around the Village of Noatak. It's a  
13 great place to fish. And of the 72 fish we located  
14 last winter, 66 left to go to salt water in late May  
15 and early June. The river section where they over-  
16 winter is too wide to use the sonar. These tags are  
17 going to be on for another year or so, so we're going  
18 to track a few more times to see if we -- just to get  
19 some more information on over-wintering.

20  
21 So that's all I've got for this one.  
22 Is there any questions on this project. Yes, sir.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Verne.

25  
26 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. What kind of  
27 results to you get on them sonars on the fish. And you  
28 said just the trout, or is it sheefish, too.

29  
30 MR. SCANLON: That's a great question.  
31 That's my very next slide.

32  
33 We didn't use the sonar on this project  
34 because the river was too big. We wouldn't be able to  
35 count the whole river. We would just get a section.  
36 But we tried this on the Wulik this spring, and it's  
37 going to work.

38  
39 MR. CLEVELAND: That's just on the  
40 trout, right?

41  
42 MR. SCANLON: That's right.

43  
44 MR. CLEVELAND: And what kind of  
45 results did you get out of them after you put -- what  
46 kind of results do you get, like two, three months  
47 after you check out the fish. How does the fish look.

48  
49 MR. SCANLON: You're talking about fish  
50 that had the tags in them, how do they recoup?

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.  
2  
3 MR. SCANLON: We didn't -- I didn't  
4 recapture any of these tagged fish, but some anglers  
5 did, and I didn't get to look at them. But we have  
6 recaptured other species of fish in other projects that  
7 have had the tags for several years, and most of them  
8 look really good. The wound has healed up. The  
9 sutures that we use dissolve after a while, so  
10 basically you'll just see a scar and a hole where the  
11 antenna comes out. Sometimes there's a little  
12 irritation right around that hole.  
13  
14 MR. CLEVELAND: I think you're wrong,  
15 because we caught one, and it was almost like bone.  
16 And it had one of those, whatchamacallits, one of those  
17 sonar things. We didn't know what the heck it was. We  
18 thought it was a bomb from ISIS or something.  
19  
20 (Laughter)  
21  
22 MR. CLEVELAND: It scared the hell out  
23 of us. And I don't know what they did with it, but we  
24 just left that fish alone, because we didn't know what  
25 it was I mean. And it was last spring.  
26  
27 MR. SCANLON: Last spring.  
28  
29 MR. CLEVELAND: And so now I know, and  
30 it was very skinny. It was a sheefish that was caught  
31 out of Kobuk Lake.  
32  
33 MR. SCANLON: Okay. Thanks. I wasn't  
34 in on that sheefish project, but in the future if you  
35 catch a fish like that, there's a reward for that tag.  
36 There's contact information written on the tag,  
37 and.....  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You've got to joint  
40 ISIS.  
41  
42 (Laughter)  
43  
44 MR. SCANLON: Yeah.  
45  
46 MR. CLEVELAND: I'll go track them  
47 down.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Yeah, go  
50 ahead, Enoch.

1 MR. MITCHELL: I was going to say  
2 another thing. With photos, the pictures here about  
3 the fishing spots near Noatak, all the circles, they  
4 show it to us. There's hot spots, fishing spots. My  
5 spot, too.

6  
7 (Laughter)

8  
9 MR. MITCHELL: You know what I'm  
10 saying.

11  
12 MR. SCANLON: I'll keep it out of the  
13 report.

14  
15 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

16  
17 MR. SCANLON: So if there's no more  
18 questions, may I move on to the next one?

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go right ahead.

21  
22 MR. SCANLON: Okay. Thank you.

23  
24 So the Noatak's too big to use a sonar,  
25 but the Wulik is not. And when we do aerial surveys in  
26 the falltime in the Wulik, sometimes we have really  
27 great counting conditions where the water is low and  
28 it's not windy and the sun's out. Other times it's the  
29 water's high and we can't do it. We also are pretty  
30 sure, and the folks at Kivalina told me this as well,  
31 is that they come in under the ice. So even when we  
32 can't count any more, there's still fish coming in, so  
33 even on great years of aerial survey counts, we realize  
34 that that's under-estimate.

35  
36 So for this project, Red Dog is helping  
37 pay for this and do a lot of the logistics, but we want  
38 to count the trout as they're moving out into saltwater  
39 in the spring. We think that will be a better number.  
40 And we're going to do this with sonar.

41  
42 So like I showed you earlier, when  
43 conditions are good, you can do a really good job or  
44 counting trout from the air. The last 10 years the  
45 average count has been about 71,000 fish. But in years  
46 when the water's murky or ice has already started to  
47 form by the time we got there, we're not able to get a  
48 count. So that's why we wanted to use the sonar.

49  
50 The sonar, these actually kind of look

1 like X-ray photos, but what these are, are actually  
2 images from pings that the sonar sends out, and it  
3 bounces off the fish and back to the sonar. And these  
4 will run -- like I said, they can cover about 240 feet  
5 of river. And the Wulik is plenty small. We only need  
6 to use one. And they operate 24 hours a day, and then  
7 we can sit in our tent and go over the footage and  
8 count fish individually.

9  
10 So these sonars can't differentiate by  
11 species. So what we did to make sure what we were  
12 counting was actually trout, is we'd run a beach seine  
13 several times a day right next to the sonar just to see  
14 what was in there. And it was almost all trout every  
15 single time. There was a couple grayling and a  
16 whitefish.

17  
18 We only had about a week this year to  
19 commit to this project. This was kind of the pilot  
20 project year to see if it would work, and if it did,  
21 maybe Red Dog would fund it full time.

22  
23 So this spring, it was really cold and  
24 the water was high for a long, long time. They hadn't  
25 started to move out yet. The day we left they counted  
26 200. So it was just getting started when we left, but  
27 Red Dog is committed to funding this maybe indefinitely  
28 now, so we're going to start this spring and we're  
29 going to stay there through the entire out-migration  
30 and try to get a really good number.

31  
32 Where we're going to be is only about  
33 four miles up from the mouth of the river where it  
34 dumps in the lagoon in Kivalina. So we'd really be  
35 happy to have people who live in Kivalina come up, boat  
36 up to the site and spend some time. We'll show them  
37 how it works and everything like that.

38  
39 So that's all I've got for this  
40 project.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank you  
43 so much. It's real good information on the char we  
44 love to eat.

45  
46 Go ahead, Enoch.

47  
48 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah. The winter this  
49 past year, the weather is real weird in Noatak. We  
50 have one really cold wind, and it freeze up, you know,

1 and a lot of our -- one of these analiks (ph), I don't  
2 know what the English word is, analik, salmon eggs that  
3 we eat from time to time, and we age those, and then we  
4 eat them in January. A lot of those spoiled because of  
5 the warm winter. I mean, we've got to generate them  
6 just right to -- and then they'll freeze with their  
7 eggs. You know, our whitefish and trout that we  
8 caught, we save it. We turn them over every day.  
9 They're left over days, a few years, and we didn't  
10 really eat them, because they would get sick. So this  
11 weather is getting weird. I mean, our fish are getting  
12 later and later each year.

13

14 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. You're  
15 absolutely right. I heard earlier talk about how the  
16 caribou are moving later and later in the year. Well,  
17 we see the trout are coming in later and later as well.  
18 We've been doing these surveys on the Wulik for 30  
19 years now, and it keeps getting bumped. We're in  
20 October now, we're still counting fish there.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm not laughing at  
23 you. I'm laughing at Calvin.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: He's acting like a  
28 bear.

29

30 Okay. Yeah, I understand. Yeah, nice  
31 report about trout. And we depend on it heavily for  
32 Kivalina and Noatak. And I will suggest if you have  
33 the time when you do an aerial survey at the Wulik,  
34 sneak over to Kivalina River. All you do is just go  
35 over the mountain and you're in Kivalina River, and  
36 further up, about halfway down, a lot of trout at  
37 Kivalina River. Like I say, I've been there, because  
38 my dad is from there. He wanted to go there. And I've  
39 seen a lot of trout at Kivalina River also. Real nice,  
40 in the shallow water in bunches, you know. So for your  
41 information, and if you have concern, you want to  
42 expand your project, you could see there, because  
43 further down at the Kivalina River, there's only  
44 whitefish go. One section, they don't go any further  
45 up. Tell me why. And people in Kivalina know about  
46 it.

47

48 And that's a nice project what you're  
49 doing. And that's a nice report. Thank you.  
50 Anything else you got.

1 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 Yeah, I've got a couple more slides just about projects  
3 that we would like to start, we would like to get  
4 funding for through OSM. And I just wanted to talk to  
5 the Council about this, and see if they had any  
6 recommendations or questions about them.

7  
8 First, you comment about the Kivalina.  
9 I'm a little worried about the Kivalina River. We flew  
10 over it this year. The same day we counted about  
11 65,000 trout in the Wulik, we didn't see hardly any in  
12 the Kivalina. We saw a couple hundred maybe, and the  
13 water looked like it was slowing down and getting a  
14 little turbid. I don't know what that's from. And  
15 I've only been over the Kivalina River twice, but I  
16 expected to see a bunch of fish over there and we  
17 didn't. So I think it's something we're going to keep  
18 a little closer eye on in the future.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

21  
22 MR. SCANLON: Thank you.

23  
24 So these -- I'm sorry, I've just got  
25 four more slides and I'll be done. But these are two  
26 project. We're going to submit eight proposals to OSM  
27 to do fish work in AYK, and these two are Northwest  
28 Alaska projects. I wanted to run through the projects  
29 that we have been doing, just because I know there's  
30 some priority information needs about trout, and I  
31 wanted to let the council know what we'd been doing.

32  
33 So this project here, it's got to do  
34 with trout in the Kobuk River. We know that there are  
35 some in Kobuk. We don't know hardly anything about  
36 them. And what we would like to do is go to the  
37 locations where we know that they spawn and collect  
38 genetic samples. And what we can do with these is we  
39 can get basically a genetic signal for Kobuk River  
40 fish.

41  
42 And I'll jump to this one real quick.  
43 So this is what we would use it for. So this is a map  
44 here. We have genetic information from trout from all  
45 these locations on the North Slope, Seward Peninsula,  
46 Norton Sound. We have a couple from Togiak. And in  
47 these graphs, what we do is in 2004 through 2006 we  
48 collected genetic samples from Wulik River subsistence  
49 harvest in the fall time, and we analyzed those fin  
50 clips that we got from the subsistence fish, and we

1 were able to tell where they were from. So it looked  
2 in all cases most of the fish that were in the harvest  
3 were Kotzebue Sound fish, so they were Noatak, Wulik,  
4 Kivalina fish, Rabbit Creek. Some fish were from  
5 Norton Sound. You could see the green bar is Norton  
6 Sound fish, and it was up to 30 percent of the harvest  
7 in Kivalina that year was fish that are born in Norton  
8 Sound. There was a handful of Russian fish and North  
9 Slope fish. One year we had Togiak fish.

10

11 We don't have any genetic information  
12 on Kobuk River Dollies, so this project is pretty cheap  
13 and easy, and we just take a little tiny fin clip from  
14 Dollies in the Kobuk River. Then we'll have a Kobuk  
15 signature and be able to know what proportion Kobuk  
16 River fish are in subsistence harvests.

17

18 The second project we would like to do  
19 has got to do with sheefish on the Kobuk. We have been  
20 doing a lot of work on sheefish recently, Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service has as well, and the university. We  
22 have good information on spawning locations, timing,  
23 frequency of spawning, and what their movements are  
24 through the ice in Hotham Inlet.

25

26 What we don't have is abundance of  
27 spawners in the Kobuk River. So we'd like to use one  
28 of these sonar units, we have a spot picked out. We  
29 were going to do this project with money we were going  
30 to get for Ambler Road research. That money all got  
31 pulled, but what we'd like to do is, we think it's  
32 really important. And this map here shows you, these  
33 dots are locations where our radio-tagged fish went to  
34 spawn. We put out the tags in 2008, 2009, I think 2010  
35 as well. And so over the next several years we would  
36 track these fish into spawning areas. And they  
37 virtually all spawned in a 100-mile stretch above Kobuk  
38 Village near Old Channel to below the Reed River. So  
39 we have really good information on where they spawn and  
40 what time. And what we'd like to do is put a sonar in  
41 below the spawning area and as they move back out to  
42 Hotham Inlet to over-winter, we can get a count.

43

44 So I think that's all I have. And  
45 those two projects are -- like I said, if we get funded  
46 for them, they will start 2016.

47

48 We also are going to work with the  
49 Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program to get  
50 some Native students who are interested in fish work to

1 come work on these projects with us, and maybe even  
2 spend some time in the lab doing genetic stuff in  
3 Anchorage for the Dolly Varden work.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.  
8 Thank you for that report.

9  
10 MS. BURKE: So.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch, any  
13 questions.

14  
15 MS. BURKE: Oh, okay.

16  
17 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, in the Village of  
18 Noatak, we have a lot of concern involving our trout,  
19 the big ones. And we looked all over again, and they  
20 kind of disappear like or something. So there's a lot  
21 of concern about that in the village. Also the beavers  
22 that's getting more and more populated in the river.  
23 And I was kind of wondering if you can come up to  
24 Noatak and help us with that issue.

25  
26 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. I'm guessing  
27 if it's a beaver control problem, I would be glad to  
28 come up and maybe I could get taken to some of these  
29 places where beaver dams are, but it's probably got to  
30 do more with wildlife biologists who should come up,  
31 and they'd probably know more about beaver dams than I  
32 do.

33  
34 MR. MITCHELL: But the Dolly Vardens,  
35 they couldn't ever -- or can hardly -- we can't find  
36 those.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What the people of  
39 Noatak is saying , they even called me, that the trout  
40 is declining and they're starting to have concern. And  
41 they depend heavily on trout, too, for their diet. And  
42 that's what he's trying to say. They need help to see  
43 before the problems get worse. They need to see it.  
44 Because I did get call from Noatak, from the elders,  
45 and to see what's going on, and maybe, you know, if I  
46 hear anything. That's what he's trying to say. The  
47 people of Noatak is trying to request before it gets  
48 worse on the trout, they're declining. Okay. That's  
49 what he's trying to say.

50

1                               Go ahead, Verne.

2

3                               MR. CLEVELAND: Do you compare with  
4 like other units on how the fish are, like last summer  
5 we had a whole bunch of dead salmon from here all the  
6 way up to past Kobuk. Did they ever find out why they  
7 all died?

8

9                               MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Cleveland.  
10 You know, we regretfully did not have a good response  
11 to the Kobuk River die off. In my career, I've never  
12 seen anything like it. We do know that it was maybe  
13 the biggest run of chum salmon in the last seven years  
14 or so. It was absolutely huge. The commercial fishery  
15 had the second biggest harvest ever. We have a test  
16 net project to get some kind of run information in  
17 Kiana, and it had the highest catch rates that it had  
18 ever seen.

19

20                               There was that stretch of warm August  
21 weather, and the water was kind of shallow. I think  
22 the algae is always there, but the conditions were just  
23 right of it to bloom and just kind of go crazy. And I  
24 know there were thousands of dead chums.

25

26                               We flew aerial surveys in September  
27 after the bloom had stopped, and we still saw lots of  
28 live chums spawning in places we would like them to be.  
29 I don't think there was probably a population level  
30 effect, but it's really hard to tell. I believe some  
31 fish were collected by Selawik Refuge and sent to our  
32 pathology lab in Anchorage. And all they could really  
33 find was they had a lot of diatoms in their gills,  
34 which are associated with algae blooms. So essentially  
35 it looks like they asphyxiated. The water was too hot  
36 and low oxygen. It didn't seem to affect other species  
37 nearly as much, but it did for chums.

38

39                               And just to follow up on that, Bill  
40 Carter, who's the new fishery biologist for  
41 Selawik/Kenai talked a little bit about having some  
42 kind of better coordinated response if this ever  
43 happens again.

44

45                               CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. I'll  
46 get with you in a minute, Hannah.

47

48                               Yes, they died off in Kiana and the  
49 best Selawik could come out with is when they lack of  
50 oxygen. We tried to tell the Fish and Game, even the

1 commercial fishing when we were commercial fishing,  
2 that there was so much fish going up toward Kiana that  
3 we had an idea this was going to happen. Even I call  
4 the State ahead of time. And for your information  
5 about eight years ago this happened also at Noatak.

6

7

MR. SCANLON: At Noatak.

8

9

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: But not in numbers as  
10 high as Kiana. Above Noatak, remember that, Enoch,  
11 about eight years ago, eight, nine years ago, they did  
12 die off, too, the same way. Lack of oxygen, and low  
13 water in the river.

14

15

MR. SCANLON: Right.

16

17

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

18

19

MS. LOON: Yeah, we were given that  
20 report in Kiana by Susan Georgette, Fish and Wildlife,  
21 excuse me. They died off because of lack of oxygen.

22

23

MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Ms. Loon. I'm  
24 afraid there's not much we can do about something like  
25 that. It's just really climate related and just  
26 happened to be a monster chum year. The commercial  
27 fishery did a great job getting at many out of the  
28 ocean as they could. It probably will never -- well, I  
29 won't say never happen again. It probably won't happen  
30 again for a long, long time, but we're going to be  
31 better prepared next time it does to have response.

32

33

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. The reason why  
34 it's mentioned again. They go back to their village  
35 and they hear the concerns, you know. There's one from  
36 Noorvik, Kiana, Selawik. They talk about it. They  
37 say, well, we hear it at the meeting, and this is what  
38 happened to it. And they will take the message back,  
39 but these are things that are important of why they die  
40 off. Because when something die off, we have concern,  
41 because we don't want nothing to -- more like caribou,  
42 we don't want fish to crash.

43

44

MR. SCANLON: Right.

45

46

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And we depend on it,  
47 too.

48

49

Yeah, thank you. That was good  
50 information.

1                   Go ahead, Verne.

2

3                   MR. CLEVELAND: Was it just salmon, or  
4 was there other species like pike, whitefish, broad?  
5 Or was it just the salmon that.....

6

7                   MR. SCANLON: I think it was almost all  
8 salmon. I know grayling and pike can handle pretty low  
9 levels of oxygen. I don't know why there wasn't any  
10 kind of sheefish effect, but we did have crew up north  
11 of -- upstream of Kobuk trying out the sonar for  
12 sheefish, and they didn't see any dead sheefish. There  
13 certainly might have been, but it appears from what  
14 everybody's told me, it's been almost all salmon.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. Come up to  
17 the mic, please.

18

19                   MS. SWEENEY: So I'm Brittany Sweeney  
20 with Selawik Refuge here in town.

21

22                   And we tried to respond to those calls  
23 and get some information this summer, because we were  
24 here. So, Verne, we had a lot of people saying that  
25 they had heard of other fish being involved. They had  
26 heard that it was affecting whitefish or pike, but when  
27 we went to Kiana, and we went to Shungnak and Kobuk,  
28 everybody we talked to said the only ones they had seen  
29 themselves were salmon. So there was rumors of other  
30 fish, but we could never confirm any other fish. And  
31 when we boated on the river, we didn't see any other  
32 fish.

33

34                   But then much later in the year, like a  
35 couple months later, we started seeing photos of dead  
36 pike, but it was later. So there was talk about other  
37 fish being affected, but we couldn't confirm any first-  
38 hand information from people.

39

40                   So if you see these things yourself,  
41 and you can get a picture or any sort of like first-  
42 hand information, that way if we get like someone  
43 called someone and then they call someone else, we get  
44 it third hand, it's really hard to trace the  
45 information. So that's what we saw and heard directly  
46 from people here this year.

47

48                   MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go

1 ahead, Melinda.  
2  
3 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I think  
4 Brandon is also looking for Council support for the two  
5 research projects that he last mentioned, and I just  
6 wanted to make sure that on the record we -- Brandon,  
7 will you just quick 15 seconds give us the title and  
8 what those projects will do.  
9  
10 MR. SCANLON: Thank you. Yes, Melinda.  
11 The first one has got to do with genetic sampling of  
12 Dolly Varden in the Kobuk River drainage. The second  
13 one is sonar enumeration of out-migrating sheefish in  
14 the Kobuk River.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So on the motion -- I  
17 will say on the motion, we'll need a second. Whatever  
18 you word it is the way you want it. So do I have a  
19 second from the board. We need a second to do a trout  
20 study, what he mentioned, at the Kobuk River.  
21  
22 MR. MITCHELL: I second.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Enoch.  
25  
26 MS. LOON: Question.  
27  
28 MR. STONEY: Question.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been  
31 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.  
32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.  
34  
35 (Laughter)  
36  
37 MS. BURKE: Thanks, Council. I just  
38 wanted to make sure we got that on the record.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You got it,  
41 Brandon, so good luck on your study.  
42  
43 MR. SCANLON: Thank you very much for  
44 your support. And I'll be sure to report back to the  
45 RAC on the results of these projects. Thank you.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So the next time you  
48 give a report, don't get too long. Calvin's getting  
49 bored.  
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. SCANLON: Sorry about that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Back to the  
6 agenda, Melinda. We're under.....

7

8 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Yes. We still  
9 have two items to cover under new business. I would  
10 like to do one of them, but I know that we only have  
11 Mr. Adkisson for another half an hour, so I was hoping  
12 if it was okay with the Council while Ken comes up to  
13 the table, I wanted to cover one thing really quick,  
14 which is the charter revisions on Page 24, if that's  
15 okay.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

18

19 MS. BURKE: Okay. If the Council will  
20 please turn to Page 24. Now, there are going to be  
21 some sections of the charter that you're going to see  
22 highlighted in yellow, that's on Page 26. As a  
23 reminder, the Council charter is -- it usually stays  
24 the same every year. There have been some  
25 modifications recently to account for some of the  
26 difficulties that we've been experiencing with getting  
27 our business done. This Council in particular felt the  
28 effects of very late Council appointments a couple of  
29 meeting cycles go. We actually had a situation where  
30 essentially only about two-thirds of our Council, I  
31 think maybe even half of our Council was -- the letters  
32 came very late from D.C. We only had a very, very  
33 small Council approved, and we actually had to move our  
34 meeting so we had better representation from the  
35 region.

36

37 So on Page 26 some of the concerns  
38 that were expressed by this and other Councils  
39 including the term limits, alternates, and being able  
40 to continue serving until another person is appointed,  
41 so we don't have those issues of vacancies in the  
42 future. So I think our -- my division chief, Carl  
43 Johnson, did a really great job of putting some of  
44 these concerns of the Councils, and reflecting some of  
45 these changes in the requested charters.

46

47 And this is an action item. And if the  
48 Council would like, I can do a little further  
49 explanation, but I know we've discussed the charter at  
50 length, and a lot of the concerns that this Council has

1 put forth are alleviated with the highlighted yellow  
2 language.

3

4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. And it's  
7 okay up to 100 days, but is there a way we could  
8 change, take numbers out, until the new appointees are  
9 filled. Because the way Congress feel at one time, we  
10 run into that problem. We couldn't get enough Board  
11 members to come, because the Secretary of Interior took  
12 too long to answer.

13

14 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. And right  
15 before that 120 days here it says, if no successor is  
16 appointed on or prior to the expiration of a member's  
17 term, then the incumbent member may continue to serve  
18 until a new appointment is made, or 120 days past the  
19 expiration term, whichever is sooner. So with that  
20 language there, the 120 days, it will cover the whole  
21 meeting cycle, so I think that alleviates a lot of the  
22 concerns that we've had in the past.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
25 Thank you. Are you done with that? So back to Ken.

26

27 MS. BURKE: We need a motion to accept  
28 the Council charter from someone on the.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Sorry. Go ahead.

31

32 MS. LOON: I, Hannah Loon, make a  
33 motion to accept this new charter for RAC member.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The one Melinda just  
36 explained to us, that new charter. Remember that a  
37 couple years ago some terms expired, and it took a long  
38 time to refill the seats. We're trying to make a  
39 change to it, and that's what the proposal's all about.  
40 So Hannah did it. She need a second.

41

42 MR. MITCHELL: I'll second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I heard a question to  
45 -- I mean a second.

46

47 MS. LOON: Question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Do I need a question.

50

1 MR. STONEY: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question by Raymond.  
4 All in favor signify by saying aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

9

10 Go ahead, Ken. Thank you.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
13 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I  
14 apologize for having to make this a really quick  
15 presentation, but some commitments in Nome require  
16 catching a Bering Air flight this afternoon, since  
17 Alaska doesn't fly this evening to Nome.

18

19 MS. BURKE: Do you want them to have  
20 all these in front of them.

21

22 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, they can. Yeah.  
23 And I've got a number of handouts for you that cover  
24 various research and monitoring projects from the  
25 Arctic Network Inventory and Monitoring Program that  
26 cover a variety of environmental kind of topics. Key  
27 things, weather, climate, erosion, coastal erosion, and  
28 various other aspects of the physical environment that  
29 are important to sustaining other wild renewable  
30 resources. So you can take a look at that. And there  
31 are links in there to follow on the internet or  
32 contacts for additional information.

33

34 Caribou, of course is one of the key  
35 important resources that we're trying to monitor in  
36 conjunction with working interagencywise with the  
37 Department of Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife  
38 Service and BLM and others. And you can find out  
39 information on all those various projects.

40

41 There are a couple, three things though  
42 that I'd like to kind of quickly update you on.

43

44 First of all, a couple personnel  
45 things. Superintendent Frank Hayes has taken a detail  
46 to the East Coast for four months, and so we're getting  
47 an acting superintendent to fill in while he's here.  
48 And, Stephanie, if you're here -- she just stepped out.  
49 Well, sorry about that. I can't let you meet Stephanie  
50 Stevens right away, but she'll be filling in for

1 Frank, and over the next four months, if you have  
2 especially subsistence related issues, please stop by  
3 our headquarters building and visit with Stephanie. I  
4 think you'll find her very receptive. So that's one.

5  
6 The other one is that we've just hired  
7 an additional wildlife biologist who should come on  
8 duty here in Kotzebue by the end of this month. She's  
9 got a good research background and a fairly extensive  
10 back ground in large mammal management in Northern  
11 Canada, so there should be a good fit between a lot of  
12 our wildlife issues and her past experience. Her name  
13 is Hilliary Robison.

14  
15 And currently we're involved in a  
16 number of other projects. Our other wildlife  
17 biologist, for example, Marcy Johnson, is currently  
18 engaged in conducting muskox population estimate  
19 surveys on the Seward Peninsula, and will be following  
20 those up with a population estimate for the Cape  
21 Thompson population as well as composition work studies  
22 on the muskox and following immediately on that.

23  
24 We've also been engaged in a number of  
25 moose projects both in Unit 23 and in Unit 22. We'll  
26 be doing an annual sheep survey early this summer, and  
27 hopefully we'll be doing a bear study on the Seward Pen  
28 later this spring.

29  
30 So that's kind of a quick summary of  
31 some of that.

32  
33 I do want to make a couple comments  
34 about transporters, and unfortunately Councilman Kramer  
35 is not here. But we don't have the latest data on our  
36 transporter numbers. We'll be getting those in fairly  
37 soon I hope though and be able to look at them and  
38 analyze them and summarize them and stuff for you. So  
39 we should have some updated transporter numbers  
40 information for you at your fall meeting.

41  
42 The other two things, you've heard  
43 Frank about them several times, a couple research  
44 projects we've got going. One is with the University  
45 of Alaska Fairbanks, a traditional ecological knowledge  
46 study in Noatak. And that study's coming to a  
47 completion and wrapping up, but we don't have a final  
48 report yet on it, but we should over the next several  
49 months.

50

1                   And we're also continuing some  
2 soundscape studies where we're monitoring sounds,  
3 volumes, duration, things at several places along the  
4 Noatak, and we'll be looking at that in relation to  
5 caribou locational movements from our caribou collaring  
6 project.

7  
8                   We're not going to be planning on  
9 making any changes to our commercial use authorizations  
10 for this coming year in 2015, but we're hoping that  
11 maybe some of those research projects will help inform  
12 us on making adjustment for 2016 in our commercial use  
13 authorizations. I guess on a final note on  
14 transporters, I would say you've been working with  
15 Melinda and Staff with OSM to develop letters to the  
16 Park Service. I would only urge you to keep that up,  
17 and especially address issues that you're aware of  
18 related to user conflict and shifts in patterns of use  
19 such as to the Upper Noatak. I think that kind of  
20 information will be very valuable to the Park Service  
21 in helping us adjust our commercial use authorization  
22 program.

23  
24                   Two last maybe notes on wildlife and  
25 regulatory issues. You've already done a great job  
26 working on a couple of the muskox problems. In  
27 relation to that, we're going to be going to OSM, to  
28 the Federal Board with a request for a delegated  
29 authority letter to the superintendent which will  
30 increase our flexibility to address muskoxen  
31 regulations in the future. And you've got a copy of  
32 one of those draft letters of delegation in your pile  
33 there. You can look that over, and feel free to  
34 comment if you wish at any time to us, but we will be  
35 going to OSM for that authority.

36  
37                   The other one we're asking for is a  
38 letter of delegated authority to the park  
39 superintendent for sheep in Unit 23 and parts of 26A.  
40 These cover three hunt areas currently established in  
41 regulation: the Baird Mountains hunt area, the Delong  
42 Mountains hunt area, both in 23 and 26A, and what's  
43 called Unit 23 remainder, the Schwatkas in the eastern  
44 part of 23. And we're actually going to probably --  
45 we're going to be going to the Board for a regulatory  
46 change in that area, which adjusts -- will make some  
47 adjustments to that Unit 23 remainder hunt area.  
48 There's a situation that's developed with Gates of the  
49 Arctic National Park in terms of the Schwatkas Mountain  
50 hunt area and how those are generally -- the sheep are

1 generally managed, and there are relation-type kind of  
2 situations between the Department of Fish and Game  
3 between Regions 5 and 3, and how wildlife biologists  
4 look at the sheep population in the Schwatkas, seeing  
5 it mostly related to the central Brooks Range animals  
6 rather than the Baird Mountains or the Delong groups of  
7 sheep.

8

9                   So we're going to be making some  
10 management changes, recommendations for changing that  
11 Unit 23 remainder hunt area. Instead of having one  
12 area, the Schwatkas, we're going to divide it up into  
13 two sections. One will be that area minus the portion  
14 of it that's in Gates of the Arctic National Park, and  
15 the other one will be that hunt area, everything else  
16 in it that's not Gates of the Arctic National Park.  
17 And then we'll be requesting management authority for  
18 that, because we think because of potential pressures  
19 on the sheep population it's more important to link it  
20 to the Bairds and the Delongs than it is to Gates of  
21 the Arctic National Park. And you'll see a copy of  
22 that draft letter in your packet, too, that we gave  
23 you.

24

25                   I think that's about it. Oh, we will  
26 be submitting some sheep proposals, too, regulatory  
27 changes for sheep, but we don't quite know what those  
28 look like yet, because we're waiting to see what the  
29 Board of Game does with Proposal 203, which was another  
30 agenda change request by the Department of Fish and  
31 Game. If you've seen that, basically what the  
32 Department is asking for is a no open season on sheep.  
33 And my guess is that we'll probably -- if that's  
34 adopted, we'll probably parallel that.

35

36                   You're all familiar with the last time  
37 we had a major sheep decline, and this one's probably  
38 even worse than the last one. Sheep hunting was closed  
39 for several years. So I don't know when we'll be  
40 seeing open sheep hunting again, but one of the things  
41 we hope, that with the management flexibility given to  
42 us in a letter of delegated authority, we'll be better  
43 able to work with you locally, and hopefully tailor  
44 some solutions to it when the sheep population begins  
45 to recover, and better make flexible management  
46 decisions.

47

48                   So that's all I've got for this go  
49 around.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken. It  
2 looks like no questions. Well explained. Good job.  
3  
4 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you,.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Verne.  
7  
8 MR. CLEVELAND: Have a good flight to  
9 Nome.  
10  
11 MR. ADKISSON: What's that?  
12  
13 MR. CLEVELAND: Have a good flight to  
14 Nome.  
15  
16 MR. ADKISSON: Oh, I appreciate that,  
17 yeah. I hate to run, and I know it irritates people,  
18 but like I said, unfortunately Alaska Airlines does not  
19 fly to Nome later tonight. So I've got to catch the  
20 Bering Air flight.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thanks, Ken.  
23 Yeah, well done.  
24  
25 MR. ADKISSON: I always enjoy it.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Melinda, I  
28 think we're on 11, pretty much done with the rest of  
29 it.  
30  
31 MS. BURKE: Pretty much, Mr. Chair. I  
32 would like to reserve Item (d), the annual report, just  
33 at the very end to run through the list and make sure  
34 there's no other ideas to get thrown, so we'll reserve  
35 (d) towards the end.  
36  
37 But here under agency reports, I  
38 haven't received any word of any tribal governments or  
39 Native organizations that have asked to speak. But we  
40 might want to check in on the phone and see if there's  
41 anyone there or anybody from the public as well.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Actually I went to  
44 Kotzebue IRA and I tell them, I invited them to the  
45 meeting, that they could give a report if they want,  
46 and I didn't hear nothing in return.  
47  
48 MS. BURKE: So if we want to keep  
49 going, it looks like we're getting down to Selawik  
50 National Wildlife Refuge. We've got Brittany here, and

1 I believe Bill Carter is coming up with her as well.  
2 Let me get the PowerPoint.

3

4 MS. SWEENEY: I don't have a  
5 PowerPoint.

6

7 Thank you again, Council members, for  
8 letting us attend your meeting and hear your input and  
9 learn from you. Again my name is Brittany Sweeney. I  
10 work at the Fish and Wildlife Service, Selawik Wildlife  
11 Refuge here in Kotzebue.

12

13 Normally I work in the outreach  
14 program, so I just wanted to let you know that Fish and  
15 Wildlife Service does a lot of work with getting kids  
16 outdoors, and we are continuing to work on that. We'll  
17 be doing the Selawik Science Culture Camp again this  
18 summer with Selawik, the 13th year in a row. So we'll  
19 be always working on that.

20

21 And then I wanted to introduce the  
22 Council members to our new fishery biologist, Bill  
23 Carter. While we have the chance for you to give your  
24 feedback to him, he is also working on developing a  
25 whitefish research project in the Selawik area. So I'm  
26 just going to have him describe that to you very  
27 briefly, and you can give him any input.

28

29 MR. CARTER: Yeah. My name is Bill  
30 Carter. I'm the fisheries biologist at the Refuge.

31

32 One of the concerns that you've  
33 expressed in the past was for broad whitefish and cisco  
34 spawning areas. There's been some studies, radio tag  
35 studies done in the lower river/delta area, and we  
36 found broad whitefish and humpback whitefish in the  
37 Kobuk and in the Upper Selawik, but there was a group  
38 that was in the Lower Selawik River, more into the lake  
39 area right off the mount of Selawik. So we're going to  
40 try to look at a way to capture those fish and see if  
41 we can -- and determine if they're spawning there, or  
42 if they're just fish that were resting that particular  
43 year. So that's the general outline, and we're going  
44 to look at having village people help us with that  
45 capture effort. And like with the sheefish project  
46 that we already have going in the upper river, any  
47 carcasses that we have we'll be donating to the village  
48 for the elders or whoever wants it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I think

1 I'm the one that questioned you about that whitefish,  
2 because I'm with the Kotzebue Sound Fishermen's  
3 Association also. And commercial fishing on whitefish  
4 came, and I said I would not open it right now until I  
5 am comfortable with where the fish spawn and numbers we  
6 have out there. Because I don't commercial fish to  
7 deplete the stock on whitefish. It's one of those that  
8 Selawik and Upper Kobuk, Noorvik, Kiana, they depend  
9 heavily on whitefish, you know, part of their  
10 supplement for the diet. So that's I had a question,  
11 because I don't seem them stock, because about 35 years  
12 ago I sent out, Denmark, Norway, New York, San  
13 Francisco, different places. I was asked by people  
14 from Selawik, Noorvik, and Kiana, to send out samples.  
15 And they were high -- they wanted tons of it. They  
16 were waiting to buy it then, and just didn't happen  
17 today, due to the egg content that it had falltime.  
18 And they will be popular, and that's what I'm really  
19 scared of. I don't want to deplete Northwest Alaska of  
20 any resources in the name of commercial. I'm a  
21 commercial fisherman, but I'm careful, because one day  
22 it's one of those.

23

24 MR. CARTER: Yeah, and we have really  
25 good number on the sheefish take, and the harvest  
26 especially under the ice is pretty stable over the  
27 years. So as far as subsistence is concerned, it looks  
28 like we have a real stable population.

29

30 But once we find the spawning area, we  
31 still have to do some work on population of the smaller  
32 whitefish. The sheefish we have a relatively good  
33 estimate in the Selawik River, and as Brandon said  
34 before, they're working on a population estimate in the  
35 Kobuk, you know, with this -- if they get funding for  
36 this new project.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.  
39 Continue, or are you done?

40

41 MS. SWEENEY: Yeah, that's it unless  
42 you have any other questions.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Wow.

47

48 MR. CARTER: We have a very small Staff  
49 at this time, so we're trying to keep ourselves from  
50 being over-burdened with too many other things.

1                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Before you  
2 leave now, welcome to Northwest Alaska.  
3  
4                   MR. CARTER: Thank you. Thank you very  
5 much. I'm enjoying myself.  
6  
7                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Now we know we've got  
8 a biologist. Okay. Thank you.  
9  
10                  MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We covered Ken  
11 under National Park Service, but I want to see if Marcy  
12 Okada is on the teleconference for Gates of the Arctic.  
13  
14                  MS. OKADA: Hi, Melinda. Marcy for  
15 Gates of the Arctic. And I also have Kumi Rattenbury,  
16 our sheep ecologist with me.  
17  
18                  MS. BURKE: Okay. Great. We can hear  
19 you loud and clear.  
20  
21                  MS. OKADA: I was wondering if a Gates  
22 of the Arctic handout was passed out to the Council  
23 members?  
24  
25                  MS. BURKE: It came on the plane. It's  
26 the one with the picture of the sunset, and it says  
27 Arctic Network at the top; is that right?  
28  
29                  MS. OKADA: No. It should have been  
30 given to you this morning, and it has a picture of a  
31 dall sheep, and at the top it says status of dall  
32 sheep, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.  
33  
34                  MS. BURKE: Yes, they have that in  
35 front of them. Yes, they have it.  
36  
37                  MS. OKADA: Oh, good. Okay. Well,  
38 good afternoon, Council members and Mr. Chair. My name  
39 is March Okada. I'm with Gates of the Arctic National  
40 Park and preserve. And I'll just be quickly going over  
41 this handout with you today.  
42  
43                  So basically there's been a sheep  
44 decline throughout Gates of the Arctic for both the  
45 years 2013 and 2014. There's been a 63 percent decline  
46 in the Itkillik area, which is the northeast corner of  
47 Gates of the Arctic, and then there's been a 35 percent  
48 decline in the Anaktuvuk Pass area. Very low lamb  
49 numbers were surveyed in both of those years. And the  
50 survey also showed that lambs, yearlings, and ewes

1 declined more than rams. The decline is likely related  
2 to record cold temperatures and icing events in the  
3 wintertime, and harsh winter weather tends to make  
4 sheep more vulnerable to starvation and predation.

5  
6 So basically, you know, the handout  
7 shares everything, all the information about that  
8 portion of Gates of the Arctic, but to bring it closer  
9 to home, in regards to Unit 23, the western portion of  
10 Gates of the Arctic, the Schwatka Mountains, currently  
11 according to ANILCA, Ambler, Shungnak, and Kobuk are  
12 the resident zone communities for Gates of the Arctic,  
13 and they have -- they're allowed subsistence use of  
14 what we call the Kobuk Boot, but then also that area of  
15 Gates of the Arctic, the western portion of Gates of  
16 the Arctic.

17  
18 Our understanding according to harvest  
19 surveys is that there's about -- there's really low  
20 take of dall sheep from the Upper Kobuk communities,  
21 and at this time the Schwatka Mountains will be  
22 surveyed this summer season. In fact, all of Gates of  
23 the Arctic will be surveyed this summer season, weather  
24 pending, and we're not taking action as far as  
25 regulations go for that portion of Gates related to  
26 dall sheep populations.

27  
28 Ken had mentioned some regulation  
29 changes for some of the Western Arctic Park lands, but  
30 at this time for Gates of the Arctic we're not  
31 proposing any regulation changes.

32  
33 Are there any questions.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 MS. BURKE: It doesn't look like we've  
38 got any questions, Marcy. Enoch has stepped out of the  
39 room for just a second. No questions so far. Yeah,  
40 you can go ahead and move on if you've got anything  
41 else.

42  
43 MS. OKADA: This was the full thing  
44 that I was presenting today, just dall sheep.

45  
46 MS. BURKE: Okay. It doesn't look like  
47 we have any questions.

48  
49 We are running through the agenda  
50 really, really well. I know Enoch Mitchell's not

1 feeling that great, and he's going to head out. I'm  
2 going call a 10-minute break.

3  
4 (Off record)

5  
6 (On record)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll call  
9 this meeting back to order. And who are we at with  
10 now, Melinda.

11  
12 MS. BURKE: Oh, yes. BLM. BLM.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Okay. We'll  
15 call this meeting back to order. We'll turn it over to  
16 BLM. Go ahead. You'll state your name.

17  
18 MR. BALLOU: Thank you very much, Mr.  
19 Chairman. My name is Douglas Ballou. I'm with the  
20 Bureau of Land Management, the Anchorage District  
21 Office and the Anchorage Field Office, based, of  
22 course, out of Anchorage.

23  
24 And I'd just like to say it's a real  
25 privilege to be here, to listen and learn at this  
26 Council meeting today. So thank you for this  
27 opportunity.

28  
29 I'm the assistant field manager for  
30 resources at the Anchorage Field Office, and I'm here  
31 representing our field manager, Allen Bittner who can't  
32 be here today, but he does send his greetings.

33  
34 The reason that I'm here is that BLM  
35 has transferred responsibility for the lands here in  
36 Northwest Alaska from the Fairbanks District Office,  
37 the Central Yukon Field Office, to Anchorage. And this  
38 was done just a matter of a couple of months ago, we  
39 haven't even put out a press release at this time, at  
40 the direction of our state director, Bud Cribley. And  
41 it's Bud's feeling that in the long term, if we're  
42 looking to the years ahead, that there's many important  
43 issues in Northwest Alaska that may ultimately cause us  
44 to create a new field office in this area that would be  
45 based most likely out of Nome.

46  
47 So I passed out a map to you folks.  
48 There's a larger version on the wall here, that shows  
49 the boundaries of the new Anchorage Field Office, which  
50 extends east to Ambler, and north about Kivalina. And

1 our goal here was to try and incorporate all of the  
2 Nulato Hills into one management area as well as one  
3 management area for really the bulk of the wintering  
4 area for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

5  
6                   So we're the new kids on the block, and  
7 myself and our specialists are eager to learn the  
8 issues and have a smooth transfer of responsibilities  
9 from the Fairbanks District Office to the Anchorage  
10 District Office.

11  
12                   We do have a field station in Nome  
13 which many of you are familiar with. It is staffed by  
14 Tom Sparks, and it is our intention to hire two new  
15 positions in Nome that will be available to help out  
16 with issues in this part of Alaska, specifically  
17 relating to some of your needs. We hope to hire a  
18 biologist to operate out of Nome, as well as a new  
19 lands person that can help with permitting and some of  
20 the recreation issues that we deal with.

21  
22                   As a way of introduction to the  
23 Anchorage Field Office, I thought I'd do a quick run  
24 down of some of the issues and projects that we're  
25 dealing with. The Anchorage District Office stretches  
26 from Southeast all the way up to now north of Kivalina,  
27 and everything below that line in the Y-K Delta,  
28 Bristol Bay, and the Glennallen area, Columbia Glacier,  
29 and so on.

30  
31                   Some of the major projects that we're  
32 working with in the Anchorage Field Office are the  
33 Donlin gas pipeline, which is a 300-mile pipeline that  
34 ideally will bring Cook Inlet gas to the Donlin Mine  
35 which is in the vicinity of Crooked Creek on the  
36 Kuskokwim River. We've been working with GCI on the  
37 Terra projects for many years now. Terra Kotzebue is  
38 the current one that is in the works, bringing  
39 broadband services to many rural communities.

40  
41                   We're also in the process, the second  
42 year of a four-year process developing a new resource  
43 management plan for an area south of you that we call  
44 the Bering Sea/Western Interior area. And I'll be in  
45 Aniak next week in fact. We've got some preliminary  
46 alternatives that we're bringing back to the public,  
47 and we're doing additional scoping on that.

48  
49                   The Campbell Creek Science Center,  
50 which some of you may be familiar with, is also in the

1 Anchorage District. And between the Campbell Creek  
2 Science Center and many of the resource specialists on  
3 my team, we have a good record of working with youth,  
4 providing youth education and youth job opportunities,  
5 and we're really excited to bring some of that effort  
6 up into this area as well.

7

8 We've been working with the University  
9 of Alaska Fairbanks, their high latitude range program.  
10 We've provided funding for some youth hires at the  
11 University.

12

13 We've also been working with the  
14 University of Alaska in Anchorage, the natural heritage  
15 program. We've provided funding and job opportunities  
16 for students working on invasive species projects, and  
17 other issues. And some of the hires have been  
18 Unalakleet, they've been in Nome, and they've been from  
19 villages around Western Alaska.

20

21 We also have been working with the  
22 ANSEP program, the Alaska Native Science and  
23 Engineering Program. We've hired young people from  
24 Nome and Unalakleet, and we're hoping to hire three  
25 more this year if everything goes well.

26

27 And then lastly over the years we've  
28 worked with the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association  
29 and Americorps, and we had a youth from Selawik a  
30 number of years ago that was on a trail crew that we  
31 put together in Anchorage.

32

33 Some of the specific projects that  
34 we've been working on, we've been involved with  
35 projects on the Seward Peninsula for many years, but  
36 we've also worked in the Yukon and the Kuskokwim River  
37 valleys as well. We've got fisheries projects in the  
38 Goodnews area. Up here we've been working with CHAR in  
39 the Kigluaik Mountains for many years, and also we've  
40 been cooperating with the Norton Sound Economic  
41 Development Council, working with sockeye salmon at  
42 Salmon Lake and in the Pilgrim River. And we look  
43 forward to those projects continuing.

44

45 Our biologist has been working for many  
46 years with the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, cooperating with  
47 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We've been  
48 doing moose surveys in Unit 21. Our biologist, Bruce  
49 Seppi, as we speak is in the Nome area working on  
50 muskox surveys in Unit 22. We also have a hand in the

1 wood bison reintroduction that is occurring south of  
2 you in the next month. And we've been associated with  
3 the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group for many years  
4 now where I've interacted with some of you folks in the  
5 past.

6  
7 We're hoping for a smooth hand-off  
8 between our organization and our folks up in Fairbanks.  
9 We do intend to continue funding and working with the  
10 youth program on the Youngin (ph) Portage capture  
11 project. We also hope to continue to fund the Western  
12 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meetings that occur  
13 in December in Anchorage.

14  
15 As far as our botanist, we're working  
16 on invasive plant issue throughout our portion of  
17 Alaska, and we're going quite a bit of work with mining  
18 site revegetation and reclamation.

19  
20 And the reindeer program on the Seward  
21 Peninsula has been managed out of my office for the  
22 last 10, 12 years now, so we're working actively with  
23 the herders in that area, as well as with UAA and UAF.

24  
25 There is some mine activity in the  
26 area, mostly exploration in the north side of the  
27 Kigluaik Mountains. Graphite I is doing exploration  
28 there, trying to identify the quality and the extent of  
29 that graphite deposit.

30  
31 And then lastly our archaeologist has  
32 been working most recently in the Port Clarence area  
33 trying to stabilize and conduct a salvage project for  
34 an area that is eroding into the sea, and experiencing  
35 other problems.

36  
37 Just out of interest, we also  
38 coordinate the Iditarod National Historic Trail program  
39 out of the Anchorage Field Office working with other  
40 land managers, so we do the permitting on the Iron Dog  
41 race and on the sled dog race that has just departed  
42 from Fairbanks in fact.

43  
44 As far as recreation, in addition to  
45 managing the Iditarod National Historic Trail, we  
46 oversee some heliski permitting down in Southeast. We  
47 also work with the Unalakleet Wild River, and have been  
48 engaged with that wild river and the folks in  
49 Unalakleet for many, many years ow, and we have some  
50 fisheries projects on that river as well that we

1 cooperate with the State on.

2

3                   It's our intent to take over the  
4 management of the special recreation permits that are  
5 active in this area, specifically the Squirrel River.  
6 And we recognize that there's a lot of conflict there.  
7 I've been listening closely to the dialogue that I've  
8 heard from the Council members today, and I will bring  
9 that information back to the field manager and our  
10 specialist as we work to get engaged with you and your  
11 problems and your issues, and find ways that perhaps we  
12 can help.

13

14                   We've received a new permit application  
15 for a transporter that would like to operate in the  
16 Squirrel River area just a couple of weeks ago. And it  
17 has been the decision by our field manager that he's  
18 not going to process any new permits, special  
19 recreation permits as we call them, in the Squirrel  
20 River area until we have developed a plan for that  
21 area. The Kobuk/Seward Resource Management Plan which  
22 was signed almost 10 years ago called for developing a  
23 plan for the Squirrel River area because of all the  
24 conflict that was occurring, and that hasn't happened  
25 yet, but we are committed now that we are taking on  
26 these new lands to getting that plan together. It will  
27 involve visits to communities, working closely with the  
28 National Park Service, with the Fish and Wildlife  
29 Service, with Native entities, with the Council, and so  
30 on, to learn as much as we can about what your needs  
31 are, what the problems are, and how our permitting can  
32 help reduce these conflicts. So I've been very  
33 interested in hearing some of the dialogue related to  
34 this.

35

36                   I believe there's a maximum of 10  
37 special recreation permit guide, outfitters that been  
38 authorized in the Squirrel River area. It's our intent  
39 not authorize any new permits as well until we have a  
40 better understanding from you folks and other entities  
41 on these issues. I've got phone numbers for many of  
42 you, and once I get back to the office I will share  
43 them with my specialist and we hope to be working with  
44 you closely to get more information to see how we can  
45 help.

46

47                   And just lastly I'd like to thank you  
48 for allowing us to be here today. I'd like to thank  
49 the Northwest Borough for providing this venue. I've  
50 been to Kotzebue a few times before, but it's been

1 really great to be here in the winter which I have not  
2 done previous to this. And I look forward to sharing  
3 with my staff and with the management of the field  
4 office.

5

6 If I could address any questions, I'd  
7 be glad to do that at this time.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Thank you.

10

11 Go ahead, Raymond.

12

13 MR. STONEY: Thank you. Of course we  
14 know that BLM is very popular at the Squirrel River for  
15 the last 25 years now.

16

17 My question to you is, have you got the  
18 transporters and outfitters permits issued for this  
19 coming hunting season at the Squirrel.

20

21 MR. BALLOU: The arrangement that we  
22 have made with the Central Yukon Field Office is we  
23 will begin managing the outfitter/guide permits during  
24 2015, so we're in the process of receiving the case  
25 files and getting up to speed on the existing  
26 permittees. And to our knowledge those permits have  
27 been renewed for 2015.

28

29 As far as the transporters, my field  
30 manager in discussions with Shelly, the field manager  
31 at the Central Yukon Field Office, they've agreed to  
32 retain management of the special recreation permits for  
33 the transporters for 2015. And then we will take those  
34 over in 2016.

35

36 But as I mentioned a new application  
37 came to us by way of Fairbanks just a couple weeks ago,  
38 and after we did some research in the Kobuk/Seward  
39 Resource Management Plan and had a number of  
40 discussions in my field office, we came to the decision  
41 that we aren't going to process anything new until we  
42 have a better understanding of these difficult issues  
43 that are occurring.

44

45 MR. STONEY: Okay. Because I know that  
46 all these years that a number of -- quite a few camps  
47 at the Squirrel, you know, managed by the BLM.  
48 However, one thing that concern all of us is that, of  
49 course, the law enforcement for BLM, it goes up, you  
50 know, for a short period of time, maybe a week or so at

1 a time, and then maybe two months apart. So their  
2 belief, if it wasn't for the Park Service, you know,  
3 they've done well, you know, just to help BLM law  
4 enforcement side at the Squirrel.

5  
6 I wonder, my question would be to you,  
7 is there any from BLM to come to Kotzebue and have a  
8 field office here in Kotzebue so they could at least  
9 manage better, close for all the transporters and  
10 guides at the Squirrel. We'd like to see somebody, you  
11 know, just like at the Park Service, just our State,  
12 you know, that's the enforcement officer, because it's  
13 just not enough law enforcement, you know, for all the  
14 hunters that are up at the Squirrel River all these  
15 years. I was wondering would they be able to do that,  
16 or just for short period of time only.

17  
18 MR. BALLOU: Thank you for that  
19 comment, Mr. Stoney. We have really struggled in  
20 hiring a law enforcement ranger in the Anchorage Field  
21 Office for three years now since the previous ranger  
22 became a Federal investigator, if you will. We hired  
23 an individual and sent him to training, and ultimately  
24 it didn't work out. And we now are in the process of  
25 trying to hire another one. And one of the problems  
26 that we're having in this department is we've made the  
27 requirement to be a law enforcement officer and a  
28 pilot, because we think that's really critical to  
29 managing all of these roadless lands that we're  
30 responsible for.

31  
32 Upon hiring a pilot ranger, it will be  
33 our goal to have that individual up in this area, as  
34 well as the other corners of the lands that we oversee  
35 as much as possible. We're looking for a field-going  
36 individual.

37  
38 As I think you know, we have two  
39 buildings here in Kotzebue, a bunkhouse and an office.  
40 It is not staffed at this time, and the field manager,  
41 my field manager, Allen Bittner, is working on a plan  
42 to decide how we're going to staff either this facility  
43 here in Kotzebue or operate it out of Nome. And he  
44 hasn't made a decision yet on the best way to do that.  
45 However I will carry your thoughts back to him.

46  
47 MR. STONEY: That's one thing that  
48 concerns us very much, because BLM, you know, is 300  
49 miles away. We know that we -- we see what's happening  
50 about some of the regulations that was used by the

1 transporters and guides at the Squirrel. As you know,  
2 the requirements of these transporters, or whoever they  
3 are, you know, that they don't maintain that same-day-  
4 airborne hunting, because the law enforce is such a  
5 long ways away. So I wonder what will happen, or what  
6 they'll do, you know, when it becomes effective again,  
7 like same-day-airborne hunting situation, because it  
8 happens, violated almost every day.

9

10 MR. BALLOU: Thank you. I appreciate  
11 that comment. I'm taking notes as I have the last two  
12 days.

13 And I will share these concerns with the field manager.

14

15 Thank you, sir.

16

17 MR. STONEY: Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I have a question.

20 Your transporters and outfitters at Squirrel River  
21 getting to be numbers. You guys need to limit how many  
22 transporters and outfitters could have spike camps,  
23 other hunters in there. Because there's too much --  
24 they're not going to help the Squirrel or they is going  
25 to damage the Squirrel River. We know the fact that  
26 too many people get in there and it's a shallow river,  
27 and a lot of caribou go there, certain things happening  
28 in the migration of the caribou from Kiana up to the  
29 Aggie. It's being disturbed. And you need to put a  
30 limit of how many people could go in there. And I  
31 would like to see the numbers, except like I heard you,  
32 you're not going to accept new transporters and  
33 outfitters there, which is nice. But limit how many  
34 people, because I hate to see it damaged.

35

36 Because a few years back, when State of  
37 Alaska said there was so much moose at the Squirrel  
38 River. Remember, we hired Ito and them other guys to  
39 do an area count for us on moose. The State said there  
40 was nearly 1400 moose at Squirrel River when we count  
41 them. I worked at Maniilaq. I paid for it. And it  
42 wasn't not even 400. We had planes from both sides of  
43 the river with a mile apart, and when they go to the  
44 headwaters, they count. They basically had same  
45 numbers when they added, but one moose moved from this  
46 side the river to the other side. That's the only  
47 difference. So to us their count was pretty accurate,  
48 because on their stats, when they go on their stats, I  
49 do have problem with that, because I will prove it to  
50 you that with Squirrel River, stats don't count. It's

1 really -- you know, stat is saying this is how many  
2 number. If we see 8, there's 46. It don't work like  
3 that, because we have to keep our stock in place  
4 without declining instead of wait too late, because the  
5 State will wait too late. Agencies, they will listen  
6 to us.

7

8 But you need someone here in the field  
9 office in Kotzebue. Because we used to go see John  
10 regularly when we start having concerns about what's  
11 going on t Squirrel River from Kiana where he's from.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.  
16 You don't? Okay.

17

18 MR. MOTO: We don't have the  
19 transporter problem, but we do have other things, like  
20 I noticed that on the Seward Peninsula that you have  
21 parcel of land there. And I was wondering if they were  
22 doing the core sample on your land or -- the reason I  
23 know about it, I cooked for the last group that were  
24 doing the core sampling, and they didn't find anything,  
25 but they told me that there was natural gas there, so  
26 was that on your land that they did the core sampling,  
27 or was it on the other. I know it was -- about general  
28 idea. I have an estimate. I estimate how far it is  
29 that I was working there with them. That was about  
30 five, a little more than five years ago.

31

32 And then they did another core sampling east of  
33 Deering. This -- some of this activity where they were  
34 doing it was kind of disturbing the caribou that there  
35 during the summer, July when they were there. And also  
36 the one that was east of Deering, they did a lot of --  
37 they had a lot of helicopter traffic, you know, going  
38 back and forth, and doing things. And they built an  
39 airstrip over there by that -- where they could land a  
40 hurricane and stuff, you know. And this activity was  
41 disturbing the caribou that time.

42

43 I was wondering if that was on that BLM  
44 land. I know it wouldn't be on Park Service land.  
45 This is something I just wanted to ask you.

46

47 MR. BALLOU: Thank you for that  
48 question. To my knowledge that exploration activity  
49 that you're referring to did not occur on BLM lands.  
50 To my knowledge, the only exploration that has occurred

1 on the Seward Peninsula in the last few years has been  
2 the Graphite One activities, which is directly on the  
3 north side of the escarpment of the Kigluaik Mountains.  
4 And they are helicopter-supported, and those  
5 helicopters are based out of Teller and more so Nome.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

8

9 Go ahead, Raymond.

10

11 MR. STONEY: Yes. There is one more  
12 concern that I have with the Squirrel, because I'm not  
13 against them sure, you know, because they go through  
14 their procedure, you know, to get their permits and  
15 bring their clients out to the Squirrel River.  
16 However, one thing that I learned from the transporters  
17 and guides at the Squirrel River is something that you  
18 probably know about. Are they authorized to haul their  
19 fourwheel vehicles to the Squirrel and use it in their  
20 hunting business? Because they've got -- one camp's  
21 got probably about two of those fourwheelers. I wonder  
22 if they're legalized by BLM.

23

24 MR. BROOKS: A good question. Thank  
25 you. Go my knowledge transporters are not authorized  
26 to transport fourwheel drive vehicles, ATVs if you  
27 will, into the field in that area. I need to research  
28 that more, but again to my knowledge that is not an  
29 authorized use.

30

31 MR. STONEY: So the best thing then to  
32 do for you or your law enforcement or your people that  
33 work with you, go up the Squirrel, when they get -- you  
34 know, it's a really popular place for outfitters that  
35 do their business, you'd be surprised if you see them  
36 driving that vehicle 80 miles away north from Kiana.  
37 How do they bring it up? I don't know.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. And for your  
40 information, at Squirrel River I heard from Kiana  
41 people that DC3 was hauling, and when they transport  
42 through DC3 place. You could verify me if I'm correct  
43 or wrong way, Raymond, I know I heard that, how many  
44 times that they were bringing that big old plane into  
45 the Squirrel River. That's a big plane.

46

47 MR. BALLOU: Again I'm taking notes,  
48 Mr. Chairman. And that bears checking into.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Raymond just

1 said, yeah, they were there with DC3.

2

3 MR. BALLOU: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,  
6 Verne.

7

8 MR. CLEVELAND: I think we've got  
9 pictures, because I fly with Purcell Security, and I  
10 think we have pictures of fourwheeler tracks by  
11 Squirrel River, in that BLM area. I'm pretty sure we  
12 got pictures documented on that. I'm pretty sure of  
13 that. If he turned them in. Plus the GPS because we  
14 have to report everything that's inside Squirrel River  
15 and in the are. And how many transporters have permits  
16 to be in the Squirrel River area? How many do you  
17 issue?

18

19 MR. BALLOU: At this time there are six  
20 transporters that are permitted to my knowledge.

21

22 The Kobuk/Seward Plan, when a record of  
23 decision was signed stated that BLM would not authorize  
24 more than 10 outfitter/guide special recreation permits  
25 in that area. It also stated that there was no limit  
26 on the number of transporters that would be authorized.  
27 That was an issue that I discussed with my field  
28 manager that no knowing the full issues and the  
29 conflict that is occurring in that area as we begin to  
30 learn about this area that you are all so familiar  
31 with, that it was recommended -- my recommendation as  
32 well as many folks on my Staff, that we not process any  
33 new permits until the plan was completed.

34

35 The interim plan as described and  
36 demanded by the Kobuk/Seward Resource Management Plan,  
37 was supposed to come out within three years. And I  
38 suspect due to funding and Staff, that plan was not  
39 completed within three years. But as I stated, we are  
40 committed, we recognized this is a problem and a plan  
41 is needed. And information and cooperation among the  
42 many players is needed, and so we are committed to  
43 completing this plan as rapidly as possible, and not  
44 processing any new permits in the meantime.

45

46 MR. CLEVELAND: And are you guys  
47 staying on top of this or is there someone flying just  
48 us in the Squirrel River area? Besides Purcell  
49 Security.

50

1 MR. BALLOU: The Fairbanks office will  
2 be monitoring the transporter activities this summer.  
3 My recreation Staff will be doing aerial and on the  
4 ground monitoring of the outfitter/guide special  
5 recreation permits this summer. And there will be  
6 quite a bit of cooperation between our two field  
7 offices as that occurs.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

10  
11 MR. CLEVELAND: Well, they're getting  
12 pretty sloppy I'd tell you that, if they're trying to  
13 hide those tracks and they're landing, they're not  
14 doing a good job. They're trying, but they're not  
15 doing it. And I think they've got to visit Cabela's  
16 because we sure shot them right away from the air. They  
17 didn't hide very well. As soon as we run unto the  
18 Squirrel and we came back, they were gone. So I don't  
19 know who it was, we couldn't tell. They were Super  
20 Cubs, no numbers on them.

21  
22 MR. BALLOU: Well, a picture tells a  
23 thousand words. I heard that earlier today, and, you  
24 know, photographs are wonderful for documenting the  
25 things that one sees out there that we really need to  
26 get a handle on. So I make no excuses, but we are  
27 determined to do a better job.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

30  
31 MR. M. KRAMER: I know I've mentioned  
32 for a number of years for BLM to try and take action  
33 to, you know, sometime allow all these permits to  
34 expire at one time, and put them up for bid. That way  
35 you guys could supply law enforcement officers out  
36 there.

37  
38 And also, you know, I've heard so many  
39 times over the past that these outfitters, you know,  
40 they're messy. They leave a lot of garbage out there.  
41 And there's -- occasionally there's times where local  
42 area hunters that are out there, you know, they're  
43 picking up these people's trash, you know. And I don't  
44 know if they're getting paid for it or what, but, you  
45 know, that's kind of ridiculous for BLM to be able to  
46 let that kind of stuff slide, especially when that's a  
47 real severe migration route. You know, BLM letting  
48 that slide is not good. BLM needs to start taking  
49 action, and then start looking at.....

50

1                   You know, it's not for the profit, you  
2 know, putting these areas out to bid. It's not for  
3 profit. It's for maintaining the area, for hiring law  
4 enforcement officers for the summer. It's for hiring  
5 people for transporters or these other people who  
6 violate the conditions of their permits by leaving  
7 garbage all over and having to hire people to go out  
8 there and clean those areas up.

9  
10                   Have a strike three rule, you know.  
11 Hey, we've told you not to be using these ATVs on our  
12 land, and you're continuing to do so. This is your  
13 last warning. After this you'll never ever be able to  
14 put in for a permit whether you're under a different  
15 name, different entity, different business, your  
16 company will be stained for life in the BLM and  
17 Squirrel River. I've mentioned that so many times, you  
18 know.

19  
20                   It wouldn't be for, you know, the  
21 portion of profit,  
22 but it's for the portion of being able to support that  
23 area and support the local area people, like Kiana, who  
24 have to, you know, live in that area where these  
25 caribou migrate, and they're getting diverted because  
26 of all the aircraft traffic.

27  
28                   You know, I think at the beginning of  
29 each guide season or sport season, I think that BLM  
30 needs to go out, and when the transporters put in for  
31 these permits, you also add a questionnaire if they're  
32 using ATVs, you know, where are they -- are hauling out  
33 their trash, yes or no. What is your exact location of  
34 your camps. I mean, GPS coordinates is camp 1, 2, 3,  
35 4. Limit them to only like two camps. That way you  
36 have your areas of coverage are a lot less.

37  
38                   You know, it's time to step up and  
39 start putting the foot down on these people, or they're  
40 going to continue to get away with what they can. You  
41 know, that's the only way to be able to take control of  
42 what we have up there.

43  
44                   I don't know if BLM's willing to, you  
45 know, put them up for big, but in my mind, who had the  
46 most money gets the area. But, I mean, very, very  
47 strict rules on them. And advise them, hey, we never  
48 know when we're going to stop by whether it be day or  
49 night. We might have an undercover person come by and  
50 just say hi and visit and see what your camp looks

1 like, and walks out. And he'll have a piece of paper  
2 for us when he gets back. You know, I mean it's all  
3 about constantly being able to observe these  
4 transporters and guides up in those areas to insure  
5 that they're following the rules. And if you keep on  
6 them, oh, trust me, they'll know. They'll always be  
7 looking over their shoulder and that makes us feel  
8 better as people who are downstream, who are Kiana,  
9 Noorvik, you know, Ambler, knowing that those caribou  
10 are going to come through somewhat undisturbed.

11  
12 And then I think BLM needs to try and  
13 see if they could lessen that amount on transporters  
14 within that area, and lessen the guides, you know,  
15 because they're not catching very many animals I guess.  
16 I mean, I haven't really heard of all the reports.  
17 I've just been -- I just came back, but, you, it would  
18 be wise if, you know, on every spring meeting that we  
19 get a piece of paper that states every single agencies'  
20 guide and transporter information on one sheet of  
21 paper. That way I have something to put in a folder  
22 every year to see whether it's -- if there's a  
23 fluctuation, if they're dropping or if -- you know, I  
24 mean, how many transporters got banned from, you know,  
25 BLM land or park lands. It's all about documentation.  
26 You have it in documentation, then it's covering what  
27 we're looking at.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.

30  
31 MR. BALLOU: Thank you for those  
32 comments, Mr. Kramer.

33  
34 Many of the things that you've  
35 mentioned I think will be important elements of this  
36 plan that I'm referring to. Every SRP, special  
37 recreation permit that we authorize is a discretionary  
38 action. The field manager does not have to authorize  
39 an SRP. And if we have situations that a permit holder  
40 is not following through the terms of their permit,  
41 then we do have the ability to not reauthorize that  
42 permit.

43  
44 A second thing that I think is  
45 important that I think the Anchorage Field Office has  
46 taken the lead on recently is bonding. And bonding  
47 would be a financial instrument that the permit holder  
48 would put up that would pay the cost of cleaning up  
49 after them, or repairing whatever environmental damage  
50 or impacts to the land that they may have caused from

1 an illegal off-highway vehicle or abandoned trash,  
2 spilled fuel, whatever it might be. Bonding is a good  
3 tool that we use in the mining compliance business  
4 regularly. And we are starting to use it with our  
5 special recreation permits as well. It gives the  
6 operator a financial incentive to do the right thing,  
7 because sometimes just doing the right thing isn't all  
8 that popular. And it gives us the ability to get a  
9 problem cleaned up without additional expense to the  
10 taxpayers. So that will be part of this plan that we  
11 will be working on.

12

13                   Lastly, we do demand that every special  
14 recreation permit holder submit a post use report at  
15 the end of their season, generally the end of the  
16 calendar year. And that summarizes their activity for  
17 the privilege of working on public lands.

18

19                   And in future meetings with this  
20 Council, I will insure that we bring information that  
21 summarizes the number of operators that are working on  
22 the land, and summarizes any problems with compliance  
23 that we've encountered. That's a pretty standard thing  
24 that we can do for you for sure.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.

27

28                   MR. STONEY: Well, I'll you what, that  
29 I'm not -- like I said, I'm not against the BLM; but  
30 however the permits that's been issued for the Squirrel  
31 River, like I said again, it's really a popular area,  
32 this area, but one thing that I know by the permittees  
33 that received the permits in order to hunt the Squirrel  
34 River with aircraft, they are required big numbers on  
35 the aircraft so it could be recognized by binoculars  
36 from long ways, but I have noticed some aircraft get  
37 very, very small numbers. You can't read them.

38

39                   And the reason why I'm saying that,  
40 because I seen what happened. Some of these operators  
41 or guides, or whoever they are, they fly around and  
42 chase the caribou toward their clients. That's not  
43 legal. And then you report it to the law enforcement  
44 and they go investigate. No, he didn't do that. He  
45 didn't do -- he can't do that. Well, you were 100  
46 miles away. We watched him. They don't believe us,  
47 those law enforcement people, even though we tell  
48 them. That is why we need somebody that works so close  
49 with the BLM people that issued his permits, and try to  
50 catch some of these people that illegally chase these

1 caribou towards their clients. You know, that's  
2 something that concerns us very strongly.

3

4 MR. BALLOU: If I could address that  
5 briefly. One of the conditions of every special  
6 recreation permit that we issue is the requirement to  
7 follow all other applicable laws. We don't dictate the  
8 size of numbers on aircraft, but I'm certain that FAA  
9 does, so that would by definition put that operator out  
10 of compliance with the permit that we authorize,  
11 because they're not following through on what's  
12 required by another entity. So again photographs. It  
13 sounds like you need a telephoto lens, but a photograph  
14 is very helpful, with the date and the time and the  
15 location even better.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

18

19 MR. BALLOU: Thank you very much again.

20

21 MR. STONEY: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

24

25 Okay. Melinda, we'll get back to the  
26 agenda.

27

28 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Next on  
29 the agency reports we should check and see on the phone  
30 if there's anyone from ADF&G who would still like to  
31 speak, and maybe Jennifer Yuhas or Drew Crawford if  
32 they have anything if they're still on the line.

33

34 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. Mr. Chair, this  
35 Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
36 Game, Federal subsistence liaison team in Anchorage.

37

38 Jim Dau's presentation this morning is  
39 the only report we have for you today. And I don't  
40 have anything further to add at this time.

41

42 Over

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

45

46 MS. BURKE: Thanks for making that  
47 happen, Drew. That was awesome.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, it is.

50

1 MS. BURKE: And then next down here,  
2 I'm going to go head and let Chris just cover really  
3 super quick -- oh, I'm sorry, George, did you -- oh.  
4 Let Chris quickly give us an update on some OSM  
5 personnel and staffing changes.

6  
7 Mr. Chair.

8  
9 MR. MCKEE: Good afternoon. Mr. Chair.  
10 Members of the Council.

11  
12 Yeah. Like Melissa said, I'll be  
13 quick. Just a few relative staffing updates. As you  
14 might remember, I think probably a year ago, OSM was  
15 down some 12 or 13 Staff members. And that obviously  
16 made doing our work a tad more difficult.

17  
18 Since that time we've done a really  
19 good job of filling Staff at OSM. And most importantly  
20 I just want to quickly go over a few of what I consider  
21 the key hires.

22  
23 First and foremost Orville Lind was  
24 hired as our Native liaison. He's worked for 23 years  
25 in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a refuge  
26 information technician, and then a refuge manager and  
27 Native liaison in the Bristol Bay region. And he is  
28 also the former village chief for Chignik Lake and Port  
29 Heiden. So we're really happy to have him. He was  
30 working on a detailed basis with us for a while, and  
31 we're really, really happy to have him on a permanent  
32 basis now. So that's good news for us.

33  
34 Jennifer Harden was hired as the  
35 Anthropology Division chief. She's coming to OSM from  
36 working as a cultural anthropologist at Yosemite  
37 National Park in California, and she'll be leading a  
38 Staff of four anthropologists and social scientist,  
39 filling a position that's been vacant for over a year  
40 and a half.

41  
42 More close to my personal interests, I  
43 just recently hired two new wildlife biologists. The  
44 Wildlife Division has been about half staffed for well  
45 over a year. I've been the Wildlife Division chief  
46 only since last July, so I was trying to rehire my own  
47 old position, and one other that was vacated a few  
48 months before me.

49  
50 So the first new biologist is Lisa

1 Maas, and she has worked as a wildlife biologist with  
2 the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge since  
3 2011. And during her tenure there, she's participated  
4 with both interagency and tribal representatives on a  
5 variety of resource management issues. And she's also  
6 been responsible for preparing fairly complex NEPA and  
7 Endangered Species Act documents as well. She'll be  
8 joining OSM towards the end of April.

9

10 And then the second wildlife biologist  
11 is Suzzanne Worker, and she's been working with the  
12 Western Alaska LCC since April of 2012, and in this  
13 position she's helped make recommendations to senior  
14 staff and steering committee personnel on a variety of  
15 complex natural resource management issues. And she  
16 also has some experience with working with some  
17 reindeer herders on the Seward Peninsula, so she  
18 already has some on-the-ground experience working with  
19 subsistence users. And so we're really happy to have  
20 her join us as well. And she'll be joining OSM on  
21 March 23rd, so she'll be joining us real soon.

22

23 So those are the most relevant  
24 positions that we've hired at OSM. And I just wanted  
25 to bring those to your attention.

26

27 Either Lisa or Suzzanne will be the new  
28 biologist for Northwest Arctic, but I'm not really sure  
29 which one of them is going to be there at this point.  
30 We kind of let folks kind of decide which areas they're  
31 most interested in, depending on how things come out.  
32 So we'll let you know who exactly is staffed in what  
33 regions as soon as possible, and we'll know that by the  
34 end of next month.

35

36 And then just one more thing right  
37 before I leave here. I just wanted to reiterate once  
38 again on the record for anybody that's here in the room  
39 or might possibly have joined on the phone, again that  
40 we are still on our call for wildlife proposals. I  
41 just wanted to make that publicly available again, and  
42 that anybody can submit proposals either at these  
43 meetings, or to us in person in Anchorage at our office  
44 on Tudor road until the 25th of March. So I just  
45 wanted to make that clear again so that everybody has  
46 an opportunity to submit proposals if they wish to.

47

48 So that's all I had. Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Welcome

1 to the new Staff.

2

3 Is there anything else, Melinda we need  
4 to cover on agenda beside the future meeting.

5

6 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Just really  
7 quickly. Right here at the bottom, I included in your  
8 yellow packet a printout of the PowerPoint that the  
9 North Pacific Fishery Management Council has put out.  
10 I made the printout, and just wanted to let everybody  
11 know, and remind you that they do have a meeting coming  
12 up. And they have comment period open until the 1st of  
13 April. So I just wanted to give that, highlight that  
14 printout that I provided you. Verne's got it there in  
15 his hands. And share it with your communities and  
16 remind folks that the comment period is still open  
17 until the 1st of April.

18

19 And quickly, if there's nobody else on  
20 the phone who wants to do an agency report, I wanted to  
21 invite up Joel Hard for a couple of minutes here, who's  
22 a representative here, and designated for the Federal  
23 Subsistence Board.

24

25 Mr. Chair.

26

27 MR. HARD: I won't take long. Mr.  
28 Chairman. Members of the Council. Again my name is  
29 Joel Hard. I'm the deputy regional director for the  
30 National Park Service. But I wanted to say a couple of  
31 things as a representative of the Federal Subsistence  
32 Board.

33

34 And really I wanted to congratulate you  
35 on what I would think and would call a very productive  
36 meeting. And on behalf of the Federal Board, I want to  
37 say thank you for your service.

38

39 I think Chris and Jeff and others in  
40 the Staff behind me, have represented a number of  
41 different times that there's a tremendous amount of  
42 wisdom in the Council here today. And the decisions  
43 and recommendations you make carry great weight with  
44 the Federal Board. And I'm here as a representative of  
45 that Board to tell you that my purpose in coming to  
46 Kotzebue was to listen.

47

48 You know, this Western Arctic Caribou  
49 Herd issues is a big issues for all of us. And I  
50 learned a great deal in listening to you folks.

1                   You know, I spent about 35 years  
2 working with people on resources and public safety  
3 issues in Alaska. I really enjoy coming to these  
4 meetings. I continue to learn more, and I'm amazed at  
5 how much you folks convey to the public. So just on  
6 behalf of the Federal Board again, thank you very much  
7 for your service, and congratulations on the work you  
8 did this week. It was a tremendous week.

9  
10                   Thank you.

11  
12                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank  
13 you.

14  
15                   Anything else, Melinda besides.....

16  
17                   MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We have just a  
18 couple of quick items. I just wanted to read down the  
19 list of the annual report topics that we have. Just a  
20 reminder for everyone, this is the opportunity for  
21 every Regional Advisory Council to convey issues of  
22 concern to the Federal Subsistence Board.

23  
24                   We started this list in Kiana, and I  
25 just wanted to read off. We've got beavers and  
26 transporters were the two that we originally listed in  
27 Kiana. We got some great discussion here today. We  
28 have great discussion on the record from the Kiana  
29 meeting, so I'm confident we can have really great  
30 dialogue about those first two.

31  
32                   And then the ones that we added today.  
33 Observations from hunting season. It sounds like some  
34 education and maybe some safety issues that need to be  
35 relayed to the Board. And also the core sampling and  
36 mining activities, concerns that Calvin brought up in  
37 the Deering area.

38  
39                   So if no other Council members have any  
40 additional items to add, I feel confident that this  
41 list is really workable from the great dialogue that  
42 you put forth.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.

45  
46                   MR. M. KRAMER: If it would be possible  
47 some day, I think it would be feasible to start having  
48 one of the Federal Subsistence Board members down in  
49 Anchorage at every meeting. I think it would be a wise  
50 decision so they could start to see, you know, what it

1 is that we deal with here. And they should be at every  
2 RAC meeting, you know, in all the communities within  
3 the State to get a better understanding of what goes on  
4 out here in the communities. I think that would be --  
5 that they're getting a feel of what's going on around  
6 the State. And that's my suggestion, and I think it  
7 would wise, and it's always good to meet them, you  
8 know, and know who that we're sending these proposals  
9 to, you know. I think it would be a wise decision if  
10 the Federal Board can occasionally come up for  
11 meetings, you know, whether it be one or two, you know,  
12 just to come up and say high and meet us.

13

14 MS. BURKE: I think that's a great  
15 suggestion. Thank you very much.

16

17 And if nobody has any further topics, I  
18 think that's a really great list for our 2014 Annual  
19 Report. For the Council's FYI, I'll be working on this  
20 letter in the next couple of weeks, and it will go  
21 through the review process. I'll send it to Attamuk  
22 and everyone else and let you folks have a peak at it  
23 before we start internal office -- internal office  
24 review.

25

26 Mr. Chair. Number 13, for future  
27 meeting dates, in our fall meeting in Kiana we had --  
28 and if everybody turns to Page 28, that's where the  
29 meeting calendar is there in the book. And we had  
30 listed down tentatively, and I'm not sure if Percy's  
31 back on the line of not, we had tentatively listed  
32 October 6th and 7th in Buckland. And if the Council is  
33 okay with that, we can leave it, or if there's anyone  
34 who has any other suggestions. That was what the  
35 Council wanted to try to meet in another village, and  
36 Percy had offered up Buckland October 6th and 7th.

37

38 And for the next winter meeting after  
39 that, you don't need to select dates. What OSM is  
40 planning on doing is having an all-Council meeting in  
41 Anchorage. So instead of the meeting cycle being  
42 spread out over a couple of months in the calendar that  
43 you see here, next year we will invite all of the  
44 Councils to come to Anchorage on the same week. So  
45 there will be times when all 100 plus Council members  
46 will be sitting in the room deliberating common issues.  
47 There will be break-out times for Councils to take care  
48 of individual business. And also we'll have some  
49 different workshops and training opportunities to go  
50 into maybe refuge issues, ANILCA, C&T, and some of

1 those different issues to go ahead and workshop some of  
2 those and have open discussion with Council members and  
3 Staff. It will be a really great opportunity for  
4 everyone who works in the program to be together next  
5 year for the winter meeting cycle.

6

7 Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Thank you. I  
10 think the meeting in Anchorage will be well. We're  
11 going to see how the other Councils are doing, and they  
12 would hear what we have to say. So I think that would  
13 be really important for us.

14

15 No, that's the fire alarms.

16

17 Calvin.

18

19 MR. MOTO: Yeah. I was wondering --  
20 the reason I shook my head when you said Buckland,  
21 Deering has quite a history, you know. We have a mine  
22 there, we have the bird rookery where the sea gulls and  
23 arctic muir lay their eggs. We also have -- we're very  
24 close to the Bering Land Bridge. We also have another  
25 site just a few miles east of Deering called Kugruk  
26 which used to at one time hold about 2,000 people  
27 mining. At one time during the height of gold mining  
28 in Deering we had about 15,000 people from all over the  
29 world. We have one of the oldest stores still standing  
30 in Deering which was built in 1912. We have one of the  
31 oldest Alaska territorial high schools which is still  
32 standing. We have quite a few things we could offer.  
33 Once we find out for sure where we're going to meet, I  
34 could work -- we could probably work with the two  
35 Councils and form some kind of tours for either the  
36 mine or wherever you want to see.

37

38 If you want to see birds. Just 20  
39 miles, 25 miles west of Deering is where all the geese,  
40 crane, ducks go to nest. We have a lot of boats you  
41 can hire to go there and look at them before they take  
42 off. Probably October, they'll be gone, but, you know,  
43 there are other things that we have to offer is pretty  
44 good.

45

46 And we'll have a brief history of what  
47 Deering was like at one time. I have recorded some of  
48 the activities that happened in the 40s and 50s in  
49 Deering, and how Deering came to be. At one time  
50 Deering or Deering Church used to be just a subsistence

1 area, because there's not wood there, and people used  
2 to live up where the mind is now. That used to be  
3 where, because there is wood there.

4  
5 This is something that a lot of people  
6 don't realize. We have a lot of old things there that  
7 we could offer you.

8  
9 You could see one of the -- we have a  
10 mask that was found, it's very intricate. You turn it  
11 around and the eyes will move and stuff like that. It  
12 was built in the -- it was made by a (In Inupiaq) a  
13 witchdoctor. What they said that he was evil. So they  
14 killed him, yet we found the grave from him. They had  
15 14 arrowheads and 8 spears in his body. They cut his  
16 arms and legs off. They said this way the spirit won't  
17 bother him. This is something, fables, you know.

18  
19 We've got a lot of different things we  
20 could offer. It's up to you though, because if you  
21 want to go to Buckland, go right ahead.

22  
23 MS. BURKE: Well, it's not up to me,  
24 it's up to the Council.

25  
26 Mr. Chair. And I know Percy was going  
27 to look into some accommodations there in town. So  
28 what I would suggest to the Council would be to keep  
29 Buckland on there since we got the invite last year,  
30 but to keep Deering as the back up just in case  
31 something happens, you know. There's a lot of things  
32 that we really need, to make sure that we have a  
33 teleconference line with a separate phone that isn't  
34 going to interrupt a tribe or a community's business.  
35 So we still have a little bit of time. And if the  
36 Council's comfortable, we could keep Buckland on there  
37 and put Deering as the backup. But it's the Council's  
38 wish.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I'm  
41 comfortable with Buckland for now, because they asked  
42 first, and we would, you know, see what they say.

43  
44 Go ahead, Verne.

45  
46 MR. CLEVELAND: I had a hard time  
47 getting from Noorvik to Kiana, inter-village travel. I  
48 would suggest we have it right here in Kotz since it's  
49 our hub, you know. I mean, we've got everything right  
50 here, and just making it.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Verne say  
2 Kotzebue.  
3  
4 Hannah.  
5  
6 MS. LOON: I think we had a very good  
7 successful meeting in Kiana last fall. So I would  
8 recommend we go village.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Point taken. Anyone  
11 else comment on whether Deering, Buckland, here.  
12  
13 MS. LOON: Selawik.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Selawik.  
16  
17 MS. BURKE: And this is an action item,  
18 Mr. Chair. So I just wanted to remind the Council this  
19 will be an action item, so we'll need a motion.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I feel comfortable  
22 with Buckland, because they asked, Percy asked when we  
23 were in Kiana last year, and that's why it's  
24 highlighted here, you know, for falltime.  
25  
26 Go ahead, Hannah.  
27  
28 MS. LOON: I make a motion for our next  
29 meeting to be in Buckland, Alaska October 6 and 7.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll second it.  
32 Nobody's saying nothing.  
33  
34 MS. BURKE: Hannah, it's always good,  
35 too, when we go to a village, it's always good to have  
36 a backup. So if we feel comfortable, we could always  
37 do Deering as a backup and then Kotzebue as a third  
38 kind of safety net.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.  
41  
42 MS. LOON: I make an amendment to my  
43 motion to put Deering as the second backup, and if  
44 Deering can't, Kotzebue will be the next one.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.  
47  
48 MS. BURKE: A second?  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I seconded it. So

1 I'll second the amendment. I will withdraw my first  
2 second. Question.  
3  
4 MS. LOON: Question.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question's been  
7 called for. All in favor for number 1 and 2, I guess  
8 put it that way, Buckland and Deering, and 3, Kotzebue.  
9 All in favor signify by saying aye.  
10  
11 IN UNISON: Aye.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Nay?  
14  
15 MR. CLEVELAND: Aye.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. One. Okay.  
18 Let's put it that way. The rest is okay.  
19  
20 MS. BURKE: Okay. I've got it. And,  
21 Mr. Chair, I believe unless there's -- I want to  
22 emphasize again on the phone if there's any public or  
23 any tribal folks on the line who would like to speak,  
24 we're not done with the meeting quite yet.  
25  
26 (No comments)  
27  
28 MS. BURKE: And if not, Mr. Chair, I  
29 believe we're ready for closing comments.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone,  
32 motion to adjourn.  
33  
34 MS. BURKE: Do we want to make  
35 comments.  
36  
37 MR. STONEY: Comments she said.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. Or a  
40 comment?  
41  
42 MR. STONEY: Yeah.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.  
45  
46 MS. BURKE: Do we want to do closing  
47 comments.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll make mine brief.  
50 Welcome. That was a good meeting. I was happy with

1 what's going on here. And I can't say any more. We  
2 all hear what we're saying. And I thank the Staff for  
3 listening to us, and you guys are pretty good. So nice  
4 working with you guys. I'm happy.

5  
6 Go ahead, Raymond.

7  
8 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9  
10 I certainly want to thank the Kiana  
11 meeting. I want to thank all the Staff that went to  
12 Kiana, and I hope you enjoyed staying at Kiana. It was  
13 very honored to us that the information that you  
14 brought up to Kiana is not forgotten. It's still up to  
15 date.

16  
17 And secondly, Mr. Chairman, our meeting  
18 today was very successful. Since I've been with the  
19 group in 1994, this is the first time we ever changed  
20 some these proposals to be presented to the Board of  
21 Game on their meeting. I'm very honored and very  
22 pleased what we've done today.

23  
24 I want to thank all the Staff, and  
25 good, you know, meeting.

26  
27 And, Mr. Chairman, on your presentation  
28 to the Board of Game, we'll back you up on your strong  
29 voice about these changes we made on the proposal for  
30 female caribou and the bulls.

31  
32 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. For your  
35 information, I'm going to testify for the State AC for  
36 Kotzebue AC, next I will go in later for the Federal.  
37 So thank you, Raymond, and talk to me.

38  
39 Go ahead, Hannah.

40  
41 MS. LOON: Thank you.

42  
43 Thank you, Northwest Arctic Borough.  
44 Maybe, Verne, you could relay to the borough assembly  
45 thank you, mayor, for allowing us to have our meetings  
46 here. We enjoy meeting the Staff.

47  
48 And thank you, OSM, and everybody,  
49 National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, BLM. I feel  
50 like it's been a very good experience for me and

1 learning from you.

2

3                   And, Enoch, we're in support of you to  
4 try to make sure that your Kivalina and Noatak needs,  
5 or that they will hear you. Good luck on those that  
6 are going to go testify to the Board of Game. And  
7 thank you, RAC Staff. Thank you, Melinda, thank you  
8 very much, and your Staff and everybody. Thanks.

9

10                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

11

12                   Anyone else. Go ahead, Mike.

13

14                   MR. M. KRAMER: Yeah, I wish I was here  
15 for all the other agency reports. That's one of the  
16 things I enjoy hearing the most, because of all the  
17 guide usage and transporter usage.

18

19                   You know, I've been here quite a few  
20 years, about six years, and I've enjoyed every moment  
21 when I'm at these meetings. I just told my boss a  
22 while ago, I said, next time we have a Federal  
23 subsistence meeting, I'm on leave. I said, I don't  
24 like to miss it. And he agrees.

25

26                   But with us traveling, you know, it  
27 will be pretty good. I enjoy seeing other people and  
28 meeting other people and hearing other villages'  
29 concerns. And I think, you know, with all of us going  
30 to meetings. I think before we close today we should  
31 try and decide on another village meeting now. That  
32 way we have something in stone for the next time. You  
33 know, that way we have it ready and it will be, you  
34 know, put up way ahead of time than having to do it the  
35 meeting before.

36

37                   But it's always a pleasure hearing, you  
38 know, all the biologists' reports. I enjoy hearing  
39 about studies about our animals, because I've done it  
40 before with Park Service, Brad Schulz, counting muskox,  
41 moose, wolverine. And I enjoy hearing more and more  
42 about these studies occurring. We not only harvest  
43 them, but we like to learn about them. I also teach my  
44 kids a lot about it, too. You know, the caribou  
45 report. What is that? I can't remember what it's  
46 called, but it's a general newspaper type thing on the  
47 caribou herd. I enjoy getting those from Fish and Game  
48 and, you know, allowing my kids to read those.

49

50                   Hopefully at our next meeting, you

1 know, we have a representative, you know, one of the  
2 Board members from the Federal Subsistence Board to  
3 come here and hang out with us and be able to enjoy it  
4 and see what we do.

5  
6 That's it.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.

9  
10 Go ahead, Verne. I mean Mike --  
11 Calvin.

12  
13 MR. MOTO: Yeah. I want to thank you  
14 for bringing me here for meeting, and I enjoy meeting  
15 new people. A lot of my new friends, old friends.  
16 There are some people I know for quite a while.

17  
18 I know we're a diverse group, but it  
19 seems like we work together pretty well, even though we  
20 come from different sections of the region, and we have  
21 different needs. But you've got to remember all the  
22 needs we need are interrelated, because we need the  
23 resource out there, and we need to be able to find ways  
24 to protect the resources for our future generation so  
25 they could enjoy what we have.

26  
27 A lot of times people ask me how do you  
28 know so much about subsistence. I said, well, in the  
29 30s and 40s, that's how we lived, on subsistence only.  
30 Subsistence food in Deering, until the miners came  
31 along and then we said, we could have likoback (ph) for  
32 breakfast, lunch and dinner at Deering. And when we  
33 have a good harvest, we used to have celebrations. We  
34 used to play a type of tag game called manamana (ph).  
35 What we have is two big circles and two small circles,  
36 which is jail. And after the harvest everybody used to  
37 play manamana, even grandmas. I remember us boys, we  
38 used to play can't catch our grandmas. We say, boy,  
39 Anaan, you sure could run fast. They say, aunie (ph)  
40 you boys. But, you know, that's how we respected our  
41 elders, you know, because we know how hard they work  
42 harvesting.

43  
44 Not only did we play that, we played  
45 Norwegian which is a type of stickball. And then we  
46 also had a football made out of seal hide stuffed with  
47 reindeer herd. We tossed our football. We couldn't use  
48 our hands, just our feet, you know. But these are  
49 things that we did after a good harvest. Eskimo dance  
50 and everything.

1                   But this is how I know so much about  
2 most of our culture and our action, you know,  
3 subsistence way of life is something. A lot of people  
4 ask me, what is your definition of subsistence. One  
5 word I always say, survival. If we didn't subsist, get  
6 subsistence, we didn't survive. Our ancestors, if they  
7 didn't survive, I wouldn't be here. You wouldn't be  
8 here. But you've got to remember subsistence. The  
9 true meaning of subsistence, survival. A lot of people  
10 say tradition, culture. no, that comes after survival.  
11 Survival is the true definition of subsistence.

12

13                   Thank you for -- I didn't want to take  
14 too much of your time.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

17

18                   Go ahead, Verne.

19

20                   MR. CLEVELAND: I'll make mine very  
21 short. Thank you.

22

23                   (Laughter)

24

25                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

26

27                   MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I just wanted  
28 to address Mike's concern. I think since we've gotten  
29 invites from two villages, we'll kind of have those  
30 standing. So if Buckland doesn't work out, I'll make  
31 sure in the notation that we've got Deering. The next  
32 time this Council goes to a village, the order will be  
33 Buckland and then Deering, if that makes everybody  
34 comfortable.

35

36                   And also I just wanted to point out,  
37 too, we've got our next student art contest for the  
38 office, and the winners make it into the regulation  
39 book, so please take some of these, have your kids and  
40 grandkids draw some great wildlife pictures and send  
41 them in. We'd love to see more entries from this  
42 region.

43

44                   Thank you so much. I'm very honored to  
45 work with this Council, and I always enjoy spending  
46 time with you, and thank you for being patient with our  
47 processes and travel, and I know things get a little  
48 frustrating sometimes, but I appreciate everybody's  
49 patience. Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Mike.  
2  
3 MR. M. KRAMER: Yeah, just a reminder.  
4 I see a couple of our members are expiring this year.  
5 And I think I am next year. But it's always a pleasure  
6 working with all of you guys, and it would be good to  
7 continue to see you guys here. I know we have a vacant  
8 seat, and I am still the youngest guy here.  
9  
10 (Laughter)  
11  
12 MR. M. KRAMER: So it would be great to  
13 get some more people out there. It would be good to  
14 try and get Upper Kobuk, seeing if there's a  
15 possibility we could get somebody from the Upper Kobuk  
16 on the Board, but it would be a pleasure to see you  
17 guys continue to be here with me.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Verne will answer  
20 that Upper Kobuk, I think he have someone in mind.  
21  
22 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. No, I just have  
23 to -- we have a big gathering in Noorvik this coming  
24 week. We're going to have over-population. about 1,000  
25 people in Noorvik, and I'm missing out already, because  
26 I had no room to go back tonight, but I'll try in the  
27 morning. But you guys are welcome to come up and  
28 there's a conference meeting starting tomorrow until  
29 Sunday, and we have a NANA meeting on Monday.  
30  
31 Thank you. Have a safe trip back.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.  
34  
35 MS. LOON: I forget to mention, thank  
36 you, NANA representative for coming in and helping us  
37 out. And, Mike, don't go yet. We need you here. We  
38 need young minds.  
39  
40 Thank you.  
41  
42 MR. M. KRAMER: I ain't going.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,  
45 Hannah. Thank you, Mike.  
46  
47 Go ahead, Melinda, you're ready. We're  
48 done.  
49  
50 MS. BURKE: I'm just ready to type out

1 whoever makes the motion to adjourn.

2

3 MR. M. KRAMER: Yeah, I make the motion  
4 to adjourn.

5

6 MS. LOON: Seconded.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You know, we forget  
9 to ask our Recorder. She probably hear everybody.  
10 Migratory birds. Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Us.  
11 Other people. I think her point is she'd be well  
12 taken, what she hears of why we have any questions.

13

14 Melinda, you got any questions, you  
15 know where to get ahold of her. She should have  
16 everything she need up here.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MS. BURKE: Sounds good. Does anybody  
21 call for the question.

22

23 MR. CLEVELAND: Call the question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been  
26 called. Adjourned until the next meeting.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 (Off record)

31

32 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 94 through 273 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC on the 10th day of March 2015;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 21st day of March 2015.

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