

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING  
5  
6 VOLUME I  
7  
8  
9 National Park Service  
10 Multipurpose Room  
11  
12 Kotzebue, Alaska  
13 February 19, 2010  
14 9:04 a.m.  
15  
16 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:  
17  
18 Walter Sampson, Chairman  
19 Attamuk  
20 Leslie Burns  
21 Jon Gregg  
22 Victor Karmun  
23 Pierre Lonewolf  
24  
25 Larry Buklis, Acting Regional Council Coordinator  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 2/19/2010)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I'll get started.  
It's 9:04. I will call the Northwest Regional Advisory  
Council to order at this time. We will have a moment  
of silence, please.

(Moment of silence)

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. We'll  
have roll call.

REPORTER: I'll do it. Percy Ballot.

(No audible response)

REPORTER: Leslie Burns.

MR. BURNS: Here.

REPORTER: Victor Karmun.

MR. KARMUN: Yes.

REPORTER: Jon Gregg.

MR. GREGG: Present.

REPORTER: Pierre Lonewolf.

MR. LONEWOLF: Here.

REPORTER: Walter Sampson.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Present.

REPORTER: Attamuk.

ATTAMUK: Present. There was an email  
I checked this morning that Percy Ballot was excused  
from Barb.

REPORTER: Thank you. Austin Swan.

(No audible response)

1                   REPORTER: Okay, Mr. Chair. You have a  
2 quorum.

3  
4                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. First of  
5 all, I want to welcome each and every one of you to our  
6 Regional Advisory Council. I would like to reiterate  
7 the importance of the committee and how it relates to  
8 subsistence in the Federal Board. The system that's  
9 been set up here is similar to the one that the State  
10 of Alaska has where the State has State Advisory  
11 Council and their charge is to be advisors to the State  
12 Game Board.

13  
14                   The role that we play here is similar  
15 to what the State structure has. We're the advisors to  
16 the Federal Board in regards to make recommendations,  
17 in regards to proposals or a comment on proposals that  
18 are submitted to the Federal system for  
19 recommendations. So it is critically important to all  
20 of us that in the future we participate in any way we  
21 can at the Regional Advisory Council process.

22  
23                   With that, we'll do quick introductions  
24 here. We'll start from the left.

25  
26                   ATTAMUK: Attamuk Shiedt from Kotzebue.

27  
28                   MR. BURNS: Leslie Burns from Noatak.

29  
30                   MR. LONEWOLF: Pierre Lonewolf,  
31 Kotzebue.

32  
33                   MR. KARMUN: Victor Karmun, Kotzebue.

34  
35                   MR. GREGG: Jon Gregg, Kotzebue.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. And  
38 Walter Sampson also from Kotzebue. We do have a quorum  
39 to conduct business today. You have an agenda before  
40 you. Is there any changes or additions or deletions to  
41 the agenda that's before you.

42  
43                   MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
44 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. At your  
45 last meeting, the Park Service brought up a request  
46 from one of our commercial sport hunting guides, Mr.  
47 Jake Jacobson, to adjust the way the numbers of clients  
48 are applied in the permit and the Council didn't  
49 apparently feel like they had enough information and  
50 they wanted to wait providing input into that until

1 this meeting.

2

3                   The materials, the request from Mr.  
4 Jacobson and an analysis of the request are in your  
5 Council booklets, so we would like to have that brought  
6 up either as old business. It depends on how the  
7 Council wishes to address it. We could probably deal  
8 with it under agency reports, but I think since it's a  
9 carryover it would be old business and I didn't see any  
10 old business items on the agenda.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Where would you  
13 suggest we place that section of the agenda as a  
14 discussion?

15

16                   MR. ADKISSON: I think it's entirely up  
17 to you, Mr. Sampson, as Chair. We just wanted to get  
18 it up and if the Council had any input into it.

19

20                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We can put that  
21 under the agency report.

22

23                   MR. ADKISSON: That would be fine with  
24 us.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So make note that  
27 the agency gives us a report on that and also to make  
28 sure you remind us. Is there any other changes? Go  
29 ahead, Attamuk.

30

31                   ATTAMUK: Attamuk here. On the agenda  
32 I don't see the one we usually put out right after this  
33 is the village concerns.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. We can put  
36 that under 7. Any others. Go ahead.

37

38                   MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. My name is  
39 Larry Buklis. I'm with the Office of Subsistence  
40 Management and due to some Staff illnesses I'll be  
41 serving as your Council coordinator today. There were  
42 a couple of agenda changes I wanted to recommend. One  
43 is item number 7. Your regular coordinator, Barbara  
44 Atoruk, was recommending that we not have item number  
45 7, Western Arctic Caribou Herd representative at this  
46 meeting, but plan ahead for the next meeting. She  
47 thought we'd be better prepared for that then.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I don't have number  
50 7.

1 MR. BUKLIS: It's on Page 2, number 7,  
2 the Arctic Caribou Herd. She was recommending that we  
3 reschedule that for the next meeting.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

6  
7 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you on that. The  
8 other one was under number 9, the draft annual report.  
9 At that time we wanted to bring to your attention a  
10 letter that we have copies of from special assistant  
11 Pat Pourchot regarding the subsistence program review.  
12 If you wanted to respond to that at some time in a  
13 letter or in your annual report, that's an opportunity  
14 to do that. So we could talk about the Pourchot letter  
15 then.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And that is also  
18 what I have under my changes, is to get a current  
19 subsistence recommendation if there is so we can have  
20 some ideas in regards to what those might be. It would  
21 be good to know. Somebody should have some information  
22 in regards to the recommendations that are being made.  
23 Victor.

24  
25 MR. KARMUN: Are we going to have  
26 enough time to review this letter from Mr. Pourchot or  
27 are you going to read it to us or is it going to be  
28 presented at this meeting or what?

29  
30 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. It's more  
31 of an informational item at this point. That review  
32 process is under Mr. Pourchot. We and OSM don't have a  
33 specific role in that, so we're not here to advise you  
34 on it or to work with you to make responses. It's Mr.  
35 Pourchot's review process that he's leading. This is  
36 sort of an informational update to let you know where  
37 he's at in the process. It is an opportunity for you  
38 to further comment about the review and your concerns,  
39 but it's not something that we are prepared to lead you  
40 through. It's more your response to his update.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So we can put that  
43 -- number 9 can stay on the agenda. We can ask some  
44 questions in regards to the issues that I have as well.  
45 It would be good to try to get current information in  
46 regards to where Department of Interior is at with that  
47 very issue. Victor.

48  
49 MR. KARMUN: Victor Karmun here. He  
50 doesn't have a representative from his Staff here by

1 any chance?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We've got Department  
4 of Interior here.

5

6 MR. KARMUN: I mean Pat Pourchot's  
7 staff. Department of Interior to me is a different  
8 entity.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, Department of  
11 Interior and Subsistence Division should have all that  
12 information in regards to what the recommendations  
13 might be in regards to subsistence and how the  
14 Department of Interior itself is looking at making a  
15 change. So somebody from the office should have an  
16 idea where things are at with that. That's why I'm  
17 asking that we get a current report in regards to where  
18 things are in relation to the request that was made by  
19 the Department of Interior Ken Salazar and what Pat  
20 Pourchot's work has been.

21

22 So we can cover that under 9 if that's  
23 what you want to do. I would suggest we get a report  
24 on that.

25

26 MR. KARMUN: I have no problem with  
27 that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Any others.  
30 Yes.

31

32 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Two points.  
33 First, I could hand out copies of that letter now so  
34 that during breaks and over lunch Council members have  
35 it and they could maybe be looking ahead. Secondly,  
36 when you have a moment we'd like to dial in so that  
37 Barbara Atoruk could listen in to the meeting from her  
38 office. Due to family issues, she wasn't able to  
39 attend this meeting, but she could participate by phone  
40 at least if you would let us dial her in.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So there is  
43 capability then to get into the public system by the  
44 telephone?

45

46 MR. BUKLIS: It wasn't meant to allow  
47 public testimony in. It was meant to allow your  
48 regular Council coordinator to be present by phone  
49 since she's sorry she couldn't be here in person.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I asked early on  
2 before the meeting started that if there's a capability  
3 of airing this very meeting over KOTZ for informational  
4 purpose for people in this region and I was told that  
5 there is none. Now you're telling me that there's  
6 capability to get an outside line to talk to someone  
7 else somewhere.

8  
9 MR. KARMUN: Mr. Chairman. I'm not  
10 sure how we would connect to the radio station for  
11 broadcast. I'm not aware of the link there. All I'm  
12 aware of is the phone line that allows us to have  
13 Barbara Atoruk present by phone. As far as the radio  
14 system, I'm not familiar with that.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you.  
17 Any others. What's the wish of the committee. Go  
18 ahead.

19  
20 MR. KARMUN: I just noticed something.  
21 We didn't get any introductions from the people in the  
22 audience, please.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That I have on my  
25 agenda. Any others.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Seeing none,  
30 we'll get introductions. We'll start with the guy in  
31 the back.

32  
33 MR. EASTLAND: I'm Warren Eastland.  
34 I'm the wildlife biologist for Bureau of Indian  
35 Affairs.

36  
37 MR. OVIATT: George Oviatt with the  
38 Bureau of Land Management.

39  
40 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson,  
41 subsistence program manager for the Park Service, I'm  
42 stationed in Nome.

43  
44 MR. HOLT: Michael Holt, archeologist  
45 for the Park Service.

46  
47 MR. ERLICH: John Erlich, BLM, Kotzebue  
48 field office.

49  
50 MS. CRAIG: Erica Craig, wildlife

1 biologist with Bureau of Land Management.

2

3 MS. JOHNSON: Marcy Johnson, biologist  
4 for the Park Service.

5

6 MS. MORAN: Tina Moran, deputy manager  
7 of the Selawik Refuge in Kotzebue.

8

9 MS. WESTING: Charlotte Westing. I'm  
10 the area biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish &  
11 Game here in Kotzebue.

12

13 MR. SAITO: Brandon Saito, wildlife  
14 biologist, Selawik Refuge.

15

16 MS. JACOBSON: I'm Shelly Jacobson,  
17 field manager for Bureau Land Management in Fairbanks.

18

19 MR. HELFRICH: George Helfrich,  
20 National Park Service.

21

22 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette with  
23 the Selawik Wildlife Refuge here in Kotzebue.

24

25 MS. BROWN: Cole Brown, Office of  
26 Subsistence Management, wildlife biologist.

27

28 REPORTER: My name is Tina and I'm the  
29 recorder for the Council. Thank you.

30

31 MR. BUKLIS: Larry Buklis, Office of  
32 Subsistence Management, serving as your Council  
33 coordinator today.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Can you give us a  
36 quick background in regards to your background.

37

38 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I  
39 serve as the fisheries division chief with the Office  
40 of Subsistence Management. I've been with the  
41 subsistence program about 10 years and I previously  
42 served in a number of capacities, including policy  
43 coordinator, deputy assistant regional director and  
44 fish biologist. Before that I worked for over 21 years  
45 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the  
46 northern region of the state with an emphasis on the  
47 Yukon but including the Arctic and the Kuskokwim and  
48 that was for the Commercial Fisheries Division. That  
49 was primarily as a research biologist.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
2 What's the wish of the committee under 4. Victor.

3  
4 MR. KARMUN: I make a motion that we  
5 adopt the agenda as modified.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion  
8 made to adopt the agenda as modified. Is there a  
9 second.

10  
11 ATTAMUK: I'll second.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Attamuk seconds.  
14 Discussion on the motion.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All those in favor  
19 of the motion signify by saying aye.

20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed same  
24 sign.

25  
26 (No opposing votes)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries.  
29 Review and adoption of the minutes from our previous  
30 meeting, April 3, 2009. Any changes to the minutes of  
31 the previous meeting. Attamuk.

32  
33 ATTAMUK: Walter, I was going to ask I  
34 thought our last meeting was in September.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Larry, he's got a  
37 question in regards to the last meeting. I'm sorry,  
38 we've got two different dates here. April 3 is what I  
39 was referring to and there's also an Advisory Council  
40 for September 2.

41  
42 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I believe  
43 the minutes are correct. It was September 2nd in  
44 Kotzebue on Page 4 of your Council book.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I see what I'm  
47 doing. I'm looking at the minutes that were previously  
48 acted on for April 3. So the minutes are for September  
49 2, 2009. Can we put this on the table for discussion.  
50 What's the wish of the committee.

1 ATTAMUK: Yes.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Would you like to  
4 make a motion to adopt the minutes for discussion  
5 purposes.  
6  
7 ATTAMUK: Yes, I'd like to see it  
8 discussed because it was never asked.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Is that a  
11 motion?  
12  
13 ATTAMUK: Yes.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. There's  
16 a motion made to adopt September 2, 2009 minutes.  
17  
18 Is there a second.  
19  
20 MR. LONEWOLF: Second.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Seconded. Okay. Go  
23 ahead.  
24  
25 MS. CRAIG: You asked if there were any  
26 corrections.....  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.  
29  
30 MS. CRAIG: .....to those minutes.  
31  
32 REPORTER: Would you state your name,  
33 please.  
34  
35 MS. CRAIG: I'm sorry. My name is  
36 Erica Craig. I'm a wildlife biologist for the Central  
37 Yukon Field Office for the BLM out of Fairbanks, but my  
38 area that I'm responsible for is the Northwest Arctic  
39 area. On Page 10 of the minutes at the top of the page  
40 it states that in the second line the plans  
41 specifically, and we're talking about the Squirrel  
42 River plan, addresses the Squirrel River special  
43 recreation management area, and should be completed by  
44 April 2010. That is an error. It's projected  
45 completion date is in April of 2011.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Question  
48 to you. When you say Squirrel River special recreation  
49 management area, specifically what is it?  
50

1 MS. CRAIG: We are currently in the  
2 process of doing a special management plan for the  
3 region around the Squirrel River that is an amendment  
4 to the Kobuk/Seward Plan. I mentioned in the September  
5 meetings I brought up that we were in the process of  
6 updating that plan because specifically when the  
7 Kobuk/Seward Plan was put into place there were  
8 concerns in that region dealing with such things as air  
9 transporters and air taxis, so that was in response to  
10 that and we're currently working on that. I'll give  
11 you an update in our agency report.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So does this mean  
14 that the plan that you're talking about is more  
15 specific to the agency's recommendation or is it a part  
16 of the process that the community was when a change was  
17 being made?

18  
19 MS. CRAIG: The plan is responsive to  
20 community input for it.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Does it also mean  
23 now that this area that you've indicated as a special  
24 recreation management area is it wild and scenic or is  
25 it just special recreation area?

26  
27 MS. CRAIG: It's designated a special  
28 recreation management area. It is not a wild and  
29 scenic.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Would you define for  
32 us please exactly what special recreation management  
33 area means.

34  
35 MS. CRAIG: I will address that to our  
36 field office manager, Shelly Jacobson.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Please take the  
39 podium. We might have some questions.

40  
41 MS. JACOBSON: In the Kobuk/Seward  
42 Plan, our sort of over-arching resource management  
43 plan, that's what BLM calls our land use plans, we had  
44 identified two areas within the geography that was  
45 covered by that plan that needed more specific  
46 strategies to deal with issues that were identified  
47 during the planning process.

48  
49 BLM sort of classifies sport hunting as  
50 a recreation and also the guiding and transporting the

1 permits that they get from BLM are special recreation  
2 permits for that activity. So the special recreation  
3 management area that had been identified as the BLM  
4 lands within the Squirrel River drainage are the lands  
5 that would be focused on in this plan and hopefully  
6 also then with partners.

7

8 We've got the Department of Natural  
9 Resources and the Bureau that have agreed to partner  
10 with us and I think sort of informally also Kiana and  
11 Noorvik. We've talked to them. So far they haven't  
12 wanted to officially enter into an MOU, but I think  
13 we'll probably do more formalized government-to-  
14 government consultation with them along the way and  
15 keep them updated. They went with us last fall in an  
16 overflight of the area to help us identify certain  
17 areas where they had issues and whatnot. So we're just  
18 hoping to write a more focused plan for just that area.  
19 The other area was the Kigluaik Mountains down off the  
20 Seward Peninsula.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now as far as a plan  
23 itself is concerned, where is that? You've indicated  
24 there is a focus here to make a change in the plan.  
25 Where is that change process?

26

27 MS. JACOBSON: Well, in the process of  
28 doing the special recreation area management plan, the  
29 planning process requires us to identify certain  
30 niches, I guess you might say, or markets or clientele  
31 that we're trying to serve through the management plan.  
32 In other words, if subsistence users are our primary  
33 user group, the plan would identify strategies to  
34 enhance and encourage that. That we've been informed  
35 is sort of a zoning -- could result in a zoning thing,  
36 which is a land use allocation, which is what normally  
37 happens in the over-arching plan, but in this case it  
38 didn't, so this more focused plan will actually serve  
39 to amend the larger plan to make those allocation  
40 decisions. Because of that it has to be published in  
41 the Federal Register and there's a more formal process  
42 when it is something that actually amends the land use  
43 plan and it was just a process that the BLM adopted.

44

45 This new recreation planning process  
46 just came around sort of at the tail end of when we  
47 were almost done with that Kobuk/Seward plan, so we  
48 didn't really have a chance to incorporate it into the  
49 overall plan.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So that process or  
2 that planning process that you explained to us in  
3 regards to information for folks in Kiana, was there  
4 any specific problems, issues, that they might raise to  
5 the amendment that you were talking to us about?  
6

7 MS. JACOBSON: They didn't have -- at  
8 the time we went out there, we were just kind of  
9 briefing them on it, so I think we were kind of hitting  
10 them cold. I don't think they'd had much of a chance  
11 to react to the additional planning, but they did  
12 express some of the same concerns that they had  
13 expressed during the larger planning process with  
14 regard to the impact that the transporters and their  
15 clients are having on the migration of the caribou  
16 through their area. But they were a little different,  
17 the concerns.  
18

19 I'm glad we're partnering as well with  
20 the Bureau and the village there because everyone has  
21 their own point of view and I think some of the things  
22 that I thought might be happening or that they would  
23 express to us as having been happening in terms of  
24 maybe the behavior of the people in the village doesn't  
25 sound to be as big of a concern.  
26

27 A lot of the clients don't actually go  
28 right into Kiana. They fly from here out and back, so  
29 it's good to get exactly what it is going on out there.  
30 I think they have some concerns, but I didn't hear any  
31 that were things that we hadn't heard at least in some  
32 way before that.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So even though you  
35 indicated there's not really concerns from those folks,  
36 the impacts that it will have on the community of Kiana  
37 and Noorvik and those that hunt on the Kobuk River  
38 certainly will be impacted by the very problem. What  
39 you've also told us, you've said folks in Kiana are  
40 sort of in the cold. Are you telling us that they've  
41 never been updated in regards to where things are and  
42 regards to BLM's planning?  
43

44 MS. JACOBSON: No. What I meant to say  
45 is that I think we hit them cold. In other words, they  
46 were hearing it for the first time. One of the things  
47 they did bring up that was a little bit different than  
48 we heard before was the concern about the trespass  
49 basically on their private property and their  
50 allotments and that, so that was good.

1                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That clarifies my  
2 questions in regard to the process of making those  
3 changes and how they've been part of that planning  
4 process and making those changes and I'm glad that the  
5 Bureau and others are also a part of that process. I  
6 think down the road hopefully your office will be able  
7 to go back to the community and say this is where we're  
8 at with the recommended changes in regards to the  
9 original plan that was done with this amendment to that  
10 plan.

11  
12                   MS. JACOBSON: I hope the same thing  
13 and I'm hoping -- one of the reasons I'm happy to come  
14 out here this time is that I want to see if there might  
15 be an opportunity to partner a little bit with Fish and  
16 Game. We had been told maybe they're to do one of  
17 their subsistence surveys in Kiana and evidently with  
18 possibly a little more money we might be able to do a  
19 more in depth survey, so I was going to see if we could  
20 offer to contribute to that if there's still time to  
21 get more updated information on the subsistence survey  
22 that Fish and Game was going to do.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, I think it's  
25 something the Federal agency needs to re-think about.  
26 If the State of Alaska is out of compliance with  
27 ANILCA, why is it that the Federal agency is continuing  
28 to move to working with the State; in fact, having the  
29 State of Alaska manage resources when ANILCA says that  
30 the Federal government will manage the resource? Why  
31 is it that there's no way that things can change?

32  
33                   MS. JACOBSON: I don't maybe have a  
34 good response to that although I guess all of us have  
35 not a lot of money so the reason to partner is because  
36 we probably couldn't afford to do a survey on our own  
37 there, so we're going to tag onto that, but the  
38 information we will use on ourselves, the  
39 interpretation of it and whatnot. Not that we don't  
40 recognize and rely on Fish and Game's expertise, but we  
41 also have our own biologists and people that will look  
42 at that and try to make some decisions based on that.  
43 I don't know if it would totally be in sync with Fish  
44 and Game or not, asking them to write our management  
45 plan for us.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, basically  
48 that's the direction where things are heading. That's  
49 why we have a problem in regards to the Federal system  
50 managing resources, because of the very fact that we've

1 got people from the State of Alaska with a State  
2 mentality going into the Federal system with those very  
3 issues, those very problems that we have with the State  
4 of Alaska. Somebody has to re-look at the system  
5 itself and how it's set up. If the Federal system  
6 cannot be responsible for taking over what Congress had  
7 directed them to do, I don't know how you're going to  
8 respond to Congress to say, oh, we now have the Federal  
9 management when you don't.

10

11 I keep referring to Title VIII that  
12 the State of Alaska is out of compliance, but yet we  
13 continue to depend on them doing the survey. We're  
14 giving them money to do exactly those surveys at times  
15 because the very fact that the State of Alaska is  
16 short-funded. Every time the State of Alaska deals  
17 with subsistence issue, subsistence gets the first ax  
18 on the cuts and that's the problem that we have. We  
19 see that going into the Federal system and eventually  
20 that's what's going to happen. The Federal system is  
21 going to say, oh, we have to cut. Subsistence is going  
22 to be the first one to be axed and that's what I'm  
23 trying to get at.

24

25 If Congress say under provisions of  
26 ANILCA that we're supposed to be managing the  
27 resources, but yet we're having the State of Alaska  
28 doing that. Something wrong with the system. I think  
29 it's something that you as Federal managers need to re-  
30 look at and get clarity if that's what it takes from  
31 Congress to make sure that these are being managed in  
32 that way. I'm sure recommendations from different  
33 organizations to the Department of Interior hopefully  
34 is in place and somewhere along the line there will be  
35 a change made to address those very issues.

36

37 MS. JACOBSON: I agree and I hope that  
38 one of the outcomes of this review of the subsistence  
39 program that the Secretary called for will be -- you  
40 know, maybe some important changes as you mentioned and  
41 hopefully some funding to go along with that so we can  
42 do what we need.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, we'll do a  
45 little bit more of that discussion as we go into Pat  
46 Pourchot's -- I didn't mean to get you into it, but I  
47 was trying to get some clarity in regards to those  
48 issues.

49

50 Thank you very much.

1 MS. JACOBSON: Thank you.  
2  
3 ATTAMUK: Mr. Chairman.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.  
6  
7 ATTAMUK: I got a few questions. You  
8 said special recreation and mentioned Kiana. On the  
9 way to this special recreation Noatak in the river when  
10 they're on their way to the Squirrel they're disturbed  
11 by planes going over and I would like to see Noatak be  
12 involved.  
13  
14 MS. JACOBSON: Okay.  
15  
16 ATTAMUK: Okay. The other one, Walter,  
17 if the Federal is not really going to take control of  
18 our hunting area, why -- maybe we, as Natives, should  
19 take control. If they don't want to do it, they don't  
20 want the State to do it, like you say they're not in  
21 compliance, you know. Maybe we, as Natives, to  
22 preserve our culture, we should go ahead and take over  
23 because the Federal is not doing nothing. We need to  
24 do it and preserve for our future.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The discussion,  
27 Attamuk, will go into detail on when we have discussion  
28 on Pat Pourchot's letter and hopefully some of the  
29 recommendations that are being made will certainly be  
30 part of our discussion here today. So we'll cover some  
31 of the issues that you're talking about. If that's  
32 what this body wants to do, to address those things, we  
33 will address them. So I appreciate your issues and  
34 concerns that you're putting on.  
35  
36 Any other changes, corrections on the  
37 minutes.  
38  
39 (No comments)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much  
42 for the changes or the corrections that is clarifying  
43 that very statement. Any others?  
44  
45 (No comments)  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any discussion on  
48 the motion.  
49  
50 MR. BURNS: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The question has  
2 been called for. All those in favor of the motion to  
3 adopt the minutes with clarity signify by saying aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed same  
8 sign.

9  
10 (No opposing votes)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries. We  
13 will move on to wildlife proposal review and  
14 recommendations. Larry.

15  
16 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
17 Just a reminder, two things. First, there's a sign-up  
18 sheet at the back of the room. All attendees please  
19 try to sign in during a break. Secondly, those wanting  
20 to testify before the Council there's a blue testimony  
21 form. Please fill those out, bring them up to me and  
22 we'll work with the Chair to have you testify on  
23 different issues and proposals.

24  
25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. The  
28 issue in regards to review and Regional Council  
29 recommendations, can you walk us through what we need  
30 to do.

31  
32 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Agenda  
33 item 6 on your agenda is wildlife proposal review and  
34 Regional Council recommendations. Under this agenda  
35 item we have five statewide proposals to bring to your  
36 attention. Four are action items and one is an update.  
37 Proposal No. 2 is simply an update. Then we have two  
38 analyses covering several proposals that are specific  
39 to Northwest Arctic Region. That's under B, Northwest  
40 Arctic proposals. So Cole Brown, a wildlife biologist  
41 with the Office of Subsistence Management, will be  
42 taking you through those analyses. The sequence in  
43 each case for each proposal are those items 1 through  
44 9. Cole will introduce the proposal and the analysis  
45 and then there's steps for each of several groups to  
46 comment. There's the public testimony, item 8, which I  
47 referred to. Please fill out the blue form for public  
48 testimony. Then we move into Regional Council  
49 deliberation and action.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So what Cole Brown  
2 is going to do for us is to go through the process of  
3 providing information for each proposal with biological  
4 information and all that. Then, from there, we'll work  
5 in regards to how we want to act on those things at the  
6 end of your report for all proposals or would you like  
7 for us to act at the end of each proposal?

8  
9 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. After each  
10 proposal we'll go through the sequence of having other  
11 agencies comment, public testimony comment and then  
12 there's the time for your deliberation, recommendation  
13 and justification. All this process is going to happen  
14 after each proposal.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Good. So  
17 what will happen from here is that we will hear from  
18 different agencies and they will either recommend to  
19 adopt or not to adopt these things. Before we move on  
20 to that, certainly what we need to also get is some  
21 village concerns that the villages may have in regards  
22 to the proposals or other issues that you might have  
23 with the communities.

24  
25 With that, we'll go to the village  
26 concerns. We'll start off with Attamuk.

27  
28 ATTAMUK: I have nothing for right now,  
29 Walter.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Mr. Burns.

32  
33 MR. BURNS: This is my first time I'm  
34 here. I'm kind of new here. My concerns will be like  
35 on the caribou and related to our fishing and hunting.  
36 I have a family and have kids that hunt with me. I'm  
37 trying to teach them how to use our country for food  
38 resource. Can't depend on stores. We have to depend  
39 on our lifestyle. Teach my kids how to live off the  
40 land. It's my first time here and my concern will be  
41 the caribou and fish.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
44 Mr. Burns. Pierre.

45  
46 MR. LONEWOLF: Nothing right now.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Victor.

49  
50 MR. KARMUN: Nothing right now.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Jon.

2

3 MR. GREGG: No specific concerns.

4 Thanks.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.

7 I do have some issues and concerns. As an employee of  
8 NANA Regional Corporation, I certainly do a lot of  
9 village travel and the very issues that people at the  
10 village level have always raised with NANA are those  
11 very issues that we will be talking about and have some  
12 discussions on. The process that sometimes we are  
13 taken through, there is a lack of. If we as a Regional  
14 Advisory Council have a role in making recommendations  
15 to the Federal Board, one of the things we also need to  
16 do because those communities, those villages that are  
17 impacted by the very process we need to find a way to  
18 bring some of these issues to the table to have some  
19 discussions with them, get their input into this  
20 process.

21

22 What I am asking is that we, at this  
23 level, ought to ask the Federal agencies to go to those  
24 communities to make sure the communities understand  
25 what those proposals are, what the intent of those  
26 proposals are and what impacts it may have, what  
27 corrections they may have to the existing regs if  
28 that's what it is and get some input in that process.  
29 After all, what we're doing today is impacting their  
30 way of life.

31

32 It's important we get away from the  
33 State system to where the State depends on the Advisory  
34 Council for their either yea or nay. What I'm saying  
35 is that we need to have an additional information from  
36 the communities in regards to the very proposals that  
37 we will be acting on today.

38

39 Someone in Ambler, someone in Kiana,  
40 someone in Noatak might have a whole different view in  
41 regards to how the proposal is written or there might  
42 be some needs to clarify the intent of those proposals.  
43 If those proposals are intended to make a drastic  
44 change on the existing reg, then we need to make sure  
45 that they understand that very intent it intended to  
46 do.

47

48 My question to the agency as far as the  
49 process is concerned, do we go that far to a community  
50 to try to get some input in regards to those very

1 proposals. Can someone from the agency respond to that  
2 question?

3

4 Yes, Larry.

5

6 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 I'll begin. First of all, for the Office of  
8 Subsistence Management we view the Councils as a vital  
9 aspect and ANILCA makes that clear. Council members  
10 are meant to be representative of the region and for  
11 communities across the region. So there is a role for  
12 Council members to communicate in their local areas and  
13 to bring those concerns forward as we're hearing today.  
14 That can be brought forward in proposals or issues in  
15 general.

16

17 Secondly, the other Federal agencies  
18 have field staff and field offices and they are a field  
19 presence and they collect data and manage fish and  
20 wildlife, but they also work with local people. So I  
21 think the Federal agencies are involved in reviewing  
22 proposals and analyses and they can bring local  
23 concerns forward that they're hearing on the ground.

24

25 So those are existing ways in which  
26 local views come to bear on the issues. There are  
27 opportunities as well for Council meetings to be  
28 located out of hub communities, although we've  
29 emphasized that in recent years because of budget  
30 issues. If there are particular issues before a  
31 Council on regulations that they feel they need to go  
32 to a community outside the hub to get more local  
33 participation, that can be approved on a case by case  
34 basis.

35

36 So I think there are ways in place and  
37 some flexibility to try to get more local involvement.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
40 Larry, for your response. As far as my response to  
41 your -- I don't want to call it recommendation, but  
42 what you've told us, is that this very body is part of  
43 that process to be dealing with some of the issues at  
44 the village level. As far as this very body's  
45 expertise is concerned, we don't have all the expertise  
46 in regards to having the knowledge of biological  
47 information. That should be the role of the Federal  
48 system to provide to the communities. That is part of  
49 your job.

50

1                   As far as my role is concerned, sure, I  
2 can have some discussions at the village level to talk  
3 about the very issues, but I don't have the expertise  
4 in regards to providing them the biological  
5 information. What the moose population is, what the  
6 caribou population is or what the population is in  
7 regards to other resources. Somebody has that  
8 information that we don't have, but yet the very issues  
9 that you put on the table you're saying that we should  
10 be the expertise to be providing that very information.  
11 We cannot do that.

12  
13                   We're the body that will go over the  
14 process of what those proposals are after we get the  
15 reports from the agencies. Then make that  
16 recommendation to the Federal Board and that's our role  
17 as I understand it.

18  
19                   If you expect us to bring these issues  
20 out to the communities, then make the dollars available  
21 for us to do that and we'll be willing to go out with  
22 some of your expertise, some of your biologists, some  
23 of the agency representatives, to have a discussion  
24 with some of these folks at the village level. I'm  
25 sure somebody at Kobuk don't even understand the very  
26 process that's in place for them to participate in  
27 regards to making recommendations on proposals. That's  
28 what I'm getting at and that's what needs to happen.

29  
30                   The dependency on just this very body  
31 is not going to work. I need to know what some of the  
32 community folks are thinking, what their  
33 recommendations might be. Their viewpoints needs to be  
34 listened to. Too often we make the recommendations and  
35 sometimes we even do more damage going through that  
36 very process.

37  
38                   What I'm saying is that there's got to  
39 be some additional input and through the process of  
40 what we're trying to do. Jon here would even have some  
41 problems trying to explain to folks in Ambler what  
42 these very issues are and what the thoughts might be or  
43 what information he can provide. I'm sure that we  
44 could set Jon up for failure and I'm sure that would be  
45 the case because he doesn't have the expertise. He  
46 doesn't have that information. That's what I'm trying  
47 to get at. Jon.

48  
49                   MR. GREGG: Question. Is there a  
50 mechanism in place to distribute this information prior

1 to the meetings? We're asking for public comment.  
2 Would anybody have the information to be able to  
3 comment on these procedures before we meet?

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good point you're  
6 raising, Jon. You and I can distribute paper, white  
7 paper to the community, but there is a lack of  
8 understanding of what that white paper might mean. You  
9 need to have someone talking to them, explain to them  
10 what that white paper is all about. That's what I'm  
11 getting at. That's why I say we need some input from  
12 those folks, but with an understanding of what that  
13 white paper might mean. So that's what I was getting  
14 at.

15  
16 MR. GREGG: Right.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor.

19  
20 MR. KARMUN: This is a question to  
21 Larry. Some comments from the past to the Federal Game  
22 Board, are they still valid?

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Larry.

25  
26 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
27 Do you mean the Federal Subsistence Board?

28  
29 MR. KARMUN: Yes. My presentation,  
30 when I attended the last Federal Game Board in that  
31 capacity, all the comments, presentations I made were  
32 all were deferred basically.

33  
34 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I'm not  
35 sure what proposals you were speaking to, but were they  
36 on the program review or are you speaking on actual  
37 regulatory proposals?

38  
39 MR. KARMUN: I think mainly they  
40 referred to the Noatak Controlled Use Area and  
41 Preserve, transporters, outfitters, and these comments,  
42 recommendations came from Noatak, Kiana, Noorvik mainly  
43 and Kotzebue. Basically all the suggestions,  
44 recommendations I presented were all deferred. My  
45 question is are they still valid or will they be  
46 reviewed again?

47  
48 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. On your  
49 agenda today is more than one, I believe, proposals on  
50 the Controlled Use Area, so I think we'll get into

1 that. Just as a general point. If proposals have been  
2 deferred by the Board in the process, then the next  
3 time we have a regular cycle on fish or wildlife,  
4 whatever is relevant, we, in support of the Board, will  
5 look into the record and bring forward any deferred  
6 proposals so that they are aware they're in the  
7 process. So we don't lose track of deferred proposals.  
8 If a proposal you were dealing with was deferred, it is  
9 brought back to the attention of the Board the next  
10 time they're on that cycle of fish or wildlife.

11  
12 Now the specific proposals you're  
13 talking about I can't speak to, but we'll get into that  
14 issue today.

15  
16 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. I guess  
19 to further justify my arguments in regards to the  
20 process that we go through, I will extend that a little  
21 further. With cost of living continuing to rise in  
22 this region, the dependency of folks out in the Bush  
23 will even get more dependant on resources. As long as  
24 we're placing additional restrictions on methods and  
25 means, on take of resources, then we're placing the  
26 burden more on those folks at the community level.

27  
28 On the other hand, we make it much  
29 easier for other user groups that are creating some of  
30 these problems, but yet, as an agency, we can't fix the  
31 problem. These are some of the arguments I have.  
32 That's why I say the input at the community level is  
33 critical and important to all of us. More so to those  
34 that utilize that resource.

35  
36 If milk is \$22 a gallon and gas is \$15,  
37 \$16 in some places, the choices that the families will  
38 make is either heat or eat, but yet, as an agency, that  
39 has an impact on their way of life. We shortcut a  
40 process to satisfy someone else, I have problems with.  
41 That's why I am raising the very issue in regards to  
42 some of the problems that are at the village level. I  
43 hear it from the communities. I hear it from Kobuk. I  
44 hear it from Selawik. I hear it from Kiana. I hear it  
45 from Noatak.

46  
47 We have an agency that's supposed to be  
48 managing these things to make sure the protections are  
49 in place for that very user group that are dependant on  
50 that resource, but yet we create more problem sometimes

1 by creating allowances for one interest group and  
2 restrict the other. The restriction is more so on  
3 those people that make their livelihood off that  
4 resource and it's something we need to look at and make  
5 sure we refine that so we can make available to those  
6 communities an input through that process. I alone  
7 cannot make that recommendation. I have to rely on  
8 them as well to get input from them.

9  
10 If it's such that the agency cannot  
11 make it to these communities, then what I would ask is  
12 that funding source be made available to get  
13 representation from the communities so they can have  
14 the input through this very process. It's crucial that  
15 we do.

16  
17 These are the arguments that I'm  
18 placing on and it's critical that we address those very  
19 issues because ANILCA plainly has written that the  
20 Federal system is the manager for these resources.  
21 Federal system is a protector for the user group of  
22 those communities, but yet we don't apply it.  
23 Something wrong with the system. We need to make sure  
24 that we have clarity with those communities down the  
25 road so they can participate and have part ownership of  
26 what is being planned for them. Not for them, but we  
27 ought to plan with them through the process.

28  
29 The system that didn't work in the past  
30 we need to do away with and look at a system that will  
31 work for both. Give them that opportunity. After all,  
32 they're part of the Federal system. In fact, they are  
33 the Federal system and we, as an agency, have a  
34 responsibility to what Congress had intended for that  
35 law to be. If we can't abide by it, then we've got a  
36 problem. If we're in the system to reinforce what the  
37 State of Alaska has brought to the State, then we have  
38 a problem. We all know what the intent of the State of  
39 Alaska is and we all know what that Federal law say.

40  
41 So, with that, I encourage all of us as  
42 Federal agencies to work together to bring these very  
43 things to the communities to get their input. Sure, I  
44 can send Lone Pierre out to Kiana. First question that  
45 they'll probably ask, Lonewolf, do you have some  
46 numbers in regards to what the moose is, how healthy  
47 that is, what the numbers are for the caribou. Mr.  
48 Lonewolf is going to say, well, I'm sorry, I don't have  
49 the numbers.

50

1                   So these are the things we need to  
2 consider as we go through the process of dealing with  
3 the proposed regulations that we'll be talking about  
4 and we'll continue to have a dialogue once we get into  
5 the letter that has been given to us from Pat Pourchot,  
6 who is a special assistant to the secretary.

7  
8                   So, with that, are there any others.  
9 Attamuk.

10  
11                  ATTAMUK: Yeah, Walter, I just got a  
12 concern about our vacant seats here. You know, it's  
13 taking so long to fill the seats. When they do fill,  
14 what do we need from the villages, that they would  
15 report back to the villages. We need alternates to  
16 come in, even at a last minute notice, because we don't  
17 know what's going to happen. I think what we need to  
18 do to be more effective as a Board, we need to have  
19 someone do an annual report to the Secretary of  
20 Interior. Maybe it will make a difference about our  
21 concerns. Right from the Board itself, have someone  
22 make a report to the Secretary of Interior and  
23 hopefully we have an impact somewhere. Like you say,  
24 there are times that I feel why am I sitting here.  
25 We're going really nowhere, just back and forth year  
26 after year.

27  
28                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Any  
29 others.

30  
31                  (No comments)

32  
33                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Seeing none. Before  
34 we move on to the presentations for the proposals,  
35 let's take a quick 10-minute break and we'll move on.

36  
37                  (Off record)

38  
39                  (On record)

40  
41                  MR. KARMUN: Where were we at, Larry?

42  
43                  MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
44 That brings us to regular agenda item 6. We had number  
45 7, village concerns, but number 6, wildlife proposal  
46 review and Regional Council recommendations. That's  
47 where you have those nine steps and the first step in  
48 each case is the staff presentation. Also I would  
49 comment that we do have George Pappas with Alaska  
50 Department of Fish and Game on the telephone now.

1                   When you come to State comments, he'll  
2 be prepared to speak to those.

3  
4                   MR. KARMUN: Thank you. Cole, are you  
5 up.

6  
7                   MS. BROWN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.  
8 Members of the Council. My name is Cole Brown. I'm a  
9 wildlife biologist for the Office of Subsistence  
10 Management. The analysis for this proposal begins on  
11 Page 13 of your books.

12  
13                   It was submitted by Office of  
14 Subsistence Management and requests the Proposal  
15 WP10-01, submitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
16 Service, Office of Subsistence Management, requests the  
17 addition of a definition for a drawing permit to the  
18 Federal subsistence management regulations. This is a  
19 statewide proposal and it will be reviewed by all 10  
20 Regional Advisory Councils.

21  
22                   The existing Federal subsistence  
23 management regulations do not include a definition for  
24 a drawing permit; however, because this term is used in  
25 hunting regulations, a definition should be provided,  
26 so that's what the proposal is all about, is providing  
27 a definition for a drawing permit.

28  
29                   The addition of this definition does  
30 not affect fish and wildlife populations, subsistence  
31 uses or other uses, but would help clarify the  
32 regulations. The Federal Subsistence Management  
33 Program has used drawings as one way to distribute  
34 permits among residents of a community that are  
35 similarly situated relative to customary and  
36 traditional uses of those wildlife populations.

37  
38                   Our preliminary conclusion for OSM is  
39 to support Proposal WP10-01 with modification to  
40 simplify and clarify the definition and would read as  
41 follows. A drawing permit is a permit issued to a  
42 limited number of Federally qualified subsistence users  
43 selected by means of a random drawing.

44  
45                   Thank you. I'll take any questions.

46  
47                   ATTAMUK: I've got a question. I've  
48 got an idea what this drawing permit is about, but for  
49 the new ones I think you need to explain to them what  
50 it's about. All it does is say drawing permit. It's

1 not saying what permit are you talking about. Is it  
2 for muskoxen, is it for caribou, is it for fish? I  
3 can't find anywhere where it says what it's for.

4

5 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair and Attamuk.  
6 It's actually a general definition, so drawing permit  
7 can be used for any of the species. This term has been  
8 used in regulations. It just has not been defined in  
9 the regulations. The definition that we're suggesting  
10 is a generic definition of a drawing permit that's  
11 issued to a limited number of Federally-qualified  
12 subsistence users selected by means of a random drawing  
13 for each individual species accordingly. So those  
14 proposals have not been addressed yet, but a drawing  
15 permit could be used for any of the species you just  
16 listed.

17

18 MR. KARMUN: Any other questions.  
19 Attamuk, go ahead.

20

21 ATTAMUK: I've got a question here.  
22 You said for any issues because right now we have no  
23 real issues of caribou and yet what I'm really getting  
24 -- I hope you guys are not trying to sneak up  
25 something on us here. Before we have drawing permits,  
26 whatever the drawing permits are for, the feeling I  
27 thought and my understanding was any time they started  
28 declining that's when they had concerns.

29

30 MS. BROWN: This isn't addressing any  
31 specific drawing permit that is currently in  
32 regulation. This is a definition of what a drawing  
33 permit is. So any time the term has been used in the  
34 regulations, a drawing permit, that term is in the  
35 regulations, but there has been no definition for it.  
36 This is an administrative proposal. This is just a  
37 housekeeping measure to provide a definition for that  
38 term, a drawing permit, to make sure people understand  
39 what a drawing permit is. Then you look through the  
40 regulations and if you see an area, if there's a  
41 caribou drawing permit, then you can go to the  
42 definition and say what is a drawing permit, ah, here's  
43 the definition. That's all it is.

44

45 MR. KARMUN: Pierre.

46

47 MR. LONEWOLF: Yeah, that was my  
48 question. Just basically a bookkeeping definition to  
49 throw in the regs for something that's not there.  
50 Nothing changes really except the definition will be

1 now in place.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. BROWN: That's correct.

6

7 ATTAMUK: So I got another question.

8 So who gives you authorization to say who can go on

9 drawing permits at the time? Is it emergency cases?

10 I'm just trying to understand it.

11

12 MS. BROWN: There are drawing permits

13 that are in regulation right now. I'd have to look

14 through the regulations to see what they are. This

15 only provides a definition to the term drawing permit.

16

17 MR. KARMUN: Any other questions,

18 Council? Cole, I have one then. It seemed like to me

19 this is just a -- seems like any time even if it's just

20 a housekeeping proposal, another step in more

21 restrictions on subsistence users. It wouldn't be hard

22 to take it any farther even if it is just a

23 housekeeping proposal.

24

25 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 MR. KARMUN: Go ahead, Larry.

28

29 MR. BUKLIS: Maybe I'll supplement what

30 Cole has said. It was asked how such proposals -- how

31 such drawing permits get established, who did this. It

32 would be through the normal regulatory process. So in

33 the normal regulatory process if a hunt has been set up

34 to make use of a drawing permit, that's why it's in the

35 book. If it hasn't been set up that way, it's not that

36 way. All this proposal does is address a bit of a gap.

37 While the words drawing permits has been used in the

38 Federal regs, where the Board has acted that way, we

39 didn't define what it meant. So all this does is close

40 the loop and build a definition. It doesn't go into

41 any area and create drawing permits. It doesn't take

42 any existing ones away. They were established or not

43 established, the way they were.

44

45 This just simply says what it means.

46

47 MR. KARMUN: Thank you. Go ahead,

48 Cole.

49

50 MS. BROWN: Thank you. Just to

1 clarify, there are no drawing permits in Unit 23. This  
2 is a statewide proposal and because it affects all the  
3 regulations we're asking each of the RACs to comment  
4 and provide a recommendation.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 MR. KARMUN: Any questions, Council.

9  
10 ATTAMUK: Yeah. No, that's all right.

11  
12 MR. KARMUN: Gregg.

13  
14 MR. GREGG: No.

15  
16 MR. KARMUN: Pierre.

17  
18 MR. LONEWOLF: None.

19  
20 MR. KARMUN: Burns.

21  
22 MR. BURNS: None.

23  
24 MR. KARMUN: Larry.

25  
26 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. The next  
27 step in the sequence would be Alaska Department of Fish  
28 and Game comments. It's on the list of 1 through 9  
29 there on Page 1 that gives you your sequence. We've  
30 just covered introduction of proposal and the analysis.  
31 Now we're onto number 2, ADF&G comments. I believe  
32 he's online, ready to speak to it.

33  
34 MR. KARMUN: What was the gentleman's  
35 name?

36  
37 MR. BUKLIS: His name is George Pappas.

38  
39 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
40 This is George Pappas for Proposal WP10-01. We have no  
41 comments at this time. We would like to hear what you  
42 are saying and what the public testimony is before we  
43 state our positions.

44  
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46  
47 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, George. Any  
48 comments, questions. Charlotte.

49  
50 MS. WESTING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 The comments on the statewide proposals are going to be  
2 handled by George Pappas because they're statewide.  
3 I'll handle some of the comments that are specific to  
4 this area. Mainly the State doesn't have any comments  
5 at this time because they want to hear what the RAC  
6 members have to say about it. The reason why George is  
7 on the phone is mainly to hear your comments so we  
8 don't just have to read those from the record.

9

10 MR. KARMUN: Thank you. Council, any  
11 questions, suggestions, comments.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MR. KARMUN: Larry.

16

17 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 That will bring us to sub item 3, other Federal, State  
19 or Tribal agency comments.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MR. KARMUN: Mr. Adkisson, do you got  
24 any comments, suggestions, recommendations?

25

26 MR. ADKISSON: Are you talking about  
27 the Park Service?

28

29 MR. KARMUN: You're part of the  
30 Interior Department, sir.

31

32 MR. ADKISSON: Can I take the fifth?  
33 Mr. Chair. Council members. No, I don't believe the  
34 Park Service has any comments at this time on the  
35 proposal. I guess, like ADF&G, we'd be interested to  
36 hear what the community thinks.

37

38 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Ken. Anybody  
39 else? U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

40

41 MS. MORAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
42 is Tina Moran with the Fish and Wildlife Service. I  
43 echo Ken's comments there. We have no comments either  
44 and definitely want to hear what you have to say about  
45 it.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. KARMUN: Thank you. BLM.

50

1 MS. CRAIG: I'm Erica Craig for the  
2 Central Yukon field office. I would echo what Tina  
3 said and what was said before, that we have no comment  
4 and would be interested in hearing what the RAC members  
5 think on this.

6  
7 MR. KARMUN: Thank you. Go ahead,  
8 Pierre.

9  
10 MR. LONEWOLF: Okay. To save the  
11 bureaucracy all the pain and indecision like that, my  
12 initial view on this is I have no problem with it since  
13 it's a simple housekeeping thing. So my personal  
14 recommendation is to support it. I don't know how the  
15 rest of the RAC is going to vote, but I don't see a  
16 problem with it. Any government agency want to make a  
17 statement, yes or no. Let's speed this up.

18  
19 MR. KARMUN: Larry.

20  
21 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. These items  
22 1 through 9, the specific entries there, are meant to  
23 be a prompt. I don't know that we need to have each  
24 agency come forward. Typically we can simply, for  
25 example, item 3 is other Federal, State and Tribal  
26 agency comments. We can simply announce that  
27 opportunity and if no one comes forward, we move on.  
28 But I don't know that we need to invite them all to --  
29 for the record we don't need that. Just the  
30 opportunity allowed is sufficient.

31  
32 MR. KARMUN: Basically I'd still like  
33 to hear their perspective whether they make any  
34 comments or not. Thank you.

35  
36 Willie.

37  
38 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
39 I want to speak as Willie Goodwin. Even though it was  
40 a housekeeping issue it was brought up by the  
41 Southeast, I believe, when they had some drawing  
42 permits for deer near Ketchikan, with Saxman and all  
43 them other qualified users down there. For us, I'm a  
44 little leery. I think it poses another opportunity for  
45 some subsistence user to propose a regulation so that  
46 he or she has a priority.

47  
48 What I mean is, say the sheep -- we  
49 open up a hunt and then we issue drawing permits. Even  
50 though I can get a sheep right now, I don't get drawn

1 and it shuts me out. So I'm a little leery.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Willie.

6 Attamuk.

7

8 ATTAMUK: Yeah, that's why I had a  
9 question about that permit. Me, personally, I feel  
10 leery about something here in our region that we have  
11 nothing under emergency cases where we have to go draw.  
12 The drawing, to me, is when our resources decline that  
13 we can go to drawing permit, but I hate to see it here  
14 in our region. We have no interest and concerns and  
15 they could just say, okay, let's go drawing. That will  
16 leave us Natives out completely. Personally, I  
17 wouldn't support this at all. Like Willie say, I just  
18 can't see it completely. It's just something that I  
19 hope we all understand what we're saying. Maybe it's  
20 good what you're trying to say, but still, personally,  
21 I will not support it.

22

23 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Attamuk.

24 Larry.

25

26 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
27 Just to clarify again. Whether it's defined or not  
28 defined through this action or your recommendation on  
29 the action doesn't change whether the Board could or  
30 couldn't introduce drawing permits. The Board has  
31 introduced drawing permits in some areas. We were  
32 reminded that they're not in place here. But defining  
33 it doesn't change whether the Board could or couldn't.  
34 A drawing permit is a tool. It's not used here  
35 presently. All this does is on a statewide basis  
36 defines what the term means so that someone hearing  
37 about drawing permit in their area could look up in the  
38 regulations what it means. It doesn't change those in  
39 place and it doesn't give new energy to putting them in  
40 place. It simply defines it primarily for public  
41 understanding.

42

43 It doesn't change the Board's  
44 authority.

45

46 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Larry.

47

48 MR. EASTLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 My name is Warren Eastland. I'm the wildlife biologist  
50 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'd like to clarify

1 for the audience and perhaps some of your members and  
2 expound a little bit on what Larry said.

3

4                   Within the Title VIII of ANILCA there  
5 is a method for distinguishing among subsistence users  
6 when a resource declines to the point that it isn't  
7 available for everybody who currently has customary and  
8 traditional use. That process is called 804 and there  
9 are various requirements. That's only instituted in  
10 cases where there's just not enough for qualified  
11 subsistence users. This presupposes that all non-  
12 subsistence use has already been eliminated. It is a  
13 last case action before having to close the season in  
14 its entirety.

15

16                   This Proposal No. 1, as Larry said,  
17 neither allows or disallows the Federal Board to take  
18 that action. There are several other actions, such as  
19 eliminating all other competing uses and then finally  
20 going through the 804 process and narrowing it down  
21 before a permit hunt can be instituted at all and that  
22 ability currently exists and will continue to exist for  
23 the Federal Subsistence Board to take that action in  
24 extreme cases. The only purpose of this proposal is to  
25 define the term. It just increases the size of the  
26 dictionary that is used when you're reading the  
27 regulations.

28

29                   Before the Board would ever consider a  
30 drawing permit, that request, it will come in multiple  
31 stages. One will be closure of the area to all non-  
32 subsistence uses. Then either in that proposal or more  
33 likely a request for an 804 analysis to narrow it down  
34 amongst subsistence users and the RAC process will be  
35 intimately involved throughout both those steps before  
36 you ever come to this drawing permit.

37

38                   So this is merely adding a word to the  
39 dictionary. It allows nothing. It prohibits nothing.  
40 It merely just puts it in the dictionary is all.

41

42                   Thank you.

43

44                   MR. KARMUN: Thank you. Mr. Adkisson,  
45 you're up.

46

47                   MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
48 members. Ken Adkisson. These are my personal comments  
49 and not any from the National Park Service. However, I  
50 do offer a little bit of experience in dealing with

1 sort of some drawing permit hunts. Call them ad hoc if  
2 you want. Perhaps they're not typical of the process.

3

4

5                   When we started the first Federal  
6 muskoxen hunt back in 1995 on the Seward Peninsula we  
7 had three hunt areas, eight communities and 15 permits.  
8 Clearly we were in an 804. It was hard to distinguish  
9 between criteria in the communities and we tried to  
10 work with the communities to find a system that would  
11 work for them, that they were comfortable with, that  
12 could meet all the rest of the requirements. In many  
13 cases, that involved going to a village at least  
14 initially, throwing names in a hat and drawing  
15 applicants from the hat or a box.

16

17                   The problem I have with this, if you  
18 look at the State language, it talks about eligible  
19 people as being ones who whatever else criteria they  
20 meet, they have to apply. The application requirement  
21 drops out of the Federal definition. So that means,  
22 for example, if we had a drawing hunt in 22E, would we,  
23 as a bureaucracy, have to create a mechanism that  
24 considered everyone. It doesn't tell us how to do  
25 that. So would we have to go through phone books,  
26 household registries, automatically enter names for  
27 people and select among them or could we use a system.  
28 Like the State already says you have to apply to be  
29 considered.

30

31                   I just wonder if in doing this and  
32 trying to clean up in a housekeeping exercise we're not  
33 adding to the bureaucracy and creating a problem that's  
34 actually, as administrators especially, going to come  
35 home and bite us and create another cumbersome thing  
36 that doesn't really serve the agencies or serve the  
37 subsistence users in the long run.

38

39                   MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Ken. Any other  
40 comments.

41

42                   MR. ADKISSON: One closing comment. Is  
43 the system broken now? Does this really add anything  
44 positive to it that isn't already there? Does it fix a  
45 broken problem?

46

47                   MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Ken. Attamuk,  
48 you had your hand up.

49

50                   ATTAMUK: Yes, I did. I just tried to

1 understand it a little bit better. On your drawing  
2 permit everybody gets a chance. What I'm really scared  
3 of is somebody from outside our region -- if it gets  
4 drawing permit, it should be -- the way it's worded  
5 here, I think it should come from our Unit 23. It  
6 don't define it. A drawing could be anyone anywhere  
7 that had a license to get drawing. If they do decline,  
8 I would like to see just come from our region because  
9 I'm not worried about the Southeast Alaska. I will  
10 support whatever they do and I think they should  
11 support what we're trying to say. Depends which way it  
12 goes, yes or no.

13

14                   What I'm trying to say is I'm concerned  
15 just the way this one is because we have no resources  
16 that are declining and that one in there, who's got  
17 authority to put it online to say let's use the drawing  
18 permit now. I think they should just go through the  
19 Council if they have concerns. I hope I'm saying this  
20 right. I'm trying to understand it. I'd hate to see  
21 someone from Kobuk that really needs to hunt Noatak,  
22 Buckland and yet they can't do it because they're not  
23 -- they never get drawn on this drawing permit. Every  
24 family in our 11 villages need to hunt and harvest.

25

26                   MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Attamuk.

27 Larry.

28

29                   MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 We're hearing a lot of concerns raised about drawing  
31 permit hunts in advancing this item about definitions.  
32 One perspective might be this is just a definition of  
33 what is. If the discussion has raised concerns,  
34 there's two ways you could approach it beyond this  
35 proposal. One is in future wildlife cycles if a  
36 proposal comes up in your region that raises issues  
37 about drawing permits, that's the place to bring to  
38 bear these concerns about that specific hunt.

39

40                   If you've got a standing concern about  
41 drawing permits, the next cycle for wildlife you could  
42 submit a proposal to raise the issue of drawing permits  
43 in your region and somehow speak to it as an area of  
44 concern. I'm not sure what kind of proposal that would  
45 be, but you could raise it yourself.

46

47                   So you can deal with it if it comes up  
48 or you can make it come up by submitting a proposal,  
49 but all this does is define the words drawing permit so  
50 that those who see those words in the regulations now,

1 wherever that is, can look up what it means. That's  
2 all it is. The discussion has raised concerns about  
3 drawing permits. We understand that, but this isn't  
4 the place to really address management of drawing  
5 permits. This is only defining the words.

6

7 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Larry. Any  
8 other concerns, questions, comments. Mr. Gregg.

9

10 MR. GREGG: Ms. Brown, I thought I  
11 heard you say that this is not a reaction to any  
12 specific event. Mr. Goodwin raised the example of a  
13 Southeast deer hunt. Is this in response to something  
14 or is this preventative maintenance?

15

16 MS. BROWN: I am unaware if it's in  
17 response to anything specific. I believe it's just in  
18 general maintenance. It was observed that there is a  
19 definition of a term that exists in our regulations  
20 that did not have a definition and this is an attempt  
21 to define that. What Mr. Adkisson brought forward, is  
22 it broke, why fix it. I think that we want to be  
23 proactive rather than reactive, rather than have people  
24 questioning us, what is a drawing permit. His  
25 suggestion I think is where we're asking for the  
26 recommendation of the RAC. If this definition is not  
27 succinct enough or does not contain enough information,  
28 then that's what we're asking for, a recommendation to  
29 make it more applicable to people.

30

31 That's all. Thank you.

32

33 MR. GREGG: Thank you.

34

35 MR. KARMUN: Thank you. Any other  
36 questions, comments. Myself, I think I'm going to go  
37 along with Attamuk. To me, it's already raising  
38 confusion, even me, which is not that hard. It seems  
39 like it make another level of bureaucracy in place and  
40 I think we have enough of that already. Does anybody  
41 want to entertain a motion to vote on this?

42

43 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 MR. KARMUN: Go ahead, Larry.

46

47 MR. BUKLIS: We've moved around a bit,  
48 but looking at our list of nine items to be covered for  
49 a proposal review, we've covered the introduction and  
50 analysis, number one. We've covered ADF&G comments,

1 number two. We've covered other Federal, State and  
2 Tribal comments, number three. Dr. Eastland is a  
3 member of the Staff Committee, so I think that  
4 addresses the Staff Committee comments or BIA and he's  
5 got both roles. We haven't actually asked, just for  
6 the record, any comments under Subsistence Resource  
7 Commission, number five, or Fish and Game AC's, number  
8 six. I can speak to number seven. There are no  
9 written public comments of which I am aware, so that's  
10 done. We did have Mr. Adkisson testify under number  
11 eight as public testimony. I know of no other request  
12 for public testimony. So the only items we haven't  
13 touched on is five and six and then you can move to  
14 deliberations.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Larry. Pierre,  
19 I have a question. Being as you're vice-chair of the  
20 local State Fish and Game Advisory Committee, any  
21 comments, sir?

22

23 MR. LONEWOLF: In my capacity, I shall  
24 follow my bureaucratic brethren and say at this time I  
25 have no comment yes or no.

26

27 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Pierre. I  
28 don't see anybody here from the Subsistence Resource  
29 Commission. Walter is the chair of one. I belong to  
30 another one. The chair of the Krusenstern is a little  
31 under the weather. He said he could not participate  
32 today.

33

34 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. That  
35 concludes the procedural steps and we're down to number  
36 9, Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and  
37 justification. I think you're ready for your motion  
38 now. Thank you.

39

40 MR. GREGG: Mr. Chair. I move that the  
41 Subsistence Council should adopt or recommend the  
42 adoption of Wildlife Proposal 10-01 as written to  
43 redefine a drawing permit as a random drawing.

44

45 MR. KARMUN: We have a motion on the  
46 table to adopt. We need a second.

47

48 MR. LONEWOLF: Second.

49

50 MR. KARMUN: We have a second.

1 Attamuk.

2

3 ATTAMUK: Are you asking for my vote or  
4 my deliberation?

5

6 MR. KARMUN: No. Give me some  
7 comments, suggestions, recommendations, Attamuk.

8

9 ATTAMUK: I will support the Southeast  
10 Alaska for their area. I still have concerns for my  
11 region. This here, just the way it's worded, unless  
12 maybe if we added this is what Unit 23, if we all agree  
13 to it, on our unit here. I'm scared just the way it's  
14 worded. I think I need more time on this. Maybe we  
15 should table this until I or other people that  
16 understand it a little bit better. Maybe I should ask  
17 Willie to explain it a little bit better. I'm not  
18 trying to put you in a bind.

19

20 I'm trying to understand this because  
21 that drawing permit scares me with the experience I had  
22 with Nome. Once you get drawn and if there's concerns,  
23 if they say they're really declining under grandfather  
24 rights, once you're not drawn and if it goes to quota  
25 system, even under point system, if you never did hunt  
26 and you don't have your permit, you get dropped back in  
27 the list. Maybe I'm seeing it wrong. I don't know.  
28 Somebody make me understand it. For our region I will  
29 not support it.

30

31 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Attamuk.  
32 Larry.

33

34 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The  
35 Southeast Council has been referenced several times.  
36 Just for the record, let you know that we've only had  
37 one Council meeting so far before yours and that was  
38 the North Slope. They met earlier this week and they  
39 voted to support this proposal. There's no record yet  
40 for Southeast. They meet later in the cycle.

41

42 MR. KARMUN: So where are we at?

43

44 MR. BUKLIS: We have a motion and a  
45 second. This is time for discussion or a move to the  
46 question. If you move to the question, we could do a  
47 roll call vote if you'd prefer. I could read the roll.

48

49 MR. KARMUN: I'm going to need an okay  
50 from the rest of the Council members for a roll call

1 vote.  
2  
3 MR. LONEWOLF: That's fine by me.  
4  
5 MR. KARMUN: Okay, Larry, let's go for  
6 a roll call vote.  
7  
8 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
9 Mr. Burns.  
10  
11 MR. BURNS: Yes.  
12  
13 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Karmun.  
14  
15 MR. KARMUN: Nay.  
16  
17 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Gregg.  
18  
19 MR. GREGG: I vote in favor.  
20  
21 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Lonewolf.  
22  
23 MR. LONEWOLF: In favor.  
24  
25 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Sampson.  
26 Absent/excused. Finally Attamuk.  
27  
28 ATTAMUK: Nay.  
29  
30 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, the motion  
31 passes. Three yes and two no, and Mr. Sampson  
32 temporarily unavailable.  
33  
34 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Larry. Next on  
35 our agenda would be bear handicrafts. Cole.  
36  
37 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
38 is a status update. This is not an action item for the  
39 Chair. This is just to update you on what is going on  
40 with this proposal. It has been a previously deferred  
41 proposal of WP08-05. It is currently WP10-02. As I  
42 stated, this is not an action item.  
43  
44 The more detailed briefing on this  
45 issue can be found on Page 17 in your books. To give  
46 you the background, Proposal 08-05 was submitted by the  
47 Alaska Department of Fish and Game during the last  
48 wildlife cycle. It received a new number during this  
49 regulatory cycle, which is 10-02, but it is the exact  
50 same proposal.

1                   The proposal requests clarification of  
2 the existing Federal Subsistence management regulation  
3 governing the use of brown bear claws in handicrafts  
4 for sale. The Federal Subsistence Board deferred the  
5 proposal at its May 2008 meeting and voted to form a  
6 work group to address the issue of developing a method  
7 of tracking brown bear claws made into handicrafts for  
8 sale.

9  
10                   The Board directed that the working  
11 group include representatives from all interested  
12 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils as well as State  
13 and Federal staff. An initial scoping meeting between  
14 Federal and State staff was held in January 2009 and a  
15 draft charge was developed to determine a method to  
16 track brown bear claws. A briefing on the status of  
17 the work group was provided to all Regional Advisory  
18 Councils during the Winter 2009 meeting cycle and at  
19 that time representatives from interested Regional  
20 Councils were selected to participate in the work  
21 group.

22  
23                   At the work groups only meeting in June  
24 2009, participants from the Councils posed a number of  
25 questions directed at whether or not brown bear claw  
26 tracking was a problem for subsistence users and if  
27 regulations needed to be changed. These questions then  
28 prompted Federal and State staff to conduct further  
29 research and to meet as agency staff to compare notes  
30 and to follow up on research questions, which occurred  
31 twice during summer 2009. The work group attempted to  
32 meet again during the summer of 2009, but this was not  
33 possible, so another briefing on the status of work  
34 group was provided during the fall 2009 Regional  
35 Advisory Council meeting cycle.

36  
37                   The work group will meet during the  
38 spring or summer 2010 to address the questions raised  
39 at its first meeting, and to begin working towards  
40 resolution of the issues. The work groups' findings  
41 will be presented to each Council for their  
42 recommendations during the Fall 2010 meeting cycle and  
43 for a full report to be provided to the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board for action at its January 2011  
45 meeting. A report will also be provided to the Alaska  
46 Board of Game at an appropriate meeting. The proposal  
47 will be deferred until that time.

48  
49                   Thank you.  
50

1 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Cole. So what  
2 is OSM asking us?

3  
4 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Thank you.  
5 Larry Buklis. This is a status update. It's an  
6 informational item. We don't need to move through the  
7 sequential steps for a proposal process. It's simply  
8 letting you know where we're at in the working group  
9 process. You could call for comments from the floor,  
10 but we don't have any procedural steps required for a  
11 progress report.

12  
13 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Larry. Any  
14 comments. Council

15  
16 MR. LONEWOLF: None.

17  
18 MR. KARMUN: Attamuk.

19  
20 ATTAMUK: None.

21  
22 MR. KARMUN: Burns.

23  
24 MR. BURNS: I got a concern. Since  
25 it's bear, like in our village when it's our time for  
26 fishing, as we all know the bears always go close to  
27 the village. We had that a couple years, last year and  
28 this year, the bears were getting too close to our  
29 village and then we had concerns. We asked Fish and  
30 Wildlife to do something about the bears for concern of  
31 safety of our children. If I shoot the bear, then the  
32 Fish and Wildlife will have to take the heads and the  
33 skin. I hunt my bear springtime for my meat, what I  
34 eat, but my concern is when it comes to safety of  
35 children who go swimming in the river and then the bear  
36 come up and we have to shoot it. My concern is when  
37 Fish and Wildlife come and take the head and the skin.  
38 Us Natives, we got rights too for the safety of our  
39 kids. What do they do with the bear and skin when they  
40 take them? I use my skin for rug, for seat on my  
41 snowmachine. If I have to kill a bear, then I have to  
42 for safety of the village.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Burns. Any  
47 other comments. Charlotte.

48  
49 MS. WESTING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50 This is Charlotte Westing. I'm the area biologist for

1 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I just wanted  
2 to respond to Leslie's comments. I spoke to this a  
3 little bit last fall when we had the RAC meeting here  
4 in town as far as what the options are for a person who  
5 is dealing with a problem bear in their community.

6  
7 What I explained at that time and I'd  
8 like to just explain again are just the different  
9 options that people have if they have a bear in their  
10 community that's causing concern or if they ever  
11 encounter a bear that's causing concern.

12  
13 With the State regulations as they  
14 stand, if you have a hunting license, which most  
15 everybody does because they're hunting other things,  
16 you can hunt for brown bear during the season, which is  
17 very liberal and you don't need any additional  
18 paperwork or any other requirement to harvest a bear.  
19 After you're successful, you would just have that hide  
20 and skull sealed by the Department and you can keep  
21 everything. So that's one option. You can take a bear  
22 under the general season.

23  
24 The second option that allows you to  
25 not have to deal with having the hide or the skull  
26 sealed is to take a bear in the registration hunt and  
27 that's called the RB700 hunt and it's designed and  
28 catered towards subsistence users in Unit 23. When you  
29 pick up your hunting license, you would just basically  
30 ask for an RB700 permit or a subsistence bear permit  
31 and that permit allows you to not have to have it  
32 sealed or deal with the hide and the skull in any way.  
33 You just have to salvage all the meat.

34  
35 The third option is anyone can take a  
36 bear in defense of life and property if they need to do  
37 that. The statewide policy is to take the hide and the  
38 skull and they are later auctioned off and the money  
39 goes back into our program to help us with our wildlife  
40 management. What we generally do and have always done  
41 in Unit 23 is distribute the meat from that bear in the  
42 community in whatever way makes sense.

43  
44 So there are those three different  
45 options. The general season hunt where all you need is  
46 your hunting license but we'd have to seal the bear  
47 hide and skull. Second option is to pick up the  
48 paperwork before you go hunting, the RB700. You don't  
49 have to deal with any of that sealing requirement. You  
50 just have to salvage all the meat. The third option is

1 you don't have to have a license if a bear is  
2 threatening your life or your property. You can shoot  
3 that bear. Just let us know that it happened and we'll  
4 deal with the paperwork and the hide and the skull at a  
5 later date. People in Noatak were very communicative  
6 with us last fall about their issues and we were trying  
7 to help them work through them. So we would like to  
8 continue to do that and we appreciate that information.

9

10 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Charlotte. I  
11 see our chairman is back. I'll turn it back over to  
12 Walter Sampson.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess I'm trying  
15 to get clarity in regards to the process of  
16 presentations for each proposal. Are the agencies  
17 giving a detailed report in regards to each proposal or  
18 are we just hearing it from the Federal? Go ahead.

19

20 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
21 Larry Buklis. In terms of the process, as Mr. Karmun  
22 said, we're done with number 1 and number 2 now. We're  
23 about to move to statewide proposal No. 3. Cole Brown  
24 would give the introduction of the proposal and the  
25 analysis and then you can move through the other steps  
26 and simply announce an opportunity for those other  
27 groups to comment if they want and, if not, you can  
28 move on to your next step. The phone line is on now  
29 and we have George Pappas from ADF&G there for comments  
30 when you get to state comments. He's prepared to speak  
31 to those.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, I do have the  
34 process in place for the proposals. Do you guys want  
35 to take a quick two minutes?

36

37 MR. KARMUN: Sure. Five minutes.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (On record)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We will reconvene at  
44 this time. We'll go down to agenda item 3, which is  
45 Proposal 10-03.

46

47 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
48 Members of the Council. Proposal 10-03 is also  
49 submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management and  
50 it starts on Page 18 in your books. It requests the

1 addition of a general provision in Federal subsistence  
2 management regulations to allow the harvest of fish and  
3 wildlife by participants in a cultural or educational  
4 program.

5  
6 I hesitate to say this again, but it is  
7 a housekeeping measure to clarify how these permits are  
8 currently being issued. The adoption of this proposal  
9 will not change how the Office of Subsistence  
10 Management currently issues these permits. Most  
11 requests for these permits come from cultural camps  
12 sponsored by Native non-profit organizations. The  
13 proposal puts into regulation the guidelines the  
14 Federal program already currently follows when issuing  
15 these permits.

16  
17 The modified regulation has four parts.  
18 First, it defines a qualifying program and that  
19 definition would be a qualifying program must have  
20 instructors, enrolled students, minimum attendance  
21 requirements, and standards for successful completion  
22 of the course.

23  
24 The second of the four parts is it  
25 alerts the public that the Office of Subsistence  
26 Management needs time to process the application, while  
27 at the same time it allows the Office of Subsistence  
28 Management to accept a request for a permit at any  
29 time, which is the current policy. Applications must  
30 be submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board through  
31 the Office of Subsistence Management and should be  
32 submitted 60 days prior to the earliest desired date of  
33 harvest.

34  
35 Third, the modified regulation gives  
36 direction to the local field manager in the area where  
37 the harvest will occur. Harvest must be reported and  
38 any animals harvested will count against any  
39 established Federal harvest quota for the area in which  
40 it is harvested.

41  
42 Fourth, it gives direction on how to  
43 issue follow-up permits. Requests for follow-up  
44 permits must be submitted to in-season or local manager  
45 and should be submitted 60 days prior to the earliest  
46 desired date of harvest.

47  
48 The preliminary conclusion for OSM is  
49 to support Proposal WP10-03 with modification to  
50 simplify the proposed regulation. The modified

1 regulation should read: A qualifying program must have  
2 instructors, enrolled students, minimum attendance  
3 requirements, and standards for successful completion  
4 of the course. Applications must be submitted to the  
5 Federal Subsistence Board through the Office of  
6 Subsistence Management and should be submitted 60 days  
7 prior to the earliest desired date of harvest. Harvests  
8 must be reported and any animals harvested will count  
9 against any established Federal harvest quota for the  
10 area in which it is harvested.

11  
12 Part two is requests for follow-up  
13 permits must be submitted to the in-season or local  
14 manager and should be submitted 60 days prior to the  
15 earliest desired date of harvest.

16  
17 Again, this is already the procedure  
18 that is being followed by OSM. It is just merely  
19 making it transparent and written in the regulations as  
20 a general provision so people understand what their  
21 requirements are when they're applying for a cultural  
22 or educational program permit.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
27 In the future, please, the acronyms you just stated if  
28 you could fully describe what that is. When you said  
29 LFM, what is that? What do you refer to? You just  
30 made a statement to the fact that there's an LFM or  
31 LSM.

32  
33 MS. BROWN: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought I  
34 said OSM.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah, OSM.

37  
38 MS. BROWN: Office of Subsistence  
39 Management.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Please make  
42 sure you do that. What's the wish of the committee for  
43 discussion purposes? Go ahead.

44  
45 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Before  
46 moving towards discussion or a motion, there are those  
47 other steps to hear from other parties.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, that's why we  
50 want to put this on the table, so we can have a

1 discussion on that very proposal. What's the wish of  
2 the committee for Proposal WP10-03, which is a revised  
3 regulation on cultural educational permits. Victor.

4

5 MR. KARMUN: Do we have a fisheries  
6 biologist locally that could explain this in detail  
7 possibly?

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's why I want to  
10 put this proposal on the table to be discussed, so we  
11 can discuss the very proposal. That's why I'm asking  
12 the Council members what's your wish. Would you like  
13 to put this on the table for discussion purposes.

14

15 ATTAMUK: So moved.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion to  
18 put Proposal 10-03 on the table. Is there a second.

19

20 MR. LONEWOLF: Second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's been seconded.  
23 All those in favor of the motion to put on the table  
24 Proposal 10-03 signify by saying aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.

29

30 (No opposing votes)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Now we  
33 can have discussion on the proposal. Once discussion  
34 has occurred, once presentation regards to the proposal  
35 is heard, we go into deliberation. Once deliberation  
36 is done, then we can vote up or down on the proposal.  
37 So at this time we'll go to Alaska Department of Fish  
38 and Game comments.

39

40 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas.  
41 We do not have comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
44 Northwest Arctic Borough or any other agency comments.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Seeing none. Inter-  
49 agency staff comments.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Fish and Game  
4 Advisory comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Were there any  
9 written public comments, Larry?

10

11 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. There are  
12 no written public comments that we're aware of at this  
13 time. And we have no requests for public testimony at  
14 this time.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
17 Is there any questions to what Cole Brown has put on  
18 the table?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now the issue in  
23 regards to the State regulation, is this proposal once  
24 it's been changed how does that differ from what the  
25 State has. Is there any similarities to the State  
26 regulation?

27

28 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,  
29 Fish and Game. The Department does have an educational  
30 cultural program there to allow education of  
31 individuals through certain fisheries and certain  
32 hunts. There's criteria to meet to do so. It's  
33 somewhat parallel to this particular proposal, but one  
34 of the differences the State permitting system would  
35 apply to all lands.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. So the  
40 commissioner would be the issuer of a permit for this  
41 to occur.

42

43 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair, that is  
44 correct. The Commissioner or his designee.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead. State  
49 your name.

50

1 MS. WESTING: Mr. Chair. This is  
2 Charlotte Westing. I'm the area biologist for Fish and  
3 Game here in Kotzebue. I'd just like to give an  
4 example of one of these cultural and educational  
5 permits that we have approved in the past and have done  
6 every year recently and that's for Camp Sivu. I  
7 probably pronounced that incorrectly. Every year I'm  
8 contacted about whether or not they could take a moose  
9 out of season for the purposes of cultural and  
10 educational camp. We work with our permitting  
11 department and have issued that permit every year we've  
12 been asked for it and everything has run really smooth.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you  
15 very much. Is there any issues, any concerns in  
16 regards to this proposal from any of the members. Go  
17 ahead, Victor.

18  
19 MR. KARMUN: Is this just another  
20 housekeeping proposal?

21  
22 MS. BROWN: That's correct.

23  
24 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others. Anyone  
27 have any concerns in regards to the issuance of permits  
28 for cultural and educational programs for any  
29 resources.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hearing and seeing  
34 none, what's the wish of the committee. Would you like  
35 to call for the question or what would you like to do.  
36 Victor.

37  
38 MR. KARMUN: Question.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The question has  
41 been called for. The issue in regards to the proposal  
42 on Proposal 10-03, which is a revised regulation of  
43 cultural educational permits. All those in favor of  
44 supporting that proposed regulation signify by saying  
45 aye.

46  
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed same  
50 sign.

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries.  
4 Thank you. We'll go to Proposal 10-04, which is a  
5 revised delegation of authority for lynx.

6

7 Cole Brown.

8

9 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
10 Members of the Council. The analysis for WP10-04 can  
11 be found on Page 24 of your Council books. This is a  
12 statewide proposal because all rural residents have  
13 customary and traditional use determination for lynx.  
14 It does not directly affect Unit 23.

15

16 Proposal 10-04 was submitted by the  
17 Office of Subsistence Management and requests removing  
18 Units 6, 12, 20A, 20B, 20C east of the Teklanika River,  
19 20D and 20E from the areas for which the Assistant  
20 Regional Director for Subsistence Management has the  
21 delegated authority to open, close or adjust Federal  
22 subsistence lynx seasons and to set harvest and  
23 possession limits.

24

25 Lynx trapping seasons are adjusted  
26 annually based on recommendations determined using  
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Tracking Harvest  
28 Strategy for managing lynx. The Alaska Board of Game  
29 removed these units from the list of units that are  
30 managed using the lynx harvest strategy.

31

32 The Federal Subsistence Board endorsed  
33 the State s strategy for setting seasons on lynx and  
34 has regularly made annual adjustments to the Federal  
35 seasons to align with the State seasons. Therefore,  
36 these units should be eliminated from the Federal  
37 regulations.

38

39 Over time the State has removed a  
40 number of units from its lynx tracking strategy. If  
41 this proposal is adopted it would align Federal and  
42 State regulations regarding lynx management.  
43 Season and harvest limits can still be changed through  
44 the normal regulatory cycle or through special action  
45 if needed. There will be no adverse impacts to  
46 subsistence users. Only the authority delegated to the  
47 Assistant Regional Director for the Office of  
48 Subsistence Management will be affected.

49

50 The preliminary conclusion is to

1 support with modification to delete the regulatory  
2 language found in the regulations, and to delegate the  
3 authority to open, close, or adjust Federal lynx  
4 seasons and to set harvest and possession limits for  
5 lynx via a delegation of authority letter only. You  
6 can see an example of that on appendix 2.

7  
8 So basically this is redundant. It  
9 occurs in the regulation and the authority is also  
10 given via letter. We are suggesting to just have the  
11 authority in one place and that would be as a  
12 delegation of authority letter only.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
17 Cole. You've heard the report in regards to Proposal  
18 10-04. What's the wish of the committee.

19  
20 MR. LONEWOLF: I'd like to ask a few  
21 questions.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Would you put that  
24 on the table so we can ask.

25  
26 MR. LONEWOLF: Yes.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is that a motion?

29  
30 MR. LONEWOLF: Motion.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion  
33 made by Pierre for adoption of Proposal 10-04. Is  
34 there a second.

35  
36 ATTAMUK: I'll second.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Seconded by Attamuk.  
39 Go ahead, Pierre.

40  
41 MR. LONEWOLF: My question is,  
42 basically this is providing unified management of a  
43 resource. Is that what the goal is on this?

44  
45 MS. BROWN: I believe it already  
46 occurs. It's just occurring in two places, so yes.

47  
48 MR. LONEWOLF: What I'm saying is,  
49 okay, we've got the Federal side, we've got the State  
50 side. The Federal wants to give it to the State so

1 there's better management of the resource.

2

3 MS. BROWN: Yes, I guess you can look  
4 at it that way. They have a lynx harvest strategy that  
5 has been observed historically for these units. The  
6 State has already removed these units for the strategy,  
7 so we're requesting that those units will also be  
8 eliminated for the Federal side. But the proposal is  
9 looking at where that authority comes from. The  
10 authority is already in place in the regulations and is  
11 already in place via the delegation letter, so this is  
12 just to kind of streamline the process and that the  
13 authority is solely going to be through the letter by  
14 the Assistant Regional Director of the Office of  
15 Subsistence Management. That example is in appendix 2.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor.

18

19 MR. KARMUN: Being that lynx is a  
20 cyclic animal that follows its food chain, will this be  
21 incorporated in this new proposal?

22

23 MS. BROWN: Again, it's not following  
24 anything to do with the harvest strategy program. It's  
25 just dealing with where the authority is delegated.  
26 That's what this proposal is dealing with.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

29

30 MR. LONEWOLF: So its just formalizing  
31 the delegation of authority from one agency to the  
32 other.

33

34 MS. BROWN: No, we currently have the  
35 authority. The Federal has the authority, but we have  
36 it in two places. We have it in our Federal  
37 regulations and it also occurs in a delegation of  
38 authority letter. Our preliminary conclusion is just  
39 to allow that authority to be in the letter. The  
40 Federal management also has the authority along with  
41 the State. We've been following their harvest  
42 strategy. So it exists. We're just trying to  
43 streamline it down to one way to get that authority and  
44 that's through the delegation letter.

45

46 MR. LONEWOLF: So you're saying you're  
47 minimizing the paperwork.

48

49 MS. BROWN: Yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other comments,  
2 questions. Go ahead.

3  
4 MR. GREGG: Ms. Brown, as you read  
5 through the proposal, it seems to state that the State  
6 has stopped tracking lynx in some of the units. In the  
7 proposal there's some stricken units. Can you speak to  
8 why those are stricken.

9  
10 MS. BROWN: No, I'm sorry, I don't know  
11 why their management strategy has changed in those  
12 units.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Maybe the State  
15 representative there can comment, please.

16  
17 MS. WESTING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 This is Charlotte Westing, area biologist for Unit 23.  
19 And saying that I can't really speak to the other units  
20 and perhaps George Pappas can clarify a little bit, but  
21 I just wanted to let Victor know that the tracking  
22 harvest strategy for lynx that the State uses does keep  
23 in mind the cyclical nature of the animals and it takes  
24 into account snowshoe hares and habitat and a number of  
25 different factors. Perhaps George can speak more to  
26 why those units were stricken, but I can't.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other comments.

29  
30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I do have a  
34 question. You referred to the delegation of authority  
35 letter. That letter, when was it proposed, who adopted  
36 it and what was the reasoning behind it?

37  
38 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. I can answer a  
39 couple of those questions and maybe I can find out the  
40 remainder for you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

43  
44 MS. BROWN: It looks like in appendix 1  
45 the authority was first granted in June 15th, 2001 to  
46 the then Assistant Regional Director of Subsistence  
47 Management, Mr. Thomas Boyd. It discussed the  
48 delegation, the scope of delegation, what their  
49 authorities are in this letter. I'm not sure who  
50 proposed that yet. I can find out that information of

1 how it came to be through that, but offhand I don't  
2 know.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess the next  
5 question would be once you find out the delegation of  
6 authority, was that authority also to the State of  
7 Alaska to manage this proposal? Go ahead, Larry.

8

9 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Cole Brown  
10 is much more familiar with the details here, but in  
11 principle I think what this is about is the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board delegated to the Office of  
13 Subsistence Management leader some authority to sort of  
14 streamline operations and it wasn't a delegation from  
15 the Federal Board over to the State. So I wanted to  
16 keep clear that this is delegation from the Federal  
17 Board down to the Office of Subsistence Management  
18 leader, back then Tom Boyd, but it's the position, not  
19 the person. This proposal tries to clarify the  
20 delegation letter versus this language in the  
21 regulations. Maybe Mr. Pappas can talk about how the  
22 tracking system works in different units under the  
23 State system.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Mr. Pappas.

26

27 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Chair.  
28 Unfortunately, I don't have the information for you at  
29 this time.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Is that  
32 it, Cole?

33

34 MS. BROWN: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
37 Do we have any comments from Department of Fish and  
38 Game?

39

40 MR. PAPPAS: No, we do not. Thank you,  
41 Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any comments from  
44 the Northwest Arctic Borough or other agency.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: InterAgency Staff  
49 Committee comments.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Fish and Game  
4 Advisory comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: None. Was there any  
9 public comments?

10

11 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. We have no  
12 written public and no requests for public comments at  
13 this time.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Going down to  
16 Regional Council deliberation. Is there any comment  
17 from the Advisory Council. Larry.

18

19 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Just to  
20 clarify the record, it would help you here again too.  
21 For Proposal WP-10-03 the vote was 6-0 and it would be  
22 good to clarify for the record I believe you were  
23 supporting the OSM preliminary conclusion, which was to  
24 support with modification. I think the Council back  
25 then was support with modification 6-0. Once again we  
26 have in front of you an OSM preliminary conclusion of  
27 support with modification. So as you move towards  
28 deliberation and a vote, it would be good to be clear  
29 whether you support the proposal or you support the  
30 proposal with modification consistent with the Staff  
31 work.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So are you  
36 changing the proposal then to take two actions? You're  
37 asking for two things. Modification on the action that  
38 we need to take on the proposal and the other was what?

39

40 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Since  
41 you did ask for a motion to put the proposal on the  
42 table and you got that 6-0, I guess strictly speaking  
43 then with the proposal on the table if you wanted to  
44 move to support with modification, I guess you would  
45 need a motion to support with modification and then  
46 vote on that. That would be a clearer record.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The reason why you  
49 have to put this proposal on the table to legally have  
50 a discussion, to deliberate on that proposal. That is

1 the purpose of putting this proposal on the table.  
2 Otherwise we moved ahead and had discussions before  
3 putting the proposal on the table, then we'd have some  
4 discussions that wasn't really on the table and that is  
5 the purpose of putting the proposal on the table so we  
6 can legally have some discussion, to deliberate on the  
7 issue. Then, during the end of the deliberation,  
8 whether we support that proposal or not will indicate,  
9 yes, we support it or, no, we don't support it. So  
10 that's the vote at the end we would get.

11  
12 Any further discussions on the  
13 proposal. I guess the issue with regards to the  
14 proposal, I know this is sort of a -- even though  
15 there's been some clarity that's been made for Federal  
16 management to move ahead with making recommendations to  
17 either support these proposals or not, but what bothers  
18 me is that we as an advisory committee to the Federal  
19 Board are being asked to support these proposals or  
20 not. If we should support these things, they go to the  
21 Federal Board. If the Federal Board then approves  
22 these proposals, basically the State of Alaska manage  
23 these things. That's where my heartburn is.

24  
25 If the Federal Board will manage these  
26 things, I wouldn't have no heartburn. With the State  
27 of Alaska being out of compliance with ANILCA, that's  
28 where I have the problem and that's why I say, hey, if  
29 we are to be effective in what we do to fulfill ANILCA  
30 and what its intent was, then I can see that. But  
31 based on the discussion that I made and the arguments  
32 that I made, I'm going to vote against this proposal  
33 based on that.

34  
35 Further discussion on the motion.  
36 What's the wish of the committee. Further discussion.

37  
38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If none, those in  
42 favor of the motion to adopt proposed regulation WP10-  
43 04, which is a revised delegation of authority for  
44 lynx, signify by saying aye.

45  
46 (No aye votes)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed, signify  
49 by saying aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Jon.

4

5 MR. GREGG: I agree and oppose.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So it's  
8 unanimous in opposition. Thank you. Proposal 10-05,  
9 clarify regulations pertaining to accumulation of  
10 harvest limits.

11

12 Cole.

13

14 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
15 Members of the Council. The analysis for this proposal  
16 begins on 38 in your Council book. Again, this is a  
17 housekeeping measure. Proposal WP10-05 was submitted  
18 by the Office of Subsistence Management and seeks to  
19 update, clarify, and simplify the regulations regarding  
20 accumulation of harvest limits for both fish and  
21 wildlife. This is a statewide proposal and will be  
22 reviewed by all 10 Regional Councils.

23

24 The wording in the general Federal  
25 subsistence regulations concerning accumulations of  
26 harvest limits dates back to 1990 and 1994. There is a  
27 need to update the wording. While the Board has  
28 addressed a number of area specific proposals  
29 concerning the accumulation of harvest limits over the  
30 years, the part of the general regulations has not been  
31 updated to reflect changes to the unit and area  
32 specific regulations. Proposal WP10-05 addresses  
33 those inconsistencies.

34

35 Proposal WP10-05 does not affect fish  
36 and wildlife populations, subsistence uses or other  
37 uses. Rather, the proposal seeks to update, clarify,  
38 and simplify the sections of the general regulations  
39 which reference accumulation of harvest limits. The  
40 proposed wording changes retain the general prohibition  
41 of accumulation of Federal and State harvest limits,  
42 and points to unit and area specific regulations for  
43 details and exceptions. This proposal does not change  
44 any unit or area specific Federal subsistence  
45 regulations concerning accumulation of harvest limits  
46 or the timeframe (daily, seasonal or regulatory year)  
47 for harvest limits.

48

49 The Office of Subsistence Management  
50 preliminary conclusion is to support Proposal WP10-05.

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Proposal  
4 10-05, which is to clarify regulations pertaining to  
5 accumulation of harvest limits, has been presented by  
6 Cole Brown. What's the wish of the committee.  
7  
8 MR. GREGG: Mr. Chair. I move to put  
9 the WP10-05 on the table for discussion.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Proposal 10-05,  
12 there is a motion made to adopt. Is there a second.  
13  
14 MR. LONEWOLF: Second.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It has been  
17 seconded. Thank you. Do we have any comments from the  
18 Department of Fish and Game on the proposal.  
19  
20 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. No, we do not.  
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do we have Northwest  
24 Arctic Borough or any other agency comments.  
25  
26 (No comments)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do we have any  
29 comments from the InterAgency Staff Committee.  
30  
31 (No comments)  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do we have any  
34 comments from Fish and Game Advisory Councils.  
35  
36 (No comments)  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: None. Do we have  
39 any written public comments.  
40  
41 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. There are  
42 no written public comments and no requests for public  
43 testimony at this time.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.  
46 We will now go into deliberation as a Council and make  
47 our recommendation and to justify what our  
48 recommendation will be. Is there any comments, any  
49 discussion from the committee in regards to Proposal  
50 10-05, which is to clarify regulations pertaining to

1 accumulation of harvest.

2

3 I guess before we really go into  
4 discussions can you define what accumulation of harvest  
5 limits you're talking about. What is it that we're  
6 trying to do here. When you say accumulation of  
7 harvest limits, what does that mean? Larry.

8

9 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. By that we  
10 mean combining the limits from the State system and the  
11 Federal system. So if there was a fish or wildlife  
12 hunt or fishery and the State limit was five and the  
13 Federal limit was 5, these regulations say you can't  
14 take 10. You can't accumulate the limits and get some  
15 new larger limit.

16

17 As Cole said, this proposal does not  
18 address the content of that issue. It simply tries to  
19 make it clearer in the regulatory language between the  
20 fish regulations in the Federal system and the wildlife  
21 regulations in the Federal system and the general  
22 regulations across fish and wildlife. It's not handled  
23 consistently, so this simply tries to be clear and  
24 consistent about this rule. It doesn't change it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions or  
27 discussion from the committee. Go ahead, Jon.

28

29 MR. GREGG: I'd just like to voice my  
30 support of this issue. I think one of the most  
31 important things that we can do is to streamline the  
32 guidelines of the regulations as they are read by the  
33 users. I think this is a good move in the direction of  
34 being straightforward and saying, hey, you can take  
35 seven whatever. You can't take seven plus two.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Further discussion  
38 on the motion. I guess you bring out a good point,  
39 Jon. I think one of the things where a lot of people  
40 certainly get confused is if you have a State  
41 regulation that says you can take this much, then you  
42 have a Federal regulation that says you can take this  
43 much, there certainly will be some confusion,  
44 especially at the community level. Those that trap,  
45 those that hunt need to understand exactly what that  
46 proposal is and what its intent is for that.

47

48 If we pass this regulation and are not  
49 clear and does not have clarity, somebody certainly is  
50 going to be cited for overharvesting based on what's

1 being proposed. There's going to be an understanding  
2 from some of those folks that will say, oh, you have a  
3 regulation that says this, but we didn't get that  
4 message from the rural community from both the State or  
5 the Federal system. I think that's why I raised the  
6 issue going back to the proposals that are coming  
7 administratively from the Federal side even though the  
8 intents are good. But if we can't get the message out  
9 to folks, we're creating that much more problem for  
10 them as well. I certainly will look at what we can do  
11 with all proposals.

12  
13 Any further discussions on the  
14 proposal.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Further discussion.  
19 Go ahead, Jon.

20  
21 MR. GREGG: Mr. Chair. I'd just like  
22 to speak in favor and I think it would reflect well on  
23 this Council to move in the direction of any way we can  
24 of moving towards a unified succinct set of regulations  
25 that are easily discernible by the users.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Jon, may I ask when  
28 you say unified regulation, are you referencing the  
29 State's regulation ought to be consistent with the  
30 Federal regs.

31  
32 MR. GREGG: It would be my personal  
33 wish that there were one set of regulations that you  
34 could read and understand what you are and are not  
35 allowed to take within certain guidelines, yes.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Any  
38 other comments.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You know, sometimes  
43 certainly each one of us have our own views in regards  
44 to how things work and the thoughts that we have behind  
45 some of our arguments, which is good to have  
46 viewpoints, different views from all of us. That is  
47 the purpose of this committee, to put on the table your  
48 views and put publicly your thoughts and at the same  
49 time are thinking of what it may do to those user  
50 groups that are out trapping, hunting or whatever they

1 may be doing and will be impacted by these very  
2 regulations.

3

4                   Again, the State of Alaska has its own  
5 regulations that pertain to these things. Yes, we're  
6 trying to get consistent with theirs, with State of  
7 Alaska. Again, not in compliance with ANILCA. I do  
8 have a problem with that and what we're doing is  
9 exacerbating the very problem by supporting what the  
10 State wants and asking the State to reinforce what it's  
11 doing.

12

13                   Based on that, I will vote against this  
14 proposal as well even though it's trying to do good by  
15 trying to clarify the regulation. Further discussion  
16 on the motion.

17

18                   (No comments)

19

20                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hearing and seeing  
21 none. All those that are in favor of the motion to  
22 adopt Proposal 10-05, which is to clarify regulations  
23 pertaining to accumulation of harvest limits, signify  
24 by saying aye.

25

26                   MR. GREGG: Aye.

27

28                   MR. KARMUN: Aye.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed same  
31 sign.

32

33                   IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's three ayes.  
36 Attamuk, how do you vote?

37

38                   ATTAMUK: Aye.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Four nos and two  
41 yeas. Thank you. Northwest Arctic Proposal 10-82, 10-  
42 83 and 10-85. What are the numbers that are being  
43 referenced, Cole?

44

45                   Before we go into that next proposal  
46 it's lunchtime. Let's break for lunch and we'll come  
47 back. We'll resume back at 1:15.

48

49                   (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We will reconvene  
4 our Regional Advisory Council meeting at this time. I  
5 appreciate all of you that come in early to attend this  
6 meeting. We will go down to Proposals WP10-82, 10-83,  
7 10-85. Are those the dates, '82, '83 and '85 or are  
8 those the proposals?

9

10 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chairman. Those are  
11 the proposal numbers.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So there's  
14 three proposals then. Go ahead.

15

16 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chairman and Members of  
17 the Council. The analysis for these three proposals  
18 begins on Page 45 of your book. They're addressed as  
19 one proposal since all three want to change the time  
20 period during which aircraft are restricted in the  
21 Noatak Controlled Use Area. So while there are three  
22 proposals, we're just going to analyze them all as one.

23

24 Proposal WP10-82 is actually a deferred  
25 proposal from the 2008 regulatory cycle, WP08-50, and  
26 it was submitted by Virgil Adams who requests changing  
27 the time period in the special provision that restricts  
28 aircraft use over the Noatak Controlled Use Area from  
29 August 25 to September 15. The proponent suggests  
30 changing it to August 30 to September 30.

31

32 Proposal WP10-83 is deferred Proposal  
33 WP08-51 and was submitted by the Maniilaq Association  
34 and requests changing the time period for the same  
35 provision but to August 25 through October 30.

36

37 Proposal WP10-85 was submitted by the  
38 Native Village of Noatak and requests changing the time  
39 period from August 15 to September 30.

40

41 The proponents all state for these  
42 three proposals that the caribou are generally  
43 migrating two to six weeks later in the fall when  
44 compared with the prior two decades and that the  
45 restriction on flying aircraft over the Noatak  
46 Controlled Use Area should be changed accordingly.

47

48 Between 2003 and 2007 the Western  
49 Arctic Caribou Herd declined to 377,000 caribou, which  
50 is a 6 percent average annual rate of decline, which

1 was from 490,000 in 2003. In 2009, which is the most  
2 recent survey, the bull:cow ratio was 45:100, and the  
3 calf:cow ratio was 48:100.

4  
5 Caribou movements have occurred outside  
6 the current three-week period as defined by the Noatak  
7 Controlled Use Area with migrating caribou appearing in  
8 mid-August and continuing throughout most of September.

9  
10 People in the Noatak Valley have a long  
11 history of hunting caribou in the upper Noatak River  
12 valley, especially in the fall. Few local hunters use  
13 aircraft to hunt caribou, while non-local hunters rely  
14 almost entirely on aircraft to access caribou hunting  
15 areas in Unit 23.

16  
17 Subsistence harvests comprises on  
18 average 95 percent of the total harvest in Unit 23 with  
19 approximately 14,000 to 15,000 caribou harvested  
20 annually. From 1999 to 2006 average annual harvest by  
21 non-local hunters has been 578 animals, which  
22 represents 6 percent of the total harvest, although the  
23 total non-local harvest has increased incrementally  
24 each year since 1999.

25  
26 Conflicts among non-local hunters,  
27 commercial operators, which are guides and  
28 transporters, and local subsistence hunters have been  
29 an ongoing problem for many years in Unit 23. At its  
30 November 2009 meeting, the Alaska Board of Game adopted  
31 Proposal 22, which was developed through the Unit 23  
32 User Conflict Working Group, and revised the time  
33 period in the special provision to August 15 through  
34 September 30.

35  
36 If any of these proposals are adopted,  
37 Federally qualified subsistence users within Unit 23  
38 would have less competition from commercial operators,  
39 their clients and general hunters along the Noatak  
40 River. However, if Proposals WP10-82 or WP10-83 were  
41 adopted, the aircraft restrictions under Federal  
42 regulations would be out of alignment with the recent  
43 changes made by the Board of Game, making enforcement  
44 difficult due to the varied land status in the area.

45  
46 If Proposal WP10-85 is adopted, it  
47 would align Federal and State regulations for the  
48 Noatak Controlled Use Area and would support the  
49 aircraft restriction dates reached by consensus by the  
50 Unit 23 User Conflict Working Group and thereby

1 accomplish the original objective of separating bow and  
2 airplane hunters during the fall season.

3

4 OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
5 support Proposal WP10-85 with modification to use the  
6 current Federal regulatory language and adjust the  
7 dates as requested.

8

9 Thank you. I'll take any questions.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions for  
12 Cole. Now the issue in regards to the bull/cow ratio  
13 45/100 and 48/100. Can you clarify those two.

14

15 MS. BROWN: The 45 was bull/cow and the  
16 48 was calf/cow ratio.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you.  
19 Any questions for Cole.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What's the wish of  
24 the committee to put it on the table for discussion.

25

26 MR. KARMUN: I have one.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor.

29

30 MR. KARMUN: Like after the fawning  
31 season, do you know the actual percentage of the fawns  
32 that are recruited on the North Slope by any chance?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is that a motion?

35

36 MR. KARMUN: That's just a question  
37 right now. Oh, you need a motion?

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We need a motion so  
40 we can discuss the proposal.

41

42 MR. KARMUN: Okay, I'll put a motion on  
43 the table to discuss.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion on the table  
46 to put Proposal 10-82, 10-83 and 10-85. Is there a  
47 second.

48

49 MR. LONEWOLF: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's been seconded.  
2 Go ahead, Victor.  
3  
4 MR. KARMUN: The percentage increase,  
5 what is it, 10 percent, 13, 15 percent or do you know?  
6 At last count. There's one on the horizon, but it's  
7 not quite complete yet.  
8  
9 MS. BROWN: Was the question for the  
10 North Slope or for Unit 23? I misunderstood.  
11  
12 MR. KARMUN: It's still the same herd.  
13  
14 MS. BROWN: I'm sorry, I don't know the  
15 answer to that.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Someone from the  
18 State can answer.  
19  
20 MS. WESTING: This is Charlotte  
21 Westing. I work for the Department of Fish and Game,  
22 area biologist here in Kotzebue. Thank you, Mr. Chair  
23 and Council. What I have seen, Victor, is if we  
24 monitor our calving, do calving surveys to see how many  
25 calves are born and the Department of Fish and Game  
26 does conduct that work every year in June. We  
27 subsequently look at the animals again in April and  
28 early May using the radio collars that we have to do  
29 short yearling counts and basically see how many of  
30 those calves are surviving or what proportion of calves  
31 are surviving. We haven't seen real alarming trends  
32 with either of the calving data or the short yearling  
33 counts and our bull/cow ratios are pretty healthy at  
34 this time.  
35  
36 Everybody is waiting to see what our  
37 photo census results will be from this July and we'll  
38 have more information on the biological status of the  
39 herd.  
40  
41 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Further discussion  
44 on the motion.  
45  
46 (No comments)  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Basically from the  
49 three proposals, basically what the Unit 23 working  
50 group is putting in five days in August and 15

1 additional days September, which would bring it to 20  
2 days. Is that what that is?

3

4 MR. LONEWOLF: Ten days and 15.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Ten days and what?  
7 I'm sorry.

8

9 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chairman. It looks  
10 like 10 additional days in August and an additional 15  
11 in September.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. 25 days,  
14 okay. But the intent of the original regulation that's  
15 in place will not change, just the date changes.

16

17 MS. BROWN: That's correct.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Further discussion  
20 on the motion. Pierre.

21

22 MR. LONEWOLF: I was part of this  
23 Controlled Use Area thing way back when. I testified  
24 in Fairbanks I think that time for this. At the time  
25 there was somebody else from Noatak, I can't remember  
26 off the top of my head who it was, but at the time I  
27 remember talking with other people on it that the  
28 original dates were not to be set in stone because of  
29 the change in migration and all these other things. So  
30 my view on this is that I'm going to go with the  
31 executive summary that's submitted by the Native  
32 Village of Noatak since they're affected by that far  
33 more than a lot of people are. Of course, there are  
34 people that come from Kotzebue that go up to Noatak to  
35 hunt too and I'm one of those.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And that executive  
38 summary you're referring to was.....

39

40 MR. LONEWOLF: On Page 46. It's WP10-  
41 85 and that's the one submitted by the Village of  
42 Noatak.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Which would  
45 basically be from August 25.....

46

47 MR. LONEWOLF: August 15 to September  
48 30.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. And this

1 other one was, Unit 23, I thought the 15th.

2

3 MR. LONEWOLF: One was submitted by  
4 Maniilaq and the other was by Virgil Adams. WP10-85 is  
5 the one submitted by the Village of Noatak and I'm  
6 inclined to go along with their proposal before anybody  
7 else.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Maniilaq's proposal  
10 is 25th of August.

11

12 ATTAMUK: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

15

16 ATTAMUK: to September 30.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So what you're  
19 saying, Pierre, is that -- the recommendation is  
20 Proposal 85, which would have a date August 15 through  
21 September 30th and that's the Unit 23 working group's  
22 recommendation, is what you're presenting and  
23 supporting for that proposal.

24

25 MR. LONEWOLF: Correct.

26

27 MS. BROWN: Correct.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: But yours is  
30 different. Yours is 08-83.

31

32 MR. LONEWOLF: No, I'm.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No. Noatak is 85.  
35 Okay. So what needs to happen here is if you feel you  
36 need to make a recommended change, as we go through the  
37 process of deliberation, we can make a suggested change  
38 to change that date once we get to a deliberation. Any  
39 other comments, questions. Go ahead, Jon.

40

41 MR. GREGG: I'd just like to point out  
42 I think another thing that bears out the substance of  
43 Proposal 85. On Page 50 it states at the bottom, with  
44 the recent changes made by the Board of Game, making  
45 enforcement difficult due to the varied land status in  
46 the area, this proposal would really help streamline  
47 enforcement efforts and really help clarify who and who  
48 can't be in that area at that time hunting.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Victor.

1 MR. KARMUN: I think I'll go along with  
2 Pierre. That means these three proposals can be lumped  
3 into one. We will have to go with one of them and  
4 address just one only? That's the case?

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, very much  
7 Victor. What we will do again as we go through the  
8 process of deliberation we can bring those very issues  
9 on the table and vote on which proposal we want to  
10 support.

11  
12 Enoch.

13  
14 ATTAMUK: I think what Virgil Adams is  
15 saying, and that happened before, that when it was open  
16 from August 15, what they were trying to say is they  
17 need to delay the time for outfitters to come in.  
18 That's why it was proposed to move to August 30 through  
19 September 30. It was August 25. That would take time  
20 for the hunt to get what they need to subsist. And if  
21 we go back and adopt that regulation 85 and what it's  
22 here is saying we need to -- it's just going to align  
23 with the Federal and the State and we're going to  
24 follow right back to the State system right here. I  
25 think that was not the idea. The idea was to give the  
26 subsistence hunters a chance to get what they need  
27 because these transporters always interfere with the  
28 local hunters and that's where the conflict is  
29 starting.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I don't want to call  
32 a point of order at this time, but the justification  
33 that you're trying to bring to the table will be used  
34 during the process of deliberation once we listen to  
35 other organizations and agencies. Once that's done, we  
36 will deliberate and say this is what I think, this is  
37 how I feel. Because of these things I think this is  
38 what we ought to do. That's our process of  
39 deliberation after we listen to the rest of the  
40 agencies.

41  
42 So, with that, Cole.

43  
44 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
45 was just going to try and clarify that point. Proposal  
46 WP10-85 actually gives a longer period, from August  
47 15th to September 30th, that restricts the aircraft use  
48 over the Noatak Control Use Area, so the subsistence  
49 users have a longer time. WP10-85 is actually the OSM  
50 preliminary conclusion that we would like to support

1 because it gives the longer range. In addition to  
2 that, even though it does align us with the State, it  
3 does benefit the subsistence users. As Mr. Gregg  
4 pointed out, it will make enforcement that much easier  
5 to know who those individuals are in that area. WP10-  
6 85 gives a longer time period for the subsistence user  
7 and I just wanted to make that clarification because  
8 actually WP10-82 is a much shorter time period.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right. Do we have  
11 any comments from the Alaska Department of Fish and  
12 Game in regards to the proposals that's lumped.

13

14 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Chair. George  
15 Pappas, Fish and Game. The Department supports  
16 WP10-85, which is also the conclusion of the Unit 23  
17 working group recommendation, which include the dates  
18 August 15th through September 30th.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.  
23 Northwest Arctic Borough or other agency comments.  
24 Yes, Ken.

25

26 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
27 members. The National Park Service supports Proposal  
28 10-85 for much of the same reasoning you've laid out in  
29 the brief discussion so far that you've had. Our  
30 recommendation, if we were to offer one, would be to  
31 adopt that and not take any action on the other two.  
32 The primary reason we support this proposal, if you  
33 look at all three proposals you'll find out they come  
34 over a span of time. The issues in the Noatak  
35 Controlled Use Area and that part of the Noatak River  
36 Valley reach back quite a ways in time.

37

38 Use of the tool of the Controlled Use  
39 Area has I think historically been shown to be the most  
40 important tool that's been adopted to date in  
41 addressing the long-standing conflict issues in that  
42 portion of the valley and, hence, providing the  
43 subsistence priority and local subsistence users an  
44 opportunity to meet their subsistence needs.

45

46 Over the years, trying to lengthen or  
47 adjust the dates, it's often been a pretty hard fought  
48 battle. I can remember in 2007 at the Board of Game  
49 meeting in Bethel when basically a proposal much like  
50 this was basically voted down and carried over to

1 recommend to the working group. So it's been a long  
2 time coming, I think.

3  
4                   It's clear that the caribou are  
5 changing their patterns of migration, so we believe  
6 that it is important to adjust the dates of the  
7 Controlled Use Area to accommodate and reflect those  
8 changes in caribou movements. We've already pointed  
9 out we think doing that is vitally important to  
10 continue to protect subsistence opportunity and the  
11 fact that I think it aligns now with the State does  
12 for the reasons that Mr. Gregg had pointed out. It  
13 does reduce additional conflict issues from land  
14 ownership, reduce confusion, and if the caribou change  
15 their patterns again in the future, we can then bring  
16 back to the table new proposals to adjust it.

17  
18                   But I think this is a good compromise.  
19 Furthermore, from the Park Service's standpoint, we're  
20 a member of that user group or that conflict group and  
21 participated in those discussions and we feel it's also  
22 a matter of faith with that group to continue to  
23 support the recommendations that came out of that,  
24 which in this case align too from the village of  
25 Noatak.

26  
27                   Thank you.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Any  
30 other agency comments

31  
32                   (No comments)

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Seeing none. Do we  
35 have InterAgency Staff comments.

36  
37                   (No comments)

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Fish and Game  
40 Advisory comments, is there any?

41  
42                   (No comments)

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Was there any Fish  
45 and Game Advisory comments?

46  
47                   MR. BUKLIS: No, Mr. Chairman. There's  
48 no written comments from the Advisory Committee.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Was

1 there any written public comments?

2

3 MR. BUKLIS: No, Mr. Chairman, there's  
4 no written public comments and no requests for public  
5 testimony at this time.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. So we'll  
8 go into deliberation at this time. What's the thinking  
9 of the Advisory Council? This is your chance to  
10 justify some of your arguments in regards to what your  
11 thinking may be. At this time, Attamuk, you can  
12 justify your arguments and anyone else can do that.

13

14 ATTAMUK: From earlier comments, I take  
15 that back. Now I understand what they were trying to  
16 say, so I will support 10-85.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others. There  
19 seems to be a support here even though the other two  
20 proposals are almost pretty much the same except the  
21 dates are a little different. Virgil Adams gave a date  
22 of August 30th to September 30 and Maniilaq's proposal  
23 was August 25 through October 30. Based on what the  
24 Native Village of Noatak is asking for is August 15  
25 through September 20.

26

27 MR. LONEWOLF: September 30.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: September 30.  
30 Basically 25 additional days for a window that would be  
31 allowed for no aircraft use within the Noatak  
32 Controlled Use Area. Victor.

33

34 MR. KARMUN: Thank you. If we adopt  
35 this 10-85, does that mean we have to also note that we  
36 took no action on the other two?

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Basically what we  
39 need to do is amend our motion to reflect Proposal  
40 WP10-85 as a proposal we would support. That will  
41 eliminate the other 08-83 and 10-82. If we took action  
42 on 08-85 would take care of the other two proposals.  
43 If you want to, you can make a proposed amendment to  
44 support the Proposal by the Native Village of Noatak.

45

46 MR. LONEWOLF: I'll do it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. You will do  
49 it. So what you're saying is.....

50

1 MR. LONEWOLF: I move that we amend our  
2 original to where we will support WP10-85 submitted  
3 by.....

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I've got two  
6 different proposals here under 47 you've got 08-85 and  
7 under the original proposal it's 10-85.

8  
9 MR. LONEWOLF: Is it a typo WP08-85?  
10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: In fact, Maniilaq  
12 Association is 08-83. Is that a typo then?  
13

14 MS. BROWN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it looks  
15 like a typographical error. There was a WP10-82 was a  
16 deferred proposal WP08-50. Proposal 10-83 was deferred  
17 Proposal 08-51 and WP10-85 should just be 10-85.  
18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you.  
20 Thank you. Thank you for the note. The amendment that  
21 Pierre Lonewolf is reflecting to amend to change the  
22 proposal to support Proposal 10-85. Is there a second.  
23

24 MR. GREGG: I second.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Jon seconded  
27 that. Discussion on the motion.  
28

29 MR. KARMUN: Question.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Larry.  
32

33 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
34 for recognizing me before the question. A technical  
35 point. What we have before us is Proposal 10-85 and a  
36 motion to support, but as Cole indicated, the OSM  
37 preliminary conclusion is to support with modification,  
38 preserving the dates, but putting them into the  
39 existing regulatory language. It's a technical point,  
40 but the proposal, as it came in, used those dates but  
41 reworked the regulatory language. So our conclusion is  
42 to use the dates but plug it into the existing  
43 regulation. So if you support that, you'd be  
44 supporting with modification.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's why we're  
47 making an amendment to the existing motion that was  
48 made to discuss proposals 10-82, 10-83 and 10-85.  
49 After the report was given by Cole Brown, once the  
50 reports were made by agencies, we've heard from the

1 State agency to support 10-85. We heard from the Park  
2 Service that Proposal 10-85 is supported. With that,  
3 an amendment was put on the table by Pierre. He made a  
4 motion to amend the original motion to act and support  
5 on Proposal 10-85 and that is the action that we're  
6 going to be taking. Ken. Did I confuse you?

7

8 MR. ADKISSON: No. I want to make sure  
9 that you understand.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You told me the Park  
12 Service supported 10-85.

13

14 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
15 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. That's  
16 correct, basically we do support 10-85 and its intent.  
17 We have no problem with the OSM staff recommendation to  
18 simply adjust the language to I think fit current  
19 regulatory language in the Federal system. The  
20 important thing is the dates.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right.

23

24 MR. ADKISSON: We support the Staff  
25 recommendation as well as the initial proposal. Thank  
26 you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.  
29 Basically what the proposal is is a date for all three  
30 proposals and what we're doing is supporting a proposal  
31 that was submitted by the Native Village of Noatak with  
32 August 15th through September date and that's what  
33 we're having a discussion on. In fact, that amendment  
34 was made to support that proposal. So we will act on  
35 that amendment. Yes.

36

37 MR. KARMUN: I have a question  
38 possibly. Controlled Use Area. I know it will be  
39 misinterpreted again. My suggestion would be possibly  
40 put a footnote at the bottom of this what the  
41 Controlled Use Area does. It does not mean it's a no-  
42 fly zone. You could still engage in flying within the  
43 Noatak corridor to engage in photography, fishing or  
44 picnicking, sightseeing or whatever, but not engage in  
45 hunting.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Victor.  
50 The original regulation that's in place addresses that

1 very issue. All we're doing is working on proposals  
2 that changes the window of the dates for aircraft going  
3 in and out -- hunting rather into Noatak and that's  
4 what we're having discussions on.

5  
6 MR. GREGG: Mr. Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes, go ahead, Jon.

9  
10 MR. GREGG: Mr. Chair. If I understand  
11 Mr. Buklis correctly, on Page 46 where we're looking at  
12 the Proposal 10-85, there are basically two proposals.  
13 In the proposed regulation under A there is a bunch of  
14 stricken language and then below it there's a portion  
15 in bold. If I understand them correctly, the portion  
16 in bold is what OSM is proposing we act on. The part  
17 with the stricken language under subset A is the  
18 original language used in the proposals submitted by  
19 the Native Village of Noatak, which hasn't really been  
20 modified except to line up with the way that the hunt  
21 is already designated. Is that how you understand it?

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Larry.

24  
25 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That's  
26 what I was trying to say. I think the best place to  
27 reference would be Page 48. You've got the three  
28 proposals laid out, 82, 83, 85. 82 changes dates, 83  
29 changes dates, 85 changes dates and rewrites the  
30 regulatory language around it. All I was saying with  
31 my comment is I understand the focus on the dates, but  
32 strictly speaking, technically, the OSM conclusion is  
33 to support with modification. Support 85 with  
34 modification. The modification is take the dates but  
35 plug them into the existing regulatory language and  
36 don't rewrite it all like Page 48.

37  
38 The only reason I'm counseling you that  
39 way is if, in the end, the official record for the  
40 Council meeting is support, that's a position. If at  
41 the Board meeting the State's position is support with  
42 modification, to use the same dates but not use this  
43 new regulatory language, and the InterAgency Staff  
44 Committee, for example, is support with modification,  
45 then we don't have consensus and the whole issue needs  
46 to be brought in front of the Board and discussed even  
47 though everyone agrees on the dates. So I'm just  
48 trying to help you. If there's agreement on the dates  
49 and there's an emerging consensus, I just wanted to  
50 help you realize that support may not match the other

1 parties in the process later and it might look like a  
2 disagreement or a difference of view.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess I'm getting  
5 confused now. That's bureaucracy. The regulatory  
6 change that you are referring to.....

7  
8 MR. BUKLIS: But that's the process.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: .....make sure that  
11 we understand that. That's why I'm confused. When you  
12 say to make it consistent with the State of Alaska's  
13 regulatory, is that what.....

14  
15 MR. BUKLIS: That's not what I said

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You talked about the  
18 State not being consistent with what we're trying to  
19 do.

20  
21 MR. BUKLIS: I'll be clearer, Mr.  
22 Chairman. As you know, in the end, when the Federal  
23 Board meets, at this time it will be in May, it takes  
24 up all 108 proposals. It's going to be a very lengthy  
25 meeting.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I'm not worried  
28 about those things. Let's talk about the proposal.

29  
30 MR. BUKLIS: I am. There's two  
31 approaches to the proposals in front of the Board. If  
32 the relevant Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal  
33 InterAgency Staff Committee and the State of Alaska  
34 have the same recommendation, it's called consensus.  
35 Items like that are passed by the Board on a consensus  
36 approach. If any one of those three parties have a  
37 different recommendation, then it's not consensus and  
38 the whole issue is brought before the Board and given  
39 the time it needs to be presented, reviewed, just like  
40 this.

41  
42 All I'm saying is if in principal there  
43 is an emerging consensus but your official  
44 recommendation is to support and the other parties are  
45 to support with modification, then it won't be  
46 consensus officially and it will have to be addressed  
47 by the Board in a full review. The only difference I'm  
48 hearing is whether you support with modification is  
49 simply to use the dates the Noatak community has  
50 advanced but plug them into the existing regulatory

1 language. That's all I'm saying.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What you're  
4 referring to, where is that written to reflect the date  
5 plus the consistency language you're referring to?

6

7 MR. BUKLIS: Page 51. The OSM  
8 preliminary conclusion that Cole Brown reviewed  
9 concludes with the exact dates in 85 but plugged into  
10 the existing regulatory language. Strictly speaking,  
11 it's not support, it's support with modification  
12 because support means literally we don't touch what  
13 came in, we just move it forward and this takes the  
14 dates and uses the existing regulatory language. So  
15 it's a support with modification position.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Can you define what  
18 modification is? What does that do?

19

20 MR. BUKLIS: The modification that I'm  
21 speaking of is we're modifying the proposal to use the  
22 dates but apply them to the existing regulatory  
23 language. So you see on Page 51 the old dates are  
24 stricken, the new dates are written in just as the  
25 proposal wanted, but we're using the context of the  
26 existing regulation. We're not rewriting the regs. So  
27 it's a support with modification position or  
28 recommendation. I'm looking ahead and I suspect that  
29 later in the process other parties will also support it  
30 like you are but with modification to use the existing  
31 regulatory language. We wouldn't want an apparent  
32 difference of opinion when there isn't one.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I'm going to ask  
35 that we step down. I'm confused now. I don't know  
36 what's nuts and bolts. Yes, go ahead.

37

38 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. I can try to  
39 explain it to you. If you look on Page 48, in the  
40 bold, that was how the proposal came in. When we got  
41 our proposal sheets, the Native Village of Noatak wrote  
42 in this proposed new regulatory language. That's all  
43 that's in bold. So when we did the analysis and we  
44 looked at all three of the analyses, if you look also  
45 on Page 48 where it says WP10-82, that's the current  
46 regulatory language. They just changed the date.  
47 WP10-83 used the same existing regulatory language but  
48 changed the date. But WP10-85 wrote new language and  
49 changed the date. So when we did the analysis we said  
50 let's keep the same language, we'll just change the

1 date. But because it came in that way, we need to  
2 write support with modification because it looks like  
3 -- otherwise we would not be addressing what they wrote  
4 in.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

7  
8 MS. BROWN: So we did the same thing.  
9 What I think Larry is trying to make the point is that  
10 if you supported WP10-85 without saying support with  
11 modification, you would be supporting how it came in.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right. Okay.

14  
15 MS. BROWN: So from what we've heard,  
16 it was support with modification.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I understood Larry  
19 to say something else. That's why I get confused. I  
20 think what we need to do then, Pierre, if you would  
21 make a friendly amendment to include with modification,  
22 that would take care of the issue.

23  
24 MR. LONEWOLF: Okay. I amend the.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Just a friendly.

27  
28 MR. LONEWOLF: Friendly modification,  
29 with modification.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Good.  
32 Victor.

33  
34 MR. KARMUN: Seems like this is just a  
35 technicality we're getting hung up on. All we're doing  
36 is trying to change the dates.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, we're not.  
39 We're talking also on the change of language in regards  
40 to the modification.

41  
42 MR. KARMUN: To me, that's where the  
43 technicality is. They want some technical language in  
44 there and we have to adhere to it.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So I'm glad I'm not  
47 the only one confused. Enoch.

48  
49 ATTAMUK: Whoever seconded has to.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Who seconded  
2 Pierre's motion? Jon, you.  
3  
4 MR. GREGG: I second Pierre's second  
5 amendment.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's just a friendly  
8 amendment to include on the amended version to support  
9 Proposal 10-85 with modification. So we're going to  
10 vote if there's no further discussion on the amended  
11 motion, then we'll act on the motion we originally  
12 made. The amended motion is that we as a committee  
13 will support Proposal 10-85 with modification. So  
14 we're only supporting one proposal. Any questions.  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any further  
19 discussion on the amended motion.  
20  
21 (No comments)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hearing, seeing  
24 none.  
25  
26 MR. KARMUN: Question.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The question has  
29 been called for. All those in favor of the amendment  
30 to say that this committee supports Proposal 10-85 with  
31 modification signify by saying aye.  
32  
33 IN UNISON: Aye.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.  
36  
37 (No opposing votes)  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Now we  
40 will act on the original motion. The original motion  
41 was to put on the table Proposals 10-82, 10-83 and  
42 10-85. Further discussion on the motion.  
43  
44 (No comments)  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What we will do,  
47 it's been modified already, we've acted on the  
48 amendment, we will act on the original motion. What we  
49 will say is that we are acting on the original motion  
50 as amended. Am I not correct parliamentarian?

1                   REPORTER: (Nods affirmatively)  
2  
3                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Further  
4 discussion on the motion.  
5  
6                   (No comments)  
7  
8                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All those that  
9 support the original motion signify by saying aye.  
10  
11                  IN UNISON: Aye.  
12  
13                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I don't quite get  
14 the support here. Did I confuse you?  
15  
16                  ATTAMUK: Yeah, I'm kind of confused.  
17 Are you trying to say Proposal 85 or 82 or 83?  
18  
19                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No. What I'm saying  
20 is that the original motion was to support Proposal 10-  
21 82, 10-83 and 10-85. The amended motion was to support  
22 10-85 with modification. Now we're going back to the  
23 main motion that says there's a motion made to support  
24 10-82, 10-83 and 10-85. So that's what that motion is.  
25 What we need to do is to act on the original motion  
26 that was made. Did I confuse?  
27  
28                  All those in favor of the original  
29 motion signify by saying aye.  
30  
31                  IN UNISON: Aye  
32  
33                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.  
34  
35                  MR. GREGG: Aye.  
36  
37                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. One  
38 opposition. So do you guys understand what that is?  
39 Enoch, you're still confused?  
40  
41                  ATTAMUK: Yes and no. I thought we  
42 accepted Proposal 10-85 with amendments in there  
43 already.  
44  
45                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We just did with an  
46 amendment.  
47  
48                  ATTAMUK: Now you're trying to go back  
49 to 82, 83 and 85.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That was the  
2 original motion. The original motion was to support.  
3  
4 ATTAMUK: Okay, I'll support it.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Support 10-82, 10-83  
7 and 10-85. Pierre made a motion to amend that original  
8 motion to support Proposal 10-85 with modification,  
9 which is a Noatak Native community proposal.  
10  
11 ATTAMUK: Yes, that's what we adopted.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So what we just  
14 acted on is the previous motion to support those  
15 proposals as amended.  
16  
17 ATTAMUK: Written in stone. I'll  
18 support it.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
21  
22 MR. LONEWOLF: Can you do my next  
23 treaty?  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Can I do your next  
26 treaty? I'll cut your hair first so I can sell it to  
27 Park Service.  
28  
29 (Laughter)  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So clear now?  
32  
33 ATTAMUK: Yeah.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Good.  
36  
37 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes, go ahead.  
40  
41 MR. BUKLIS: So I understand the vote  
42 to amend was 6-0 and then when you take the new  
43 language and supplant the original motion, is it a 6-0?  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: 5-1.  
46  
47 MR. BUKLIS: 5-1?  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right. 5 for, 1  
50 against.

1 MR. BUKLIS: And that was Mr. Gregg.  
2  
3 MR. GREGG: No, I rescind that.....  
4  
5 MR. BUKLIS: You were confused.  
6  
7 MR. GREGG: Let's make it unanimous.  
8  
9 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. That wasn't  
10 clear on the record, but I understand it's 6-0 to amend  
11 and 6-0 on the amended main motion as amended.  
12  
13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. What I think  
16 transpired here is that when you tried to explain to us  
17 the modification, that's where it really confused our  
18 people because originally what we talked about was the  
19 changed dates on the proposal to reflect Proposal 85  
20 with the window changes. When you start talking about  
21 the modification, which should have been brought up  
22 early on, up front, then we could have probably --  
23 wouldn't have been confused. That's where I got  
24 confused. Clear? Okay.  
25  
26 We'll go down to Proposal 10-84. Cole  
27 Brown.  
28  
29 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 Members of the Council. The analysis for this proposal  
31 begins on Page 52 and maybe to make it easier to follow  
32 along, if you look under the proposed regulation,  
33 you'll see the areas in bold and the areas that are  
34 stricken through. Those are the areas that are going  
35 to be addressed in this proposal.  
36  
37 Proposal WP10-84 was submitted by the  
38 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council and requests  
39 changing the Tier II permit to State Tier I subsistence  
40 registration permit, changing the sex of the animal  
41 that can be harvested during the August 1 through  
42 December 31st season to bulls only, and allowing the  
43 harvest of any muskox during the January 1st through  
44 March 31st season.  
45  
46 In January 2008, the Alaska Board of  
47 Game adopted new regulations that changed the State  
48 managed hunt in Unit 23, Seward Peninsula west of and  
49 including the Buckland River drainage, from a Tier II  
50 hunt to a Tier I subsistence hunt. The proponent would

1 like to align the Federal and State regulations to  
2 improve management coordination since State and Federal  
3 hunts share a single total harvest quota, while still  
4 allowing for continued opportunity for Federally  
5 qualified subsistence users by allocating harvest among  
6 two seasons through registration permits.

7  
8 In Unit 23 southwest, bulls of all age  
9 classes comprised 33 percent of the population censused  
10 in 2002 and 20 percent in 2009. In 2009, the bull:cow  
11 ratio was 45:100 and the yearling:cow ratio was 25:100.

12  
13  
14 Unit 23 southwest has shown a decrease  
15 in muskoxen in two consecutive censuses in 2002 and  
16 2005, but exhibited an increase in the 2007 census with  
17 219 muskoxen counted or a 10 percent average annual  
18 increase since 2005.

19  
20 Prior to 2005 the allowable harvest  
21 rate in Unit 23 southwest was 5 percent including up to  
22 a 2 percent cow harvest. In November 2005, the Alaska  
23 Board of Game adopted the proposal to change the  
24 harvest rate in Unit 23 southwest to 8 percent.

25  
26 The majority of the harvest in Unit 23  
27 southwest typically occurs in the winter season, likely  
28 because access by snowmachine is possible. From 2004 to  
29 2007, 69 percent of the total muskoxen were harvested  
30 in March and 85 percent were harvested between January  
31 and March.

32  
33 There has been limited harvest success,  
34 2 of 16, by residents outside Unit 23; however, the  
35 potential does exist for the harvest quota to be taken  
36 by non-local hunters for the first portion of the  
37 season, August 1st through December 31st.

38  
39 Currently the total harvest is  
40 controlled by closing the hunt by emergency order if  
41 the allowable harvest is reached resulting in lost  
42 opportunity to harvest muskoxen later in the season. If  
43 this proposal is adopted, the quotas will remain  
44 intact, but will be distributed throughout the length  
45 of the season which will give an opportunity for  
46 subsistence hunters to use snowmachines during adequate  
47 snow cover to access distant Federal lands to harvest  
48 muskoxen. So by creating two seasons this will allow a  
49 more equitable spread of the harvest between seasons.

50

1 OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
2 support Proposal WP10-84, again with modification, to  
3 clarify the regulatory language for the August 1st  
4 through December 31st season.

5  
6 If you turn to Page 62, you can see how  
7 the modified regulation should read. Unit 23 south of  
8 Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland  
9 River drainage, 1 bull by Federal permit or State Tier  
10 I registration permit or 1 muskox by Federal permit or  
11 State Tier I registration permit from January 1st to  
12 March 15th.

13  
14 Thank you. I'll take any questions if  
15 that was unclear.

16  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions on the  
19 presentation. Let's put this proposal on the table and  
20 have some discussion on the proposal. What's the wish  
21 of the committee. Must be massive confusion. What's  
22 the wish of the committee. Let's put this proposal on  
23 the table and we'll have some discussion.

24  
25 MR. LONEWOLF: Let's put it on the  
26 table then.

27  
28 ATTAMUK: Second.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion to  
31 put Proposal 10-84 on the table and seconded by  
32 Attamuk.

33  
34 ATTAMUK: Yeah.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Discussion on the  
37 motion to make sure that we're clear. We understand  
38 what the proposal is. Can you explain to us what Tier  
39 I and Tier II is based on what the State of Alaska has  
40 on the books so we are clear.

41  
42 MS. BROWN: State Tier I is a permit  
43 for all Alaska residents.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's I, okay.

46  
47 MS. WESTING: Mr. Chair. Charlotte  
48 Westing with the Department of Fish and Game. Tier II  
49 hunts are basically the hunts that you have to apply  
50 for and then applicants are rated on a point system as

1 far as their traditional use of a resource and then the  
2 highest scoring applicants would then get the permits.

3

4

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

5

6

MS. WESTING: Now that the population  
7 of muskoxen on the Seward Peninsula has continued to  
8 grow to the point that the Board determined that it  
9 could support a hunt that is open to all Alaska  
10 residents. That's the Tier I. This hunt is a  
11 registration hunt, which means they have to come and  
12 pick up the permit in person in Kotzebue or one of our  
13 Unit 23 vendors to participate in that hunt.

14

15

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. That's  
16 the State's view. What is the Federal system allowance  
17 within the Federal lands? How is that regulation  
18 written? Is it consistent with the State of Alaska  
19 regulation? Ken. Or are we following the rules of the  
20 State of Alaska is what I'm asking for the existing  
21 muskox hunts?

22

23

MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. Council  
24 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. No,  
25 we're not exactly following the State. What we're  
26 doing though is working closely with the State to  
27 develop a regulatory framework that benefits the local  
28 subsistence users. Essentially in the past the Federal  
29 and State regulations were essentially identical and  
30 basically it provided one really long season that  
31 opened August 1st, closed March 15th. The only caveat  
32 was that cows could only be taken January 1 to March  
33 15th.

34

35

When the Tier II number of permits was  
36 restricted, Federal permits were restricted. There  
37 really wasn't a problem. What happened beginning with  
38 the expansion to Tier I, permits became available to  
39 all Alaskans. Not all the people who were hunting with  
40 Tier I were from outside Unit 23, but it even opened up  
41 more opportunity to Kotzebue residents who could get  
42 access to that area.

43

44

Basically what happened was the first  
45 Tier I State hunt opened August 1 and like closed I  
46 think the first week of December, so all of December  
47 basically, all of February and half of March was lost  
48 to those local residents of Buckland and Deering who  
49 often hunt by snowmachine late in the winter. The  
50 State has the ability to break their seasons up like

1 that and allocate harvest between them and they can  
2 just sort of do that. I'm not sure that we have that  
3 ability. At the time, it seemed the best route was to  
4 more formally break up the season into two sections so  
5 we could allocate harvest between them.

6

7 So essentially we're working together  
8 to do that and that's all. This year it seemed to  
9 work. We're still in the season, it's still open and  
10 there's still three muskoxen out there that can be  
11 harvested by local residents. So it's working and all  
12 we're doing is formalizing something the State is also  
13 doing, but they're doing it within the departmental  
14 discretion.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Any questions  
17 for Ken.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What's the total  
22 number of muskoxen within the Seward Peninsula that  
23 reflects the hunt from Deering, Buckland, Shishmaref,  
24 Wales hunt too?

25

26 MR. ADKISSON: Normally I bring a  
27 little folder with all this stuff and I have it at my  
28 fingertips and I was working on some other issues and  
29 juggling the cards and that folder didn't get included  
30 with my briefcase. Right now it's probably close to  
31 2,700 or more muskoxen all over the Seward Peninsula.  
32 Do you have the population for the Unit 23 southwest?

33

34 MS. BROWN: It's included with the  
35 Seward Peninsula. No, actually it's broken out.

36

37 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Actually what I'm  
40 coming out with is 2,688 because it gives number within  
41 each area.

42

43 MR. ADKISSON: The table is probably  
44 right.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I included the other  
47 two.

48

49 MR. ADKISSON: The other effect of all  
50 of this was in shifting to Tier I was that they also

1 allocated, I believe, two or three drawing permits for  
2 23 too and so the actual harvest now is, there's like  
3 18 animals, two of which go to a drawing hunt and 16,  
4 which remain strictly subsistence hunt, shared between  
5 the Tier I hunt and the Federal subsistence hunt.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: As far as support  
8 from Buckland, Deering and Shish is concerned, what are  
9 the comments?

10  
11 MR. ADKISSON: The informal comments  
12 that I've generally gotten have been pretty favorable.  
13 Maybe Charlotte has had more contact.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

16  
17 MS. WESTING: Mr. Chair. Charlotte  
18 Westing again. I'd just mention that this idea came up  
19 because of the comments I was receiving from people in  
20 Buckland and Deering.....

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

23  
24 MS. WESTING: .....about the fact that  
25 they were holding off going hunting until the cow  
26 season opened because what they really wanted was cows  
27 and until they could use a snowmachine because that's  
28 their preferred method of hunting. So they were  
29 waiting to see if animals were left on the quota, but  
30 they weren't able to really hunt until there was enough  
31 snow and then until the cow season opened January 1st.  
32 Last year, the first year of the hunt, all of those  
33 animals were taken before there was adequate snow and  
34 before the cow season was open.

35  
36 We said, hey, next year we're going to  
37 hold some in reserve. We'll only take up to 12 animals  
38 before the end of the year. If we get there,  
39 regardless of when that happens, we're going to stop  
40 hunting and then reopen the season January 1st so  
41 people down there that want to hunt with snowmachines,  
42 want to hunt cows, can do so starting January 1st and  
43 we did that this year and it's working great.

44  
45 So Ken and I are working together to  
46 make this as smooth as possible for the residents of 23  
47 southwest and for everyone involved. This just seeks  
48 to streamline it in working together.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So basically that's

1 what they're asking for, which is fine. As far as the  
2 growth is concerned of the population, is that 10.2  
3 percent on an annual basis? Is that what the growth is  
4 in Unit 23 southwest?

5  
6 MS. WESTING: You can see on Page 57 in  
7 your packet Table 1 shows the different areas broken  
8 out. 22E is around Shishmaref, 23 southwest is the  
9 area that we're speaking of, and then B, C and D are  
10 the more southern portions of those units. You can see  
11 their rate of change on the far right areas. We're  
12 going to know the results from -- we're doing a census  
13 starting in March on the Seward Peninsula and we'll  
14 hope to have results from that sometime in April.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's sort of  
17 confusing here. You're talking southwest only and on  
18 the next annual average -- I guess what I'm looking at  
19 is the census in that unit where it says it was a plus  
20 20.3 percent, but on the average annual change was  
21 there a drop of plus 10.2 percent? Am I confusing  
22 something here in regards to 2007?

23  
24 MS. BROWN: Yeah.

25  
26 MS. WESTING: I'll let Cole respond to  
27 her table here.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

30  
31 MS. BROWN: Basically that's just  
32 showing -- so the portion on the right, the percent  
33 average annual change, since the censuses are completed  
34 in 2005 and 2007, if you look at the change between  
35 2005 and 2007, you're looking at a 20 percent change.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

38  
39 MS. BROWN: But if you break that down  
40 -- but that's two years. So if you break that down  
41 within two years, you're looking at the average annual  
42 change, which is 10.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Average, okay. Now  
45 as far as numbers are concerned -- is there any  
46 problems with predation on these critters?

47  
48 MS. WESTING: Mr. Chair. We do observe  
49 predation from bears primarily on muskox. We don't  
50 have real fantastic information for how much that's

1 happening, but there is some.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There must be some  
4 fantastic information out there somewhere, huh? I  
5 guess as long as there's some support from the  
6 community of Deering and Buckland on the proposal  
7 changes or on the changes of hunt, I don't have no  
8 problems with that. The issue in regards to -- which  
9 would include also folks in Kotzebue to participate in  
10 the hunt. Ken.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Council  
13 members. Ken Adkisson. I think what I can tell you  
14 though about from Buckland and Deering is we go out  
15 every year physically into the community to issue  
16 permits and people were not very happy about having  
17 their hunting opportunity cut short. That was  
18 expressed to us even as late as the end of July of 2009  
19 when the hunt year was beginning. So the real  
20 challenge is whether this is going to address that very  
21 real concern that they have and all indications to date  
22 is that it is addressing them.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now if it gets to  
25 the point of a Federal hunt in regards to Federal  
26 lands, what are you talking about acreage-wise?

27

28 MR. ADKISSON: The problem, as you  
29 know, in Unit 23 southwest is not so much the acreage  
30 as that it's the distribution of lands spatially and  
31 people, to get to the Federal lands, have to travel  
32 much further and a lot of them need the snowmachines to  
33 do that. Clearly, by breaking the seasons up and  
34 allocating animals between the seasons that's  
35 addressing that reality.

36

37 The only thing we really didn't say  
38 about that is that if the subsistence need is clearly  
39 demonstrated to be more than what we're currently  
40 accommodating under the thing that potentially more  
41 animals could be shifted into the winter season, but  
42 we'll see how this year plays out and where it goes  
43 down the road.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So basically then  
46 this proposal that is before us was a recommendation  
47 from the Federal side of the picture.

48

49 MR. ADKISSON: Basically, yes. In  
50 discussion you'll remember we brought this up at the

1 meetings before and I worked on trying to put together  
2 a proposal based on things we had heard and discussions  
3 at the meetings.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Was there any  
6 compromises made with the folks in Buckland and Deering  
7 then if they're objecting to loss of take of resource?

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: No, I don't think  
10 there's really any compromise been made. What they  
11 basically have told us repeatedly that they didn't like  
12 having their hunting opportunity lost by having a hunt  
13 that opened August 1 and closed December 1st or the  
14 first week in December. So this is intended to address  
15 that very real concern.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Then why is it  
18 you're making a proposal to make those changes to do  
19 exactly what you're doing?

20

21 MR. ADKISSON: So we lock it in so that  
22 there are those two seasons so we can definitely  
23 allocate animals between the seasons.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

26

27 MR. ADKISSON: Which is kind of what we  
28 did initially with the Baird Mountain sheep hunt when  
29 it first started. It was to ensure that people who  
30 were going to be hunting by snowmachine had an  
31 opportunity to do that. Whether they take an animal,  
32 if they have a Tier I permit and you're a Federally  
33 eligible user like from Buckland and Deering, you can  
34 use that permit either on Federal lands or State lands.  
35 As far as the Buckland and Deering, if they're getting  
36 the animals, I don't care whether they're getting them  
37 off of State or Federal lands, whatever is closer and  
38 more economically feasible for them. The thing is to  
39 protect that opportunity and give them that shot.

40

41 I can tell you in the southern part of  
42 the Seward Peninsula where we have moved into Tier I as  
43 well, I did three emergency closures on Federal  
44 muskoxen hunts this season for those same reasons. The  
45 season opened and, bang, it was closed. We have one  
46 long season down there. I'm looking at the solution up  
47 here as maybe trying to work a similar answer  
48 especially for Brevig Mission and Teller down there if  
49 this works.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: As far as the hunt  
2 is concerned, as far as methods and means, what are the  
3 allowances for hunt and take of this resource?

4  
5 MR. ADKISSON: Basically it's pretty  
6 simple. Between August 1 and December 31st you can  
7 take a bull and the bag limit, the harvest limit is one  
8 animal unless you're hunting like under the Federal  
9 program with a designated hunter permit and then you  
10 can have additional animals in your possession.

11  
12 Starting January 1 to March 15th, it's  
13 still one muskox either sex unless again you're hunting  
14 with a designated hunter permit. That's basically it.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now in regards to  
17 methods and means, August through September, what are  
18 the methods that folks utilize to hunt with?

19  
20 MR. ADKISSON: Most people use, at  
21 least in the past, and actually we have had very little  
22 Federal harvest early on. When it has occurred on BLM  
23 lands and State lands, they can generally use ATV's.  
24 So right around Buckland and Deering especially people  
25 are using the road up the Inmachuk and stuff.  
26 Traditionally, as far as the Federal harvest goes,  
27 across most of the northern Seward Peninsula, most of  
28 the early summer or the fall hunt has been done by boat  
29 before freeze up and that's still an option for them.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So you can boat up  
32 the Inmachuk and up the Kugruk?

33  
34 MR. ADKISSON: How far can you boat up  
35 there? That's part of the problem. You create a  
36 possibility of access. It works better if you're from  
37 Shishmaref and you work the lagoons and some of the  
38 bigger rivers like the Serpentine.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now what happens to  
41 Shishmaref in that case, in the event there should be a  
42 change?

43  
44 MR. ADKISSON: Oh nothing. Currently  
45 they're actually not even eligible to hunt in Unit 23  
46 southwest. The only Federally eligible users are  
47 Buckland and Deering residents.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: But at the same time  
50 we're thinking to reopen it for a Tier I hunt.

1 MR. ADKISSON: When you open it up to  
2 Tier I, anyone in the state can apply for one of those  
3 permits.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's what I'm  
6 getting at.

7  
8 MR. ADKISSON: If someone from  
9 Shishmaref thinks it's an advantage to hunt in the  
10 Buckland/Deering area, they can apply for a State Tier  
11 I permit and get it, but I think Charlotte said they  
12 have to go to Kotzebue or one of the villages to get  
13 the permit. They couldn't get one on the internet or  
14 from Shishmaref. Besides that there's very little  
15 reason for them to do it because Federally they're the  
16 only ones that can hunt in Unit 22E.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Was there any  
19 comments from Shishmaref in regards to regulations  
20 changes on this proposal?

21  
22 MR. ADKISSON: No, and I don't think we  
23 actually really went out and solicited a lot of comment  
24 and it never came up at the RAC because it really  
25 doesn't -- isn't likely to affect Unit 22. They've got  
26 their own muskox issues and are pressing for different  
27 things, so they're trying to be addressed.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So are we saying  
30 they have their own hunt on their site?

31  
32 MR. ADKISSON: Federally, they have  
33 their own hunt.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Oh, okay. That  
36 changed the picture.

37  
38 MR. ADKISSON: Except for under the  
39 State system. Right now, for Shishmaref and Wales,  
40 Federal lands are closed. So literally they are the  
41 only two communities that can hunt in 22E on Federal  
42 lands.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's the Bering  
45 Land Bridge.

46  
47 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. That will  
48 probably change this next year.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. That changed

1 the picture. Any other questions in regards to the  
2 Proposal 10-84. Everybody understand what the intent  
3 of that is. To change from Tier II to Tier I is  
4 basically what the change is on the hunt?

5  
6 MR. ADKISSON: No, Mr. Chairman.  
7 Council members. It doesn't change Tier I, Tier II,  
8 anything of that. All it does is take the Federal  
9 season, which is now one long season, and all of the  
10 animals can be taken on the first part of the season  
11 under the current regulation. What it does, it breaks  
12 up that long season into a fall and winter season and  
13 allocates animals between the seasons. That's all it  
14 does.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I thought there was  
17 a presentation in regards to a Tier I and Tier II hunt.

18  
19 MR. ADKISSON: It is, but that's  
20 history. That's done. That's already in place.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I thought that was  
23 part of the hunt that was going to occur on the  
24 proposal.

25  
26 MR. ADKISSON: No, the Tier I hunt is  
27 already happening. It happened last year, was the  
28 first year of it, and that's when the harvest -- the  
29 season opened August 1st and closed December 1.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Since that change  
32 was made, what is the percentage of those hunts from  
33 outside the area, from Buckland/Deering?

34  
35 MR. ADKISSON: Charlotte can give you  
36 the figures. I don't have those.

37  
38 MS. WESTING: Mr. Chair. Members of  
39 the Council. Charlotte Westing with the Department of  
40 Fish and Game. Of the 16 animals that were in the  
41 quota for 23 southwest last year, only two of the  
42 hunters that harvested those were from out of the area.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: How many permits  
45 applied for outside?

46  
47 MS. WESTING: I would guess -- do you  
48 know? Forty-nine.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Forty-nine from

1 out.....

2

3 MS. WESTING: No, not from outside. I  
4 don't have that broken out. Just 49 people picked up  
5 permits. The majority of those were picked up from  
6 people who live in Unit 23. Because people can only  
7 get them in person, so the majority of the people that  
8 pick them up are here.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: To Kotzebue or  
11 Buckland or Deering.

12

13 MS. WESTING: They can also pick one up  
14 in Buckland or Deering. The other thing about that  
15 hunt is they can't use aircraft to access anything but  
16 a State maintained airport. So that further limits the  
17 number of people who can participate in this hunt  
18 because you have to be able to use a four-wheeler or a  
19 boat or snowmachine, so they have to find someone in  
20 Buckland or Deering that's willing to rent that to  
21 them, so that further limits the number of people from  
22 outside the area that can participate.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. That clarifies  
25 my question. Thank you. Go ahead, Cole.

26

27 MS. BROWN: I was just going to try and  
28 clarify the portion where you're asking about the State  
29 II Tier to the State I. We are asking within the  
30 proposed Federal regulations just to put that language  
31 in there because it has changed already. Our  
32 regulations don't reflect that change, so it's just  
33 merely noting that. It doesn't do anything on our  
34 Federal registration permit at all, but there is that  
35 change in there because the State has already changed  
36 it. What we're asking is what Ken illustrated, for the  
37 separation of the two seasons because of what we  
38 outlined. But there is that language in there.

39

40 So our preliminary conclusion is to  
41 support with modification because if you look on Page  
42 54 how the proposal came in, it says bulls only may be  
43 taken during the period August 1st to December 31st.  
44 We felt that reflected -- it could be interpreted that  
45 we can't also take bulls from January 1st to March 15th  
46 rather than getting at one bull during this time frame,  
47 any muskox in the other. So that's why we changed that  
48 language and that's why it's support with modification.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Further discussion

1 on the motion. Any questions or comments with regards  
2 to the proposal.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hearing, seeing  
7 none. All those in favor of the motion to support  
8 proposal 10-84 relating to muskox season revision  
9 signify by saying aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.

14

15 MR. GREGG: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Five yeas, one no.

18

19 MR. GREGG: No. I need to ask a

20 question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

23

24 MR. GREGG: I just want to clarify that  
25 we are supporting without modification or are we  
26 supporting with modification. We need to be specific.

27

28 MS. BROWN: Our preliminary conclusion  
29 is to support with modification for the clarification  
30 on the regulatory language as identified at 62. So it  
31 would be support with modification if you agree with  
32 that.

33

34 MR. GREGG: I'm in favor of it.

35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So it's 5-1.

36 Good. Okay. Go ahead.

37

38 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Strictly  
39 speaking, the record was you called for a vote on  
40 support.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right.

43

44 MR. BUKLIS: And support won 5 to 1.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right.

47

48 MR. BUKLIS: Just so we know. So it's  
49 not support with modification? It was support the  
50 proposal. I think Mr. Gregg was asking for clarity on

1 whether they were voting for support or support with  
2 modification.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All it says was a  
5 proposal 10-84 muskox season revision. It doesn't say  
6 modification.

7

8 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

11

12 MS. BROWN: Actually on Page 62 that's  
13 our preliminary conclusion, to support Proposal 10-84  
14 with modification to clarify the regulatory language  
15 for the August 1st through December 31st portion of the  
16 season. What I was trying to outline is the difference  
17 on what it says on Page 62 from how the proposal came  
18 in on Page 54. How it was written, it could be  
19 interpreted bulls only may be taken during the period  
20 August 1st through December 31st, but yet we're  
21 allowing one muskoxen from January 1st to March 15th.  
22 So we just tried to clarify that one bull is allowed  
23 from August 1st to December 31st, one muskoxen for  
24 January 1st to March 15th. That's our modification.  
25 If you support that, then you would need to say support  
26 with modification. If not, it's going to go back to  
27 the proposed Federal regulation on 54.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What about the State  
30 Tier II? Would the State Tier I be a modification as  
31 well?

32

33 MS. BROWN: That is correct. That is  
34 consistent with how it came in from the Northwest  
35 Arctic Regional Advisory Council and how it was  
36 modified and how it was modified with this analyses.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. That came in  
39 from the agency.

40

41 MS. BROWN: That came in from the  
42 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Who? Ken.

45

46 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. Ken  
47 Adkisson, National Park Service. No, sir, it was  
48 submitted under your name and you signed off on it. I  
49 did a lot of the work on putting it together.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hmm.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: The reason it goes from  
4 Tier II to Tier I is the original idea was simply that  
5 Federally eligible users should not be penalized on  
6 their own lands by not being able to hunt on them and  
7 so the basic idea was to have regulations. In essence  
8 it said if you're Federally eligible and you have a  
9 State permit, you can use that on Federal lands. In  
10 the past, it was a Tier II permit. Now it's a Tier I.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

13

14 MR. ADKISSON: So all we're doing is  
15 taking the language and -- if you're Buckland and  
16 Deering resident, you have a State permit, you can use  
17 that permit on Federal lands.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Oh, okay. Okay.

20 Ken, go ahead.

21

22 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. The thing  
23 I didn't maybe say because we got sort of sidetracked  
24 early on was the Park Service supports the proposal as  
25 modified by the Staff recommendation. It's a matter of  
26 wording. It's not a matter of effect and it gets us to  
27 the same place, which is lengthening the season and  
28 allowing the harvest to be split between the seasons.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. What you just  
31 did clarified for me the issue in regards to the State  
32 hunt as well as the Federal hunt, so I had some  
33 misunderstanding in regards to how that was perceived.  
34 My perception was completely different than what was  
35 presented. What can I do to change my vote? Can I  
36 rescind my vote to support the proposal?

37

38 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I think  
39 what was voted on was support and I think the  
40 discussion has enlightened us about support with  
41 modification. Perhaps you could have a motion to  
42 amend, to support with modification and call for a vote  
43 on that.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, maybe we'll  
46 just leave it as is. I don't want to have to go  
47 through the process of having to go through that  
48 process. Go ahead, Jon.

49

50 MR. GREGG: Well, I think it's pretty

1 important that we support it as modified. I mean the  
2 whole idea is to push the harvest of the cows back into  
3 the winter hunt and if we do not adopt with  
4 modification, we haven't done what we're actually  
5 trying to do, which is push those cows back in.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Exactly. So what we  
8 need to do then is to make sure that we amend to  
9 include the modification in the language, which means  
10 that -- as far as the process is concerned, I'm trying  
11 to think what we need to do.

12

13 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I think you  
14 can call for a motion to amend with modification and  
15 then do the support with modification.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's already been  
18 voted on. I'm trying to think. I think the way Robert  
19 Rules of Order are in place, as an opposition to this,  
20 I can reconsider my objections and bring back to the  
21 table the proposal. Let's take a couple minutes out. I  
22 think there's a way I can do that.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Reconvene. We've  
29 still got some work ahead of us.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We're all here. We  
34 will reconvene at this time. Pierre.

35

36 MR. LONEWOLF: I'd like to reconsider  
37 the last vote we did on 10-84.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There is a motion  
40 for reconsideration of Proposal 10-84. Is there a  
41 second.

42

43 ATTAMUK: I'll second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Seconded by Attamuk.  
46 All those in favor of the motion to reconsider Proposal  
47 10-84 signify by saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.  
2  
3 (No opposing votes)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Proposal  
6 10-84 is back on the table. What is the wish of the  
7 committee.  
8  
9 MR. LONEWOLF: We'd like to bring it to  
10 a vote with modification, am I correct?  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What you're asking  
13 for, Pierre, is to move to support proposal 10-84 with  
14 modification.  
15  
16 MR. LONEWOLF: Okay. I move to support  
17 10-84 with modification.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's an amendment  
20 to the original motion that was made. So this is an  
21 amendment that Pierre is asking for, to amend the  
22 original motion to read to support Proposal 10-84 with  
23 modification. Is that clear?  
24  
25 MR. GREGG: I support Pierre's  
26 amendment and second it.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There is a second to  
29 the amendment. Discussion on the motion.  
30  
31 ATTAMUK: Question.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The question has  
34 been called. All those in favor of the amended motion  
35 signify by saying aye.  
36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.  
40  
41 (No opposing votes)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All those in favor  
44 of the original motion as amended signify by saying  
45 aye. What we're now voting is on the original motion  
46 to adopt Proposal 10-84 as amended. We've already  
47 acted on the amendment, which is with modification.  
48 We're going back to the original motion to adopt as  
49 it's amended. So all those in favor of the motion to  
50 adopt the original motion as amended signify by saying

1 aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries. So  
10 it's been corrected. Thank you. Next meeting date,  
11 which all of you have calendars. Is there a calendar?

12

13 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. On  
14 Page 67 is the calendar with the fall 2010 meeting  
15 cycle and you have previously picked September 1st  
16 Northwest Arctic Council in Kotzebue, so this would be  
17 confirmation discussion and then you'd have to look at  
18 the next page to look beyond that to the winter of next  
19 year when you have not yet picked a date.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess the issue in  
22 regards to meeting dates, originally the discussion was  
23 September 1st, I think we're running into some problems  
24 in regards to a pretty high active area where people  
25 are busy hunting, gathering and whatnot. September 1st  
26 might be a problem for some of you. What about  
27 October? October 4. Is there any way we can fit in  
28 October 4, 7 or 8?

29

30 (Council nods affirmatively)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Larry.

33

34 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Also we can  
35 have two Council meetings at once, but no more than  
36 two. So if that's the week you're looking at, you  
37 could pick dates that overlap with Western Interior as  
38 well. We can handle that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What would be the  
41 wish of the Council. We could go as far as October 12.  
42 Maybe that wouldn't work for some folks. What's the  
43 wish of the committee.

44

45 MR. LONEWOLF: I'm open to any date,  
46 Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Let's go for October  
49 8.

50

1 MR. LONEWOLF: Fine with me.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor, that will  
4 work for you?  
5  
6 MR. KARMUN: That will work. I'm open.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So your boat is  
9 anchored that day then?  
10  
11 MR. KARMUN: It's stuck in the mud.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: October 8th is a  
14 tentative date for the next fall meeting. When does  
15 the Federal Board usually meet in the fall time?  
16  
17 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. The Federal  
18 Board is on a schedule now where they meet in January  
19 of each year for fish or wildlife.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Once a year?  
22  
23 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, unless  
24 special meetings are called.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So October 8th in  
27 Kotzebue, Regional Advisory Council. Thank you.  
28 Establish a winter date. What would work in the  
29 winter? We're meeting today, which is the 19th of  
30 February. What would work for all of you?  
31  
32 MR. LONEWOLF: February 18th.  
33  
34 MR. KARMUN: As long as there's no  
35 other conflicting activities going on.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
38  
39 MR. LONEWOLF: February 18th.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: February 18th RAC.  
42 What day is February 18th?  
43  
44 MR. LONEWOLF: Friday.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: February 18th,  
47 tentative. We'll put that on the calendar. Okay.  
48 Those have been done.  
49  
50 Annual report. I know we haven't

1 really been putting together an annual report. Is  
2 there any way at some point that we put together an  
3 annual report to reflect some of the activities and  
4 some of the actions that we've taken in the past from  
5 previous meetings as an annual report. Larry.

6  
7 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. You have  
8 quite a bit of latitude on your annual report. It's an  
9 opportunity for the Council to bring forward to the  
10 Board and the Program issues and concerns, resource  
11 management issues, subsistence use issues, and if  
12 there's been prior issues you've dealt with that you  
13 want to bring forward to the Board, the annual report  
14 is the place for that. This is where we said we would  
15 bring up the Pat Pourchot letter as well.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Two things I  
18 would like to put on the annual report is the plans  
19 that we have for the conservation units as a commission  
20 for Kobuk Valley and Cape Krusenstern, the hunting  
21 plans that were initially done for those areas. I  
22 think what we also need to start doing is putting into  
23 the reports some of the studies that's been happening.  
24 Too often we have studies that have been done in other  
25 lands that have been occurring and are not being put  
26 into a public perspective so people can know what type  
27 of studies are occurring.

28  
29 Certainly the subsistence issue is  
30 going to have to be part of that annual report which is  
31 the Department of Interior's direction that was given  
32 to Alaska to address the Federal management. Victor.

33  
34 MR. KARMUN: On this Pat Pourchot's  
35 correspondence, would it be okay to wait to see what  
36 kind of returns we get on this or would that be too  
37 long?

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess what I'd  
40 like to do is get a summary from the agency in regards  
41 to Pat's report on the subsistence issue that they've  
42 been charged to work on. Victor.

43  
44 MR. KARMUN: I think the SRC's would be  
45 more than glad to have a little more time to respond to  
46 this.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. The only  
49 problem that I see with that, Victor, is that our next  
50 meeting won't be until October. Is there any action

1 items that we need to do based on the letter from Pat.  
2 Go ahead, Larry.

3  
4 MR. BUKLIS: No, Mr. Chairman, it's not  
5 an action item. It's an informational item. It's  
6 meant to be a progress report.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

9  
10 MR. BUKLIS: I can summarize the points  
11 he's making here if you'd like.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. If we can get  
14 that report. What Victor is getting at, depending on  
15 what the report says if there's any need for any action  
16 item down the road, we'd be able to take action in  
17 October? Would that be appropriate to do at that point  
18 in time?

19  
20 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Maybe I  
21 could give you the overview and then you could see how  
22 that best fits into your timeline.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Any  
25 objections to that?

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Larry. We  
30 might as well go straight to it and get a summary.

31  
32 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
33 Pat Pourchot, the special assistant to the Secretary,  
34 has provided this letter. It's a status report dated  
35 February/March 2010, so it's for the February/March  
36 cycle of meetings that we're in now.

37  
38 A couple of key points I'd make in  
39 summarizing his points. He reports that two meetings  
40 were held with Regional Advisory Council chairs or  
41 their representatives. One was in December 2009. The  
42 other in January 2010, last month. He says the Council  
43 members comments and recommendations were helpful and  
44 they were appreciated because of your knowledge and  
45 experience. The issues you worked through with dual  
46 management of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.

47  
48 He reports that he and his staff will  
49 be working through an analysis of the comments through  
50 February and March and developing options and

1 recommendations for the Secretary to consider. So  
2 they're working towards summarizing the comments,  
3 analyzing them and making a recommendation to the  
4 Secretary.

5  
6 He has several pages attached to this  
7 one-page letter. He's summarizing the comments they've  
8 received and the main themes they've been hearing. He  
9 reports there's sort of three levels involved with the  
10 concerns they're hearing. He says some of these could  
11 be resolved simply through policy changes that could be  
12 immediately acted on by the Secretary completely within  
13 the Secretary's authority to shift policy.

14  
15 Other suggestions would require  
16 regulatory changes, so you have to go through the  
17 rulemaking process. Then he says finally some of the  
18 issues require addressing ANILCA statutes and that's  
19 beyond the Secretary's authority. It would be  
20 reopening the statutes, which is congressional.

21  
22 So there's policy level actions the  
23 Secretary could take, there's rulemaking the Secretary  
24 could initiate and then finally there's some statutory  
25 suggestions that are beyond the Secretary. What follows  
26 are lists of the kinds of suggestions he's been getting  
27 by category and there's several pages of that.

28  
29 So you asked about timeline and further  
30 input for the Councils. This is meant to be a progress  
31 report. He's not asking for action from you now. He's  
32 heard the concerns. He's distilling those down and  
33 he's going to go to the Secretary with some  
34 recommendations. I think at that point the Secretary  
35 would make some decisions or take some actions. So  
36 when you reconvene in October, I don't know how quickly  
37 this will move after his effort to summarize in  
38 February and March. It would be in the Secretarial  
39 process. It may still be under consideration. It may  
40 be concluded, but it's not meant to be an action item  
41 for you at this time. You're welcome to further  
42 comment or to build it into your annual report.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor.

45  
46 MR. KARMUN: This correspondence, does  
47 it have to be run before the Federal Game Board before  
48 it can go on to the Secretary?

49  
50 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. If you put

1 it in your annual report, it would go through our  
2 normal process and we can assist you in developing it,  
3 but it doesn't need review by us to get into the annual  
4 report. If you write a letter and you want to write a  
5 letter to the Secretary on this issue, we have a  
6 correspondence policy, but you certainly have the  
7 latitude to respond on these issues, which he's asked  
8 for your input on. So if you have more input you want  
9 to provide, we can help you develop a letter and it  
10 would go through us to get to the Secretary, but it's  
11 not the kind of thing that we would discourage you  
12 from. You are welcome to write another letter of  
13 concerns about this process for further ideas.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess what he's  
16 asking, Larry, what's been written here, does that have  
17 to go to the Federal Board for review, is what he's  
18 asking. Am I not correct, Victor?

19

20 MR. KARMUN: Yeah.

21

22 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you. No, the  
23 Federal Board isn't involved in this review with  
24 authority. I mean the Federal Board may have their own  
25 comments as well, but the Secretary and the Secretary's  
26 office are conducting the review. These inputs are  
27 right from the Councils and other stakeholders to the  
28 Secretary. It's not through the Board.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Victor.

31

32 MR. KARMUN: So basically this is just  
33 for informational purposes. We need to take no action  
34 if we don't elect to do so on this?

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, we don't need to  
37 act.

38

39 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. That is  
40 correct. It's not an action item. It's a progress  
41 report. But if you want to build into your annual  
42 report or write a new letter continuing to express  
43 yourself on these issues, you may, but he's not asking  
44 for it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess what can  
47 happen down the road is when we get to the point of  
48 doing our annual report I will work with our  
49 coordinator to put together a letter that would  
50 respectively address the very issues that have been

1 reviewed, sort of like a summary format, and you will  
2 get a copy or cc of that letter that would go to the  
3 department as a report.

4

5 MR. GREGG: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.

8

9 MR. GREGG: From my understanding, how  
10 is the annual report pulled together and authored.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What happens is if  
13 you have any comments, any issues that you would like  
14 to get into the annual report as a member of the  
15 committee, you can do so by calling the coordinator in  
16 Anchorage to include what your thoughts might be.  
17 That's part of the process that would go and you would  
18 have a chance to include your thoughts into the annual  
19 report as well.

20

21 MR. GREGG: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Just based on what's  
28 been written, I think this is something that's  
29 certainly been extremely well written. I attended the  
30 January meeting -- actually the December meeting, I'm  
31 sorry. The January one was the one I wasn't able to  
32 because I had to be here at the NANA board meeting as a  
33 manager for lands, I had to be here.

34

35 During the Regional Advisory Council  
36 Chairman's meeting we certainly had some good dialogue  
37 amongst ourselves with the agencies as well as giving  
38 our views to the hearings that Pat had set up with a  
39 direction from the Secretary, which basically indicated  
40 to initiate a departmental review of subsistence  
41 management in Alaska. Certainly we'll continue to work  
42 in that direction.

43

44 So in regards to the process of the  
45 annual report, if you have any issues that you want to  
46 relay to Barbara, who is our coordinator, she can also  
47 include your views on issues that you want on the  
48 annual report.

49

50 Any other questions in regards to the

1 annual report.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

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50

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Call for proposals for 2011 and 13. Alaska fisheries. Go ahead, Larry.

MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're passing out a news release from earlier in the year on the front side. On the back side a little guideline on what's required in a proposal.

The fisheries regulatory proposal period is open now. It's open through March 24th of 2010. Proposals may be mailed in or hand-delivered to OSM and the news release and the guideline sheet provide the address and contact information. For the Council, you can work through your council coordinator and he or she, in this case Barbara Atoruk, can work with you to develop proposals and get them in on time.

The informational outline on the back of the news release lays out what you need to submit. It would be the proponent contact information and then there's six questions that need to be answered. Mr. Chairman, that's the format of the submissions and the due date is March 24th. If, for this region, there are any fisheries regulatory concerns, this would be the time to talk about them as a Council and we can help you develop proposals.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I just have one question in regards to the proposals. Can you clarify for all of us the issues in regards to navigability of waters within the conservation units. Does the Federal system have the ownership of navigable waters or does the State of Alaska continue to challenge as their navigable waters? Can someone clarify that. Go ahead, Larry.

MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I'll begin and other Federal staff can assist me if they need to qualify something I say. I won't get into ownership, but I will say in terms of subsistence fisheries jurisdiction or authority the Federal program claims jurisdiction or authority for subsistence fisheries management on all waters within the conservation units and adjoining the conservation units. Waters flowing

1 along boundaries of conservation units. Typically not  
2 the marine waters. There are a few small exceptions,  
3 but typically we're talking about the fresh waters  
4 within and adjoining the sides of, the boundaries of,  
5 the conservation units.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So basically then  
8 what you're telling us everything within the Kobuk  
9 delta, the Selawik flats, the Noatak River, is all  
10 Federal water body which we can now work on putting  
11 together our proposals for fisheries within those  
12 areas.

13

14 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. There may  
15 be some exceptions to what you said, but the maps we  
16 have in the fishing regulation booklet and the wildlife  
17 regulation booklet will show you the boundaries of the  
18 conservation units and any of the waters flowing  
19 through those units or alongside of them would be  
20 relevant for Federal subsistence fisheries proposals,  
21 yes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The reason why I  
24 said that, if you look at the maps, the whole Selawik  
25 area is within refuge. That's a conservation unit.  
26 That would also include the Kobuk delta right up to  
27 the northern part of the river on what they call  
28 Melvin Channel and up the Kobuk River past Kiana all  
29 the way up into Kobuk. Those are all within the  
30 conservation units. Noatak to be included as well  
31 right from the mouth all the way up to the headwaters  
32 of the Noatak is within the conservation unit.  
33 Kivalina, Wulik. Is that part State?

34

35 MR. GOODWIN: State.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: State land outside  
38 NANA selection. But to include NANA lands would be  
39 part of the State system. So everything but Wulik  
40 River and Kivalina State, so everything would be under  
41 Federal system then.

42

43 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's  
44 correct. It looks to me on the map like there's a  
45 portion of the Noatak River that is not within the  
46 Federal conservation unit nor quite adjoining it. It  
47 looks like there's a stretch of the Noatak that the  
48 Federal conservation unit doesn't go up to the shores  
49 of it or beyond it. So there's some exceptions, but  
50 generally yes, you're correct.

1                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Which areas are you  
2 referring to?

3  
4                   MR. BUKLIS: I'd probably have to take  
5 a break and show you on the map. If you look, for  
6 example, where Noatak Village is on the Noatak River,  
7 that's not within the conservation unit and it's not  
8 quite adjoining. The flowing water is not quite  
9 adjoining the boundary. It looks to me on the map like  
10 there's.....

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All the headwaters  
13 on the Noatak River flows in from the conservation  
14 units.

15  
16                  MR. BUKLIS: Correct. But if a stretch  
17 of the river is outside of the unit and not adjoining  
18 it, the fact that it's headwaters comes from the  
19 conservation unit and flow it, that does not convey the  
20 jurisdiction. You have to be on the conservation unit  
21 or adjoining it. So the fact that the Noatak River  
22 headwaters come from a conservation unit doesn't impart  
23 our jurisdiction on down to the sea.

24  
25                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So what we're seeing  
26 is those lands that have Native selected lands would  
27 not be considered as Federal lands even though they  
28 flow on the same river.

29  
30                  MR. BUKLIS: For wildlife regulations,  
31 you're correct. If you're on Native lands and you're  
32 looking at the wildlife regulations, it would be the  
33 State regulations that would apply. For subsistence  
34 fishing, the Federal perspective is that our  
35 jurisdiction is for all waters within the conservation  
36 unit or adjoining it and whether the lands up to the  
37 bank of that stream are Native or some other inholding  
38 or not, as long as it's within the conservation unit  
39 boundaries, our jurisdiction applies.

40  
41                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, that's what  
42 I'm talking about, the Noatak River. That's why I say  
43 that's the Federal system.

44  
45                  MR. BUKLIS: What I'm saying is there's  
46 a stretch of the lower Noatak that leaves the  
47 conservation unit and that stretch that leaves the  
48 conservation unit is not.....

49  
50                  CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Those are KIC lands.

1 MR. GOODWIN: (Nods affirmatively)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: KIC selection.  
4  
5 MR. BUKLIS: That's not within our  
6 jurisdiction. But if those selections -- if there are  
7 inholdings up in the conservation unit, then our  
8 jurisdiction does apply. It depends on whether you're  
9 within the conservation unit outer boundaries or not.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Does Park Service  
12 have a map here that we can look at?  
13  
14 MR. HELFRICH: Sure.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, not that. I'm  
17 looking for a map that someone can get quickly so we  
18 can get clarity in regards to those areas that we're  
19 thinking of. I still think because those selections  
20 are only limited on land on north and east and west  
21 side of the Noatak River. And in some cases it's maybe  
22 200, 300 yards upland and from there it goes into a  
23 Preserve or into a refuge and that's what I'm thinking.  
24  
25 (Pause)  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I just want to make  
28 sure that we're clear when we start submitting  
29 proposals. I don't want to submit a proposal that  
30 don't relate to Federal lands -- I mean the State of  
31 Alaska, as being another entity, and all we're doing is  
32 basically wasting much of our time trying to do that.  
33  
34 (Pause)  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: When you're talking  
37 about the Noatak, this is everything within the  
38 conservation unit of Cape Krusenstern. This is a  
39 portion of the Preserve. You've got BLM on the one  
40 side. You have Cape Krusenstern on the other.  
41  
42 MR. GOODWIN: Here's the boundary for  
43 the Preserve.  
44  
45 MR. BUKLIS: Correct.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Because --  
48 because.....  
49  
50 MR. BUKLIS: They are in agreement.

1 These are in agreement. Here's what I'm saying if  
2 you're making a proposal for this area, for example,  
3 clearly you're within the conservation unit, it's  
4 Federal jurisdiction, that's clear. If you're making a  
5 proposal for somewhere -- if you're making a.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Say on the Noatak.

8  
9 MR. BUKLIS: Okay, on the Noatak.  
10 Okay, up here on the Noatak, Federal jurisdiction; if  
11 you're here you're not inside the conservation unit and  
12 you're not adjoining it; here you're adjoining it. If  
13 you're in or adjoining it counts. If you're not in it  
14 and you're not adjoining it we don't claim  
15 jurisdiction. The fact that this water came out of  
16 here isn't what is the driving factor, it has to be  
17 within or adjoining, it can't be independent and have  
18 us have jurisdiction.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Then if you don't  
21 have a jurisdiction over that then what are we doing  
22 going into to dealing with the Controlled Use Area?

23  
24 MR. BUKLIS: Well, right now we're  
25 talking about the fish proposals, I.....

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, that's what I  
28 mean, this includes.....

29  
30 MR. BUKLIS: Okay, okay, in.....

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: .....a water body in  
33 the Noatak.

34  
35 MR. GOODWIN: .....area doesn't have  
36 anything to do with fishing.

37  
38 MR. BUKLIS: No, no, I understand.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

41  
42 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah.

43  
44 MR. BUKLIS: So this is the call for  
45 fish. So if you want to make a fish proposal on the  
46 Noatak River up in this headwaters or middle river  
47 we've got jurisdiction. If you want to make a proposal  
48 for management of some regulation over here it would be  
49 a State regulation. We don't claim jurisdiction for  
50 this stretch of the Noatak because you're not in and

1 you're not adjoining.

2

3 Now, here, I mean you almost need a  
4 magnifying -- but here you're adjoining so that would  
5 count.

6

7 MR. GOODWIN: No, you're not.

8

9 MR. BUKLIS: No, okay, okay, well, I'm  
10 looking real closely but some of these maps it looks  
11 like it adjoins right there it's very close.

12

13 MR. GOODWIN: The selections are one  
14 mile on each side of the river.

15

16 MR. BUKLIS: One mile, okay, all right.

17

18 On this scale it looks like it touches  
19 but.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Okay, I  
22 wanted clarity on it.

23

24 MR. BUKLIS: That's a good question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's good to know  
27 that, State of Alaska that has jurisdiction within the  
28 Native selected lands.

29

30 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah.

31

32 MR. BUKLIS: Correct.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

35

36 MR. BUKLIS: Unless, well, here's my  
37 other point, just, I don't want to confuse you, but if  
38 you had Native selection lands, let's say up in here,  
39 I'm just pretending, okay, let's say there was  
40 selections, like inholdings up here, the fact that the  
41 water is flowing through an inholding but all of that  
42 is inside the outer boundaries we claim jurisdiction.  
43 So it depends on where the selection is. So if you've  
44 got a selection in the Park or Preserve.....

45

46 MR. GOODWIN: Right in here like this  
47 Selawik Refuge comes over.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah.

50

1 MR. BUKLIS: .....so that's why.....  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's what I  
4 described, while everything within Refuge is within the  
5 Refuge.....  
6  
7 MR. BUKLIS: If you're inside the  
8 Refuge we're good.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right, okay.  
11  
12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Is that true for  
13 other Federal lands.....  
14  
15 MR. BUKLIS: For fishing.  
16  
17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: .....that are  
18 conservation.....  
19  
20 MR. BUKLIS: For fishing, yes.  
21  
22 MR. OVIATT: No.  
23  
24 MR. BUKLIS: For Federal conservation  
25 lands, but not BLM lands -- Federal conservation.....  
26  
27 MR. OVIATT: It's for Federal  
28 conservation Units, Wild and Scenic Rivers.....  
29  
30 MR. BUKLIS: Wild and scenic.  
31  
32 MR. OVIATT: .....and any lands that  
33 were withdrawn prior to statehood.....  
34  
35 (Everybody speaking at once and not by  
36 a microphone)  
37 MR. BUKLIS: Okay.  
38  
39 MR. OVIATT: But for.....  
40  
41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Like the Squirrel  
42 River, Federal lands.....  
43  
44 MR. OVIATT: The Squirrel River is not,  
45 no, it's not, it's.....  
46  
47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's not a  
48 conservation unit, that's right.  
49  
50 MR. OVIATT: .....recreation -- that's

1 right, because BLM the lands that BLM manage was never  
2 withdrawn, it's what's leftover and the boundaries of  
3 those lands that BLM manage goes to the mean high  
4 water.....

5  
6 MR. GOODWIN: See this was all BLM  
7 before the -- before the.....

8  
9 REPORTER: Okay, wait a second, too  
10 many people are just talking - are you wanting to keep  
11 this all on the record so I can try to keep track of  
12 who's talking.....

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah, that's what  
15 we're trying to -- trying to get clarity in regards to  
16 the ownership.....

17  
18 REPORTER: Okay, well, you're all  
19 talking at the same time without any.....

20  
21 MR. OVIATT: And this is for  
22 management, for Federal subsistence management  
23 only.....

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

26  
27 MR. OVIATT: .....the State still owns  
28 the beds of those navigable.....

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Okay. That  
31 clarifies that then.

32  
33 MR. OVIATT: But the fish in those  
34 rivers is -- in that Preserve, those fish are Federal  
35 fish if you want to look.....

36  
37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Then if the  
38 caribou are swimming across.....

39  
40 (Laughter)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Say you have a  
43 Native allotment on the Noatak and it's on both sides  
44 of the river.

45  
46 MR. BUKLIS: As long as you're within  
47 -- if you're within the outer boundaries -- if you're  
48 within the outer boundaries then it doesn't matter who  
49 owns the land we claim fisheries jurisdiction.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. BUKLIS: Now for hunting, for  
4 hunting it's different. For hunting on lands it  
5 depends on whether it's Federal land or not. So if  
6 you're at an inholding and you're hunting on that  
7 inholding the State rules apply.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So that's why.....  
10  
11 MR. GOODWIN: Not on Native  
12 allotments.....  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: .....so that's why  
15 what's her name won the case then.....  
16  
17 MR. OVIATT: We have never determined  
18 that for wildlife, only for fisheries.  
19  
20 MR. GOODWIN: Morta (ph).  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, that old lady  
23 from the Glennallen area.  
24  
25 MR. GOODWIN: Oh, yeah, yeah, Katie  
26 John.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Katie John.  
29  
30 MR. BUKLIS: Our rules would apply.....  
31  
32 MR. GOODWIN: Okay.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
35  
36 (Pause)  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You can get that  
39 recording, I think.....  
40  
41 REPORTER: Most of it, everyone was  
42 talking at once.....  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: .....huh -- okay,  
45 the issue in regards to trying to solve the issue in  
46 regards to navigability of water, a discussion on it  
47 and has been clarified.  
48  
49 Again, you've been given a news release  
50 in regards to proposals for fisheries and then if you

1 have an interest in putting together a proposal, work  
2 with the regional office out of Anchorage with your  
3 coordinator to put together a proposal.

4

5 Any questions.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. We'll go down  
10 to the agency reports. Office of Subsistence  
11 Management.

12

13 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. We have no  
14 special report to make at this time.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. National Park  
17 Service. George Helfrich.

18

19 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. My name  
20 is George Helfrich and I'm an employee of the National  
21 Park Service. I live and work here in Kotzebue. First  
22 of all, I would like to thank the Council for meeting  
23 here in the new Northwest Arctic Heritage Center. I  
24 hope that you all will choose to have future meetings  
25 here. It's one of the purposes of this building.

26

27 Then I would like to thank Mr. Burns,  
28 Mr. Lonewolf and Mr. Gregg for joining the Regional  
29 Advisory Council. I know that Council members  
30 sometimes feel that this group is not as effective as  
31 it might be or doesn't have as much sway as it might  
32 have, but I'd have to disagree. This group is  
33 extremely important to the National Park Service and  
34 its work in this region preserving natural and cultural  
35 resources.

36

37 There are a number of staff people here  
38 from the National Park Service. Willie Goodwin is, of  
39 course, our community liaison. Mike Holt is a new  
40 staff person. He's an archeologist with us, living and  
41 working here in Kotzebue. Dave Marshall is here. Dave  
42 is our new administrative officer. Ken Adkisson, of  
43 course, is here and has spoken a couple times. Marcy  
44 Johnson, a wildlife biologist is here. And Dan  
45 Stevenson, our law enforcement ranger, is also here.

46

47 We have three topics to talk to you  
48 today. One is a follow up from the September 2nd  
49 meeting of 2009. That's Jake Jacobson's proposal.  
50 Another Marcy Johnson will be talking about wildlife

1 projects that the National Park Service has been doing  
2 since the last time the Council met and plans to be  
3 doing between now and the next Council meeting. We'd  
4 also like to talk about our enforcement efforts out in  
5 the field and particular diffusing the conflict between  
6 big game transporters and their clients and fall  
7 caribou hunters from the area.

8

9 Mr. Sampson, I can take those in any  
10 order that the Council would wish. Again, Jack  
11 Jacobson's proposal, Ms. Johnson's update on wildlife  
12 projects or Dan Stevenson talking about enforcement.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You're giving the  
15 report and it's your prerogative to talk about whatever  
16 order you want.

17

18 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. I'll begin with  
19 Jake Jacobson's proposal. This, as I said, is a carry-  
20 over from the September 2nd meeting that we had in the  
21 NANA building and it appears in your packets on Pages  
22 69 and 70. There are three companies that offer sport  
23 hunting guide services in Noatak National Preserve. So  
24 we are talking about sport hunting guides. We are not  
25 talking about transporters.

26

27 Those three companies are -- well, the  
28 proprietors are Jake Jacobson, Dave Leonard and Phil  
29 Driver. They are on 10-year concession contracts.  
30 Those contracts were put in place on April 10th, 2005  
31 and they run until December 31st, 2014.

32

33 Right now the concession contracts say  
34 that each guide is permitted to take 12 hunters per  
35 year into Noatak National Preserve. That would be 120  
36 clients over the lifetime of the contract. It's a 10-  
37 year contract. They are allowed to take 12 clients in  
38 each year. Specifically their contracts say the annual  
39 client limit shall not exceed 12 hunters per year.  
40 This does not include non-hunters.

41

42 In 2005, each one was allowed to take  
43 in 12 clients. In 2006, each one was allowed to take  
44 in 12 clients. In 2007, each one was allowed to take  
45 in 12 clients. All the way over at 2014, each one  
46 would be allowed to take in 12 clients.

47

48 Now Jake Jacobson has requested that we  
49 amend his contract. If we should amend Mr. Jacobson's  
50 contract, we would have to amend all three contracts.

1 So anything we do to affect Mr. Jacobson would also  
2 affect Mr. Driver and would also affect Mr. Leonard.  
3 What Mr. Jacobson has requested and what we are seeking  
4 your advice about is whether we should allow a contract  
5 amendment that would allow each one of the three  
6 concessionaires to take in up to 16 clients per year,  
7 but no more than 120 clients over the lifetime of the  
8 contract.

9  
10 In short, what Mr. Jacobson has asked  
11 is if he can have some flexibility in numbers to  
12 accommodate not having many clients in one year and  
13 having more clients in another. Again, looking at this  
14 chart, as I've laid it out quite simply, let's say that  
15 we approve this for this year. In 2010, Mr. Jacobson  
16 might take in 16 clients or any one of the  
17 concessionaires might take in 16 clients and then in  
18 2011 he might take in 16 clients, but then in 2012 he  
19 might only take in four clients and in 2013 he might  
20 take in 14 clients and then in 2014 he might take in 10  
21 clients.

22  
23 In other words, the number of clients  
24 per year could fluctuate anywhere in between 16 and  
25 zero, but at the end of the contract period there would  
26 be no more than that 120 clients that was permitted  
27 under the contract when it originated. So there's  
28 flexibility from year to year to year between zero and  
29 16, but at the end of the contract there's no increase  
30 in the total number of clients allowed.

31  
32 MR. LONEWOLF: This is Pierre Lonewolf.  
33 Have you spoken to Mr. Driver and the other fellow  
34 about this?

35  
36 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Lonewolf, we have  
37 and haven't gotten any response from either Mr. Driver  
38 or Mr. Leonard. They haven't said either they would  
39 like to see this change in their contract or they would  
40 not like to see it.

41  
42 MR. LONEWOLF: It seems to me that Mr.  
43 Jacobson is running a business and if you have a  
44 maximum of 12 clients and some years you can't fill it  
45 and other years he wants to get more clients, I would  
46 -- if he's running a business, he's limited to 12 a  
47 year. I would say stick with the contract. It's not  
48 the Park Service's fault that he can get more or less  
49 clients. That's his responsibility. Your  
50 responsibility is to set the limit and he has to adhere

1 to it. That's my take on it right now.

2

3 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Lonewolf, I  
4 completely understand that. Mr. Jacobson signed the  
5 contract in 2005 that said 12 clients per year. It is  
6 not our responsibility to adjust that number. Just as  
7 you said, a contract is a contract. On the other hand,  
8 we thought that it was a reasonable request, especially  
9 considering there wouldn't be any total increase in the  
10 number of clients over the lifetime of the contract and  
11 we would like to bring it to the Regional Advisory  
12 Council for some advice.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Was there any  
15 consultation with the Regional Advisory Council in  
16 regards to when the contract was being considered  
17 because of the very conflicts that are in place today?

18

19 MR. HELFRICH: Again, Mr. Sampson, as I  
20 have understood it, the conflicts have been between  
21 transporters and their clients and local subsistence  
22 users, not so much between sport hunting guides and  
23 their clients and local subsistence users. These  
24 contracts were put in place right before I arrived  
25 here. I can't speak to whether there was consultation  
26 or not between the Park Service and the Regional  
27 Advisory Council before the Park Service initiated  
28 these contracts.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Willie.

31

32 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman. The  
33 consultation we went through was with Noatak on the  
34 three guides.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Good. Thank  
37 you. Victor.

38

39 MR. KARMUN: It would seem to me I  
40 would shoot these suggestions or recommendations down,  
41 my opinion, for the main and simple reason you got no  
42 answer back from the other two entities yet and I would  
43 not make any recommendation without their knowledge or  
44 input first.

45

46 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. I understand, Mr.  
47 Karmun.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Jon.

50

1 MR. GREGG: Mr. Helfrich, Jake states  
2 in his letter that he does not believe this change will  
3 have any adverse effect whatsoever on anyone. Has the  
4 Park Service identified things they do think would be  
5 adverse?  
6

7 MR. HELFRICH: I would like to ask Ken  
8 Adkisson to answer that. Ken sits on our  
9 interdisciplinary team that evaluates requests like  
10 this and he can speak to the discussion that team had.  
11

12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Ken Adkisson,  
13 where's your guitar.  
14

15 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
16 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. If this  
17 were adopted in any given year, the maximum number of  
18 clients to increase would be 12, four for each guide,  
19 and that's assuming that they all took advantage of it.  
20 We basically weren't able to identify any adverse  
21 impacts resulting from an increased level of use at  
22 that minor level.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.  
25 Go ahead, Victor.  
26

27 MR. KARMUN: But it seems like Mr.  
28 Jacobson is basing his numbers on one year he may only  
29 get six clients, but he would like to carry them over  
30 to the next year. Here again, I still maintain and say  
31 I won't go yea or nay until I hear an answer from the  
32 other two entities.  
33

34 Thank you.  
35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Was that a comment  
37 or question?  
38

39 MR. KARMUN: Comment.  
40

41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions  
42 for Mr. Adkisson.  
43

44 (No comments)  
45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: George. Are you  
47 done?  
48

49 MR. HELFRICH: Does the Council have  
50 any advice for us about how we should proceed?

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any comments from  
2 this body for recommendation.

3  
4 MR. LONEWOLF: This is Pierre Lonewolf.  
5 My comment and recommendation is to leave the contract  
6 as it is. He entered into a contractual agreement and  
7 if it's that easy to change a contract with the Federal  
8 government, I've got a treaty I want to update.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.

11  
12 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Karmun, I understood  
13 that your recommendation was to get in contact with  
14 Dave Leonard and Phil Driver and find out their  
15 opinion.

16  
17 MR. KARMUN: I would strongly recommend  
18 that, Mr. Helfrich, but I think I would go along with  
19 Pierre Lonewolf. He already signed the contract. I  
20 think it's binding.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other comments.  
23 Go ahead, Enoch.

24  
25 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I would just stick to  
26 that contract they had to follow per year.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others. I guess  
29 you heard the comments from the committees in regards  
30 to their thoughts in regards to the contract that the  
31 Park Service has with Jake. As I hear it, the  
32 recommendation is to keep the existing contract as is.  
33 That's the recommendation from this body.

34  
35 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
36 That is exactly what I needed to hear. If I may, I'd  
37 like to now ask Marcy Johnson to come up to talk about  
38 some wildlife projects that we have going on and then  
39 Dan Stevenson can talk about our enforcement actions.

40  
41 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. This is Marcy  
42 Johnson with the National Park Service. I have a quick  
43 list of some projects as George mentioned. I'll try to  
44 race through them in the interest of time, but if you  
45 have some questions certainly interrupt me and I can  
46 give you more detail.

47  
48 First of all we did a sex/age  
49 composition survey late this last fall within the Kobuk  
50 Valley National Park boundary. They found 38 bulls to

1 100 cows and Brad Schultz has kind of relayed a little  
2 bit of information to me, but I don't have the whole  
3 story for you so can't provide too many details.  
4 However in April I will be doing our count, so it will  
5 be from the Numiuptuk (ph) up to the upper headwaters  
6 of the Noatak the first two weeks of April, a multi-  
7 agency effort.

8

9                   Moving on to muskox, we do have a  
10 research project going on and as I mentioned at the  
11 last meeting we are already finding some differences  
12 between the two populations we're monitoring, so we're  
13 studying animals in the Cape Thompson population as  
14 well as down in the Seward Peninsula.

15

16                   Just within our capture effort last  
17 March that we started putting out some collars, we were  
18 finding the animals on the average about 60 to 70  
19 pounds heavier down on the Seward Peninsula, so we're  
20 going to continue to look into that. Our project is  
21 going to 2013. Currently we have 27 collars out.  
22 Twelve of those are in Cape Krusenstern National  
23 Monument and 15 are down in the Bering Land Bridge  
24 National Preserve. I'm radio tracking every two weeks  
25 and also I think the last time I reported to you this  
26 group that we had almost 10,000 locations and now with  
27 the GPS collars we have about 25,000 locations from  
28 those.

29

30                   One interesting thing we're finding,  
31 you'd asked about predation earlier. We have a handful  
32 of mortalities, most down in the Bering Land Bridge  
33 area and almost all those were probable bear kills.  
34 We're looking into more of those with more data as time  
35 goes on.

36

37                   Also some really interesting large  
38 movements of these groups. We had one that we had put  
39 a collar on last March in the Igichuk Hills just across  
40 the way here and now she's 130 miles north up at Cape  
41 Sabine. So they make these large movements and we're  
42 trying to keep up with them on those.

43

44                   Our upcoming field schedule in March,  
45 just after the end of the harvest season, we'll start  
46 captures again. We'll have to put more collars out to  
47 replace some of these mortalities and we also did not  
48 get out as many as we wanted to last year in time. That  
49 will be the last two weeks of March. We'll be  
50 operating out of Kotzebue for that.

1                   Following that for the next couple  
2 weeks one of our two principal investigators on that  
3 project, Joel Burger, will be going out to these groups  
4 by snowmachine and he takes photographs of the animals  
5 that he's using to estimate body mass so he can get a  
6 larger sample size without handling animals. Then  
7 he'll also be collecting scat samples, some fecal  
8 samples for some different tests we're doing. That  
9 project continues to move on into its second main year.

10

11                   Moving on to bears and certainly  
12 interrupt me if you need more details. I'll try to  
13 race through some of these things. I haven't been  
14 here very long as you know, but one of the first  
15 meetings I went to there was some interest in what  
16 might be going on with black bears in the area and  
17 there haven't been any big surveys of black bears in  
18 this whole region. I've secured some funding to do a  
19 project in 2011. It's going to be non-invasive, so we  
20 won't be out there darting animals and using capture  
21 drugs.

22

23                   There's a couple different ways to do  
24 these non-invasive projects and get some good  
25 information. Brad Schultz, our other biologist had an  
26 interest in looking at the potential for bear/human  
27 interactions maybe around the sand dunes area and I'm  
28 extending it to the river corridor also by collecting  
29 some scat samples.

30

31                   A lot of times it's hard to find scats,  
32 so they've actually trained dogs now that are very  
33 successful in going out and sniffing out these bear  
34 scats. It's very quick. You may have heard of putting  
35 up barbed wire for collecting hair. I've done a lot of  
36 that in my past. But you have to keep doing that over  
37 and over again. You have to use lure, which draws  
38 bears in from other places. This way you send dog  
39 teams out once. They have a great success rate of  
40 finding almost every scat, even scats that are a couple  
41 years old on the ground. They're in and they're out.  
42 It will be for about a month in 2011.

43

44                   Along with that I'm planning some extra  
45 time for the groups to maybe speak at the schools and  
46 maybe try to get some students involved with that  
47 project too. So that's coming up in 2011.

48

49                   At your last meeting, Virgil Adams out  
50 of Noatak had voiced the same concerns Mr. Burns did

1 today about the bears getting to the fish racks and  
2 Virgil's comments also were that some of the fish racks  
3 were in the community too, just outside of people's  
4 homes.

5  
6 George Pappas from Fish and Game  
7 mentioned the use of electric fencing. They've been  
8 used with great success down in Dillingham. There's  
9 even a use of them in the Tibetan Plateau that's been  
10 working very well. I was able to get some funding to  
11 buy fencing for every fish rack of anybody who's  
12 interested. Virgil talked to everybody he knows with  
13 racks in the community and a few upriver camps and  
14 everybody seems enthusiastic and ready to give it a  
15 try. I'm purchasing the equipment and we're going to  
16 try it out this summer and see how it works.

17  
18 Moving on with our brown bear surveys.  
19 Brad Schultz is coordinating that and this year we're  
20 going to be surveying in the Gates of the Arctic  
21 Preserve. We'll be working on the Northern Seward  
22 Peninsula in 2011.

23  
24 As far as caribou, we have a biologist,  
25 Kyle Joly, out of Fairbanks. He purchased some GPS  
26 collars last year that Jim Dau and his crew put out at  
27 Onion Portage this last year. Some other things we're  
28 working on related to that is helping our ecologist  
29 with a lichen biomass project. We're trying to  
30 calibrate some former studies looking at the landscape  
31 and how much cover a certain species of lichens and  
32 exactly how much is there available for the caribou.  
33 So we're working on that this summer. Peter is also  
34 trying to get some enclosures up. We're working on an  
35 EA this year. I think next year he'll be able to put  
36 up some grazing enclosures so we can look at some  
37 different effects on the lichen down on the Seward  
38 Peninsula.

39  
40 As far as sheep, I just talked with  
41 Cumey Rettinbery (ph) from Fairbanks. We just did a  
42 survey in the Western Bairds this last summer. We  
43 found 823. Most of our units were completed there.  
44 For every 100 ewes we had 36 rams and 21 percent of  
45 those rams were a full curl. In general, the  
46 population is slowly increasing, certainly better than  
47 -- it has been increasing since the '90s. There wasn't  
48 much else. She didn't give me any graphs or anything  
49 to show you now, but I can at a future meeting.

50

1                   Aside from that we have on the horizon  
2 some other projects going on. Get some weather  
3 stations implemented so we can use that towards our  
4 research too and some crews looking at thermokarst and  
5 some changes in permafrost and drying lakes. Also the  
6 lagoons have been identified, of course, as an  
7 important resource for fisheries, subsistence use of  
8 fisheries, so we have a project going on monitoring  
9 lagoons. The water chemistry, the zooplankton,  
10 invertebrates and fish and also some bird studies going  
11 on this summer.

12

13                   Thank you for your time. Do you have  
14 any questions for me, please.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Pierre.

17

18                   MR. LONEWOLF: On your biomass studies,  
19 are you guys using remote imagine with light filtration  
20 to determine what species you're looking at? Like on  
21 Google Earth, do you have an orbiter which takes photos  
22 every 12:00 o'clock noon all over the earth so you can  
23 look at historical data such as lake size and all this  
24 stuff. So are you using any of that?

25

26                   MS. JOHNSON: There's ABR, Inc., a  
27 company out of Fairbanks has just finished a new  
28 landcover map using a lot of that data, compiling it  
29 and going out and groundtruthing. We're using a lot of  
30 Peter's vegetation plots where he identified lichen on  
31 a smaller scale and breaking it up to that bigger scale  
32 too.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions  
35 or comments.

36

37                   (No comments)

38

39                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I certainly have  
40 some comments I'd like to make. I don't know where  
41 it's going to lead us to, but it seems like the Parks  
42 certainly has some big dollars to deal with and has  
43 spent quite a chunk planning on doing studies. You do  
44 studies on plants. You do studies on human. You do  
45 studies on animals.

46

47                   One of the things that certainly is  
48 being questioned by some of the communities now is that  
49 with all the studies that the agencies do, the money  
50 that they put out, you know, one thing that the

1 communities are saying, if we're asked not to harass  
2 animals and if we did harass animals, we get cited for  
3 those things, but yet the agencies themselves harass  
4 animals to collar animals, but yet what do they do.  
5 You spend millions of dollars doing that.

6  
7                   At what point in time are you going to  
8 say, well, we've studied out enough. I think we spent  
9 enough money. What do we do with that information.  
10 Some of the communities certainly don't get the  
11 information. You have it at the agency level. If  
12 you're going to be doing these studies, you might as  
13 well start providing information to the communities so  
14 they can know what's being collared. If muskox are  
15 being collared, if caribou is being collared, let the  
16 community know what you're doing that for for what  
17 purpose.

18  
19                   It's getting to the point now where  
20 people are saying, well, I think it's time that the  
21 Park Service, State of Alaska needs to consider maybe  
22 quit studying some of this stuff on an annual basis.  
23 Caribou has been studied every year. How much money is  
24 spent on that. Every year you study fisheries, you  
25 study other resources. At what point are you folks  
26 going to say, well, we've studied enough. This is what  
27 we know. Do you have an idea how much longer you're  
28 going to study these critters?

29  
30                   MS. JOHNSON: Well, I can speak to a  
31 couple examples. With our muskox study, when we  
32 started that comparing why is the Seward Peninsula  
33 population increasing when the one up north is stable  
34 if not decreasing. That was of interest on a larger  
35 perspective too because up at the Arctic Refuge that  
36 population is going down quite rapidly. So we want to  
37 see what's going on before it gets too low.

38  
39                   With that project we went out to many  
40 communities. We didn't get as much interest from some  
41 of the communities that weren't as interested in the  
42 muskox. The community of Shishmaref we had a big  
43 turnout there. A lot of people continue to be very  
44 interested in our project down there. But we did go  
45 to, I think, seven communities and give presentations.

46  
47                   Another example is the black bear  
48 project. There's a lot of interest with black bears as  
49 a scientist in the region because they haven't been  
50 looked at before. It's just the very northwest corner

1 of the range and it's interesting to see how they're  
2 interacting with the brown bears here. So it's  
3 tempting to want to put on collars.

4

5 Do you want to add to that, George?

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. The  
8 other issue that I also would like to put on the table  
9 is that any time you start collaring critters and  
10 there's others -- well, actually the public certainly  
11 can get into the computer network and find out exactly  
12 where these critters are and sometimes some of the  
13 sportsmen group use that very information to go out  
14 into those general areas and utilize what's been put  
15 out. I think that's something we also need to  
16 consider.

17

18 The other is the issue in regards to  
19 study. I don't question your knowledge, but the local  
20 knowledge that you folks don't even consider sometimes  
21 sort of gets set aside to say, well, we know more than  
22 you because we went to college. Sometimes that's an  
23 insult to people that have good knowledge in regards to  
24 resources. In order for you to get information, you  
25 talk to people. That's the local knowledge. Too often  
26 we don't consult with folks that have good background  
27 knowledge of resources and what occurs. At some point  
28 in time you need to start considering that local  
29 knowledge so they can be a part of a study. By  
30 brushing off people to the side doesn't do us no good.  
31 Doesn't do them no good. What basically they get is a  
32 message we don't count. So I think at some point we  
33 need to start thinking of how that can be incorporated  
34 into a study if that's what it means.

35

36 In regards to mortalities, do you have  
37 any numbers of what's been killed by collaring both  
38 caribou or sheep or other critters that's been  
39 collared? I mean is there any mortalities or do you  
40 have any numbers of mortalities? I'm trying to get at  
41 some numbers if you do have.

42

43 MS. JOHNSON: I don't have any numbers  
44 on the caribou and sheep. We had one with the muskox  
45 project.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Questions, comments.

48

49 MR. LONEWOLF: One of the things I was  
50 going to mention is that like Park Service and Fish and

1 Game and stuff they need to do a better outreach  
2 program. Bob Goff, if anybody remembers him, he used  
3 to be the archaeologist up here years ago, and I used  
4 to tell him, Bob, send me your write-ups. I haven't  
5 seen them yet, but I know they're out there somewhere.  
6 A lot of those things like that, you know, local people  
7 are interested in that. Studies and stuff, you know.  
8 Have an open house. Go over to the radio station and  
9 talk about stuff, put it all over, give it to the kids  
10 in the high school and stuff. A lot of times, you  
11 know, who's that, what are they doing. People need to  
12 know what's going on and the reason for the study and  
13 all that stuff. Any knowledge is a boon in the end,  
14 you know. You've just got to let people know what's  
15 going on. I think that will help a lot.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.

22

23 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Sampson. George  
24 Helfrich with the National Park Service. Before Dan  
25 speaks about enforcement, which I know you all are  
26 interested in, if I just may respond briefly to a  
27 couple of your comments. The National Park Service is  
28 a preservation agency and as you understand part of  
29 preservation is understanding, having knowledge of what  
30 is happening on the landscape and that's the rationale  
31 behind all these studies we do.

32

33 In particular, one of the Park  
34 Service's responsibilities is to ensure the continued  
35 viability of subsistence resources and that's one of  
36 the reasons why we concentrate on animals such as  
37 caribou and sheep. If you think back, you'll remember  
38 that one of the reasons why we closed sheep hunting in  
39 the Baird Mountains to the general public is because we  
40 determined that through studies there were only enough  
41 sheep available for the subsistence harvest.

42

43 To me, that illuminates one of the  
44 importances of continuing to do these population  
45 studies. We are extremely aware of the sensitivities  
46 that surround handling animals and we try to minimize  
47 it as much as possible and to look for other ways to  
48 study populations that don't involve putting a collar  
49 on an animal or immobilizing an animal.

50

1                   Then finally we all agree that we need  
2 to do as much outreach as possible. We see not just  
3 the collection of knowledge, but also the dissemination  
4 of knowledge as being critical to our job.

5  
6                   MS. JOHNSON: I think you covered it,  
7 but if I could just add one last thing. I have a  
8 number of ideas I've pitched to a teacher down in  
9 Shishmaref to try to get his students involved with the  
10 muskoxen. That's the closest I've gotten to finding a  
11 teacher interested in involving his students. It's  
12 taking a while to get some students on board. I'm  
13 always thinking of ideas and always welcoming some more  
14 too.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Mr.  
17 Stevenson.

18  
19                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr.  
20 Chairman. Council members. My name is Dan Stevenson  
21 with the Protection Division with National Park  
22 Service. As most of you know, we conduct year round  
23 patrols within Noatak Preserve, Kobuk Valley, Bering  
24 Land Bridge and Cape Krusenstern. In the fall, we step  
25 up our patrol efforts. We bring in extra Federal  
26 officers to help with our fall hunting patrols.

27  
28                   The fall time we're mainly using fixed  
29 wing aircraft, helicopters, jet boats, canoes and foot  
30 patrols to contact hunters and I know most of you know  
31 this, but I'll just give you a brief summary for those  
32 that are new.

33  
34                   We spend approximately 80 percent of  
35 our time in the fall in Noatak Preserve working the  
36 issue up there and working hunting. Mainly the Ely,  
37 the Kelly and the upper Kug. That's primarily between  
38 August and October.

39  
40                   We usually check about 200-250 hunters  
41 a year within Noatak Preserve during fall time. That's  
42 roughly about 40 percent of the hunters in the Noatak.  
43 That's our goal, is to try to contact between 30 and 40  
44 percent of the hunters entering Noatak Preserve in the  
45 fall. We've been doing that for the last several years  
46 meeting that goal.

47  
48                   We also try to work cases in the Kobuk  
49 Valley and Krusenstern. We do patrols there during the  
50 fall time as well as we get reports and try to get into

1 those areas.

2

3                   We check all hunters. We check local  
4 hunters, non-local, we check Alaska residents, non-  
5 residents. Everyone is treated fairly out there in the  
6 fields. We enforce both State and Federal wildlife  
7 regulations on Federal land, so we can adopt all State  
8 regulations and enforce the State regulations.

9

10                   We do education, as George mentioned,  
11 and I know we hand this booklet out to all the hunters  
12 that we contact. I send this out in the mail quite a  
13 bit too. It's the handout the State Fish and Game put  
14 together a couple years ago. Excellent information on  
15 subsistence issues, traditional hunting issues, things  
16 to do, things not to do. So we hand that out to all  
17 the clients we contact along with some other  
18 literature.

19

20                   We spend a great deal of time just  
21 visiting with the hunters. Mostly the non-locals we  
22 spend a great deal of time just explaining subsistence  
23 issues, traditional issues and I'd like to think that  
24 we prevent problems. I think we try to be as proactive  
25 as we can and explain issues, explain concerns to these  
26 hunters so they don't get in trouble and we can avoid  
27 some of the user conflicts.

28

29                   The last couple years, and I think  
30 Willie Goodwin would agree, we have seen some  
31 improvement out in the field. We're seeing more folks  
32 not use black plastic bags, which this Council has  
33 identified in the past is a real concern. We're seeing  
34 more folks hanging their meat properly. I think a lot  
35 of that is thanks to this brochure. Folks seem to be  
36 treating the meat a little better than we've seen and  
37 cleaner camps too.

38

39                   This Council last year especially  
40 identified the issue of camps going up and staying up  
41 throughout the hunting season and transporters rotating  
42 clients through. We have tried to step up our  
43 enforcement efforts on that. We put out observation  
44 teams. We drop them in with helicopters and they can  
45 watch certain areas. It's a hard case to make. We  
46 haven't made any cases on that yet. We've explained to  
47 all the transporters that this is a serious issue and  
48 it's something we're looking for. So they're aware not  
49 to do it.

50

1                   We have talked about putting up remote  
2 cameras. We've talked about doing undercover  
3 operations, all trying to get at that issue. So it's  
4 something we're trying to improve and work on.

5  
6                   The last thing I have is that we are  
7 looking for young men and women that want to get into  
8 law enforcement with the Park Service. Any local  
9 people in Kotzebue where we have grants and funds and  
10 scholarships for especially local folks, men and women  
11 18, 20, 24, that are interested in law enforcement.  
12 Please give me a call and I can help them start that  
13 process.

14  
15                   Thank you.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Questions. Go  
18 ahead, Pierre.

19  
20                   MR. LONEWOLF: Okay. Say that I'm on  
21 the Noatak River and I'm fishing and I was an idiot and  
22 I forgot my fishing license and you stopped me. What's  
23 the process from there?

24  
25                   MR. STEVENSON: Are you a nice guy?

26  
27                   (Laughter)

28  
29                   MR. STEVENSON: A lot of it, to be  
30 honest, is attitude. I'll explain to you you need a  
31 fishing license and if you say the vender was closed in  
32 Noatak, we hear every excuse under the sun, and if  
33 you're honest and polite, I'll work with you. I think  
34 most enforcement officers are that way. But we get  
35 people that aren't that way and we don't work with you  
36 that way then.

37  
38                   MR. LONEWOLF: Yeah, I understand that.  
39 I was thinking about like a 14 and a 15 year old kid  
40 took their parents boat up the river and just went  
41 fishing and stuff. That's not something a teenager  
42 thinks about, you know.

43  
44                   MR. STEVENSON: Sure.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others.

47  
48                   (No comments)

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think Pierre

1 brought up a good point. If there's a way periodically  
2 that Parks, BLM, Fish and Wildlife can go to the radio  
3 station and do a radio talk show, people listen to the  
4 radio and I think that would be an ideal thing to  
5 continue to do.

6

7                   The issue in regards to wanton waste.  
8 We know a lot of moose rack and stuff comes through  
9 Kotzebue. You're talking, what, 1,500 critters and  
10 very little meat coming through. What are you folks  
11 doing to try to divert wanton waste issue for those  
12 that hunt for trophy?

13

14                   MR. STEVENSON: It's a combined effort.  
15 Every year it's a little different. We try to keep  
16 folks -- the hunters that aren't following the rules,  
17 we try to keep them guessing, but we usually have  
18 compliance checks at the airport for meat that's coming  
19 in from the field. So at the airport there are usually  
20 compliance checks either by State troopers or special  
21 Fish and Wildlife Service agents. It's getting easier  
22 for us to do those checks in town and that's been a  
23 long process. In the field it's through the law  
24 enforcement presence. Making a check with the  
25 helicopter, with fixed wings, educating people and  
26 follow it up with compliance checks and back in  
27 Kotzebue.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you for that.  
30 I think what I'm leading to is that we've got people in  
31 the community that would love to take the good meat if  
32 that meat has been handled properly. People would love  
33 to take it in Kotzebue. There's widowers and widows  
34 that would love to take good meat, both caribou or  
35 moose. I think the issue with regards to slime meat  
36 certainly has been cut down quite a bit based on the  
37 public information going out to the hunting groups, but  
38 I think it can get better and it will get better.

39

40                   At some point in time if there is a way  
41 that there can be set up a station in Kotzebue where  
42 those hunters can bring some good meat to that station,  
43 people would love to take that meat for consumption.  
44 If we could continue to encourage these folks, if they  
45 could learn to take care of their meat as part of the  
46 Park Service education, certainly is something that  
47 Park Service can continue to provide.

48

49                   I know George can bring us up to speed  
50 in regards to where things are at with the transporter

1 issue and what is the latest with that. So thanks a  
2 lot for your report.

3

4 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I know it's going to  
7 run into some time here, but that's fine too. We can  
8 spend part of the evening meeting. If you can give us  
9 a current report in regards to the transporter issue  
10 where the planning is and what's been done to this  
11 point, we would appreciate it.

12

13 MR. HELFRICH: George Helfrich with the  
14 National Park Service. Mr. Chairman, you've asked  
15 about the conflict between big game transporters and  
16 their clients and local subsistence users who are  
17 trying to catch a caribou during the fall. The Park  
18 Service has been approaching this problem through five  
19 means. Education, enforcement, limitations on the  
20 number of commercial operators, the Unit 23 working  
21 group and a big game transportation services plan.

22

23 Let me take those briefly one at a  
24 time. First of all, education. As Dan Stevenson spoke  
25 about, we distribute that State publication Legal  
26 Hunting Smart to the transporters. They in turn give  
27 it to their clients. We believe it's had a real effect  
28 on some of the behaviors out in the field as far as  
29 clean camps and better handling of meat.

30

31 As far as enforcement, just as Dan  
32 spoke about, we've got rangers out in the field all  
33 fall. They are contacting both sport hunters and  
34 subsistence users by boat, airplane or helicopters.  
35 They're looking for clean camps, well-handled meat and  
36 general adherence to regulations. They focus more on  
37 -- Mr. Lonewolf, to address your point, they focus more  
38 on education than they do on enforcement. We typically  
39 don't give out many citations unless there's a clear  
40 violation.

41

42 We continue to limit the number of  
43 transporters that are permitted to operate inside  
44 Noatak National Preserve and to cap the number of  
45 clients they're allowed to bring in. We are right at  
46 the beginning of a new permit cycle for this type of  
47 authorization that we give to transporters. There are  
48 only eight authorizations available. They are going to  
49 be given out through an application and a competitive  
50 process.

1                   Among the selection factors for this  
2 competitive process is what steps will the operator  
3 commit to take to cutting down on the impact of his or  
4 her operation on subsistence users. Anything that the  
5 applicant commits to in his or her application will  
6 appear in the operating plan eventually. So if a  
7 person says I'm not going to start taking clients until  
8 after September 15th, then that person won't be able to  
9 begin taking clients until after September 15th. If he  
10 or she says I'm not going to take any clients into the  
11 Aggie River, then in the operating plan it will say  
12 operations in the Aggie River area aren't permitted.

13  
14                   In addition to limiting the number of  
15 operators we are also limiting the number of clients to  
16 a maximum number of 357 among those eight operators.  
17 So we are not allowing any growth in this commercial  
18 business which is so controversial up here.

19  
20                   In addition, we're participating in the  
21 Unit 23 Working Group and the working group has had a  
22 couple successes. One is in the change in the dates of  
23 the Controlled Use Area. This group the Advisory  
24 Council looked at today. The dates are going to be  
25 expanded both on the August side and the September side  
26 in order to better address the conflict between  
27 transporters and their clients and local subsistence  
28 users along the Noatak River.

29  
30                   Another success that the group has had  
31 is mandatory pilot education. This is something that  
32 the Board of Game looked at at it's November meeting.  
33 Mandatory pilot education for anybody who is flying  
34 sport hunters into the area.

35  
36                   Then finally we are working on a big  
37 game transportation services plan. We've completed  
38 what is called scoping. For that plan, scoping is the  
39 opportunity for members of the public to have some  
40 input into what issues the plan should address and what  
41 alternatives they should look at for management.

42  
43                   We've got a number of good comments and  
44 now we're proceeding with putting together a draft  
45 plan. There will be more opportunity for public input  
46 into that plan. The primary drivers of the plan or the  
47 primary reasons for the plan are improved safety,  
48 improved resource protection, improved management of  
49 commercial operators and minimization of impacts of  
50 commercial operations on subsistence users who are

1 hunting caribou in the fall. As far as safety, we want  
2 to make sure that no commercial operator or no client  
3 of commercial operator has an accident.

4  
5 As far as resource protection, we want  
6 to cut down on the impacts of commercial operations on  
7 resources, both natural resources and cultural  
8 resources that we are charged with preserving.

9  
10 As far as appropriate management, we  
11 want to make sure that whatever management tool or type  
12 of authorization that we use for these commercial  
13 operations is appropriate. Briefly, for example, we  
14 decided quite a while ago that concession contracts  
15 were the right way to authorize guide services. I was  
16 talking about Jake and Dave and Phil. They're all  
17 under concession contracts because that's a tighter way  
18 of managing that type of activity. Perhaps we should  
19 be looking at putting big game transportation services  
20 under concession contract too. Again, we have more  
21 control than we have under the current type of  
22 authorization.

23  
24 And then the last thing minimize  
25 impacts to subsistence users. One of the things that  
26 we are going to evaluate in this plan is having certain  
27 areas not open to commercial use in the Preserve. That  
28 is these areas would only be open to subsistence use.  
29 Some members of the Board have encouraged us to do that  
30 before. My position has been, and I think it's the  
31 right one, I'm sure it's the right one, is that if we  
32 are going to make a decision to not open certain areas  
33 of the Preserve to commercial use, it has to be done  
34 through a public planning process.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Any  
37 questions for George.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If you don't, I do.

42  
43 MR. HELFRICH: Why am I -- never mind.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Huh?

46  
47 MR. HELFRICH: I was going to say why  
48 am I not surprised, Mr. Sampson, but I didn't say that.

49  
50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess that's my  
2 role, George.

3  
4 MR. HELFRICH: Absolutely.

5  
6 (Laughter)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And you're  
9 questioning my role.

10  
11 MR. HELFRICH: No, sir.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The issue in regards  
14 to the transporter issue has been a discussion for  
15 several years. To this point nothing really has been  
16 done to address that very problem. It's going to  
17 continue this coming fall. Out of the eight that you  
18 talked about, what was the original number of  
19 transporters that transported hunters into the Squirrel  
20 and the areas that the Park Service owns?

21  
22 MR. HELFRICH: To the best of my  
23 knowledge, we have never had more than eight  
24 transporters or incidental transporters. I would  
25 understand if someone would say you ought to be looking  
26 to limit it to decrease that number and that's one of  
27 the things that this plan will look like. What we have  
28 been trying to do for the last couple years is  
29 stabilize the situation and make sure that there's no  
30 growth in the number of operators or growth in the  
31 number of clients that they carry.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now the issue in  
34 regards to the permits, those individuals that have  
35 violations in the past, both State and Federal, what do  
36 you do to make sure that permits aren't issued to those  
37 violators?

38  
39 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Sampson. The  
40 direction that we've gotten from the regional solicitor  
41 is that there has to be some close connection between  
42 the violation and the activity that we're permitting.  
43 So, for example, let's say somebody was convicted  
44 of.....

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Fraud.

47  
48 MR. HELFRICH: Fraud. If there were no  
49 connection between that type of fraud and the activity  
50 that he was being given a permit for, we would issue

1 that person a permit. On the other hand, if there were  
2 a connection between what the person was convicted of  
3 and the activity, we would not give that person a  
4 permit.

5  
6 For example, Maverick Air was, through  
7 Park Service rangers investigation, found guilty of  
8 violating the Controlled Use Area and based on that  
9 investigation and based on that conviction we revoked  
10 Maverick Air's permit.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. And  
13 those others that have Federal violations on other  
14 things, then you don't bother.

15  
16 MR. HELFRICH: That's the direction  
17 that we've been given by the solicitor, that there has  
18 to be a connection between what the person was  
19 convicted of and the activity that he or she is being  
20 given a permit for.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, good. The  
23 issue in regards to four-wheelers. I understand there  
24 was a report this fall that there were four-wheelers on  
25 slopes that were being used that some of the  
26 enforcement folks weren't able to get to. What is the  
27 deal with four-wheelers running around within the  
28 Preserve and BLM lands?

29  
30 MR. HELFRICH: Ms. Jacobson can speak  
31 to BLM lands and I heard -- well, first of all National  
32 Park Service lands are closed to ATV use at least in  
33 this region. Now I have heard reports of four-wheelers  
34 in Noatak, but those were a couple years ago. If I  
35 may, let me ask Dan what he knows about in 2009.

36  
37 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr.  
38 Chairman. Dan Stevenson with National Park Service.  
39 The Knapp Creek area and that lower Aggie area we  
40 continue to get reports of ATV use up in those areas.  
41 We are looking forward to making contact with those  
42 individuals. We try with a helicopter every fall just  
43 because the access is limited.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The report that I  
46 was told by the enforcement folks were on the  
47 headwaters of the Squirrel way up towards Nauyoaruk  
48 areas.

49  
50 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, and I have seen

1 those tracks on the BLM land. I have not seen it on the  
2 Park Service side.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Good. Now  
5 the issue in regards to the recommendation that you're  
6 looking for. You've indicated Unit 23 Working Group as  
7 part of the group that you're going to be getting a  
8 recommendation from?

9

10 MR. HELFRICH: No, sir. We've just  
11 been participating in the Unit 23 Working Group and  
12 picking up information as we might during that process,  
13 but we are not looking to the working group for a  
14 recommendation.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. On a  
17 different note, the issue regards to an application  
18 that was submitted four years ago by Ricky Ashby for a  
19 campsite. Ricky travels by foot. Ricky hunts by foot.  
20 He lives off the Noatak River at a campsite and his  
21 interest was to set up a camp a little bit closer to  
22 Noatak within the areas that his parents used to camp.  
23 I understand that was his intent and it's been about  
24 four years since he submitted that application and I'm  
25 just wondering where things are at with Ricky's  
26 application.

27

28 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Sampson. It's a  
29 little more complex than that. It has been four years,  
30 which I think is about three years too long. But Ricky  
31 asked to build a cabin and that was really without  
32 precedent. No, that isn't true. Mr. Goodwin asked to  
33 build a cabin and was at one point given permission for  
34 it. But it was a new request for us. What I promised  
35 Ricky was that we would give him a fair hearing. Doing  
36 that has taken longer than I would have preferred, but  
37 it's created a lot of controversy inside the National  
38 Park Service as to how we should address this request.  
39 We'll have an answer for Ricky before the middle of  
40 March.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. The  
43 bothersome part to me in regards to his request, if the  
44 intent of Parks or to the Preserve is to continue to  
45 keep the lands as they are, that's fine and dandy. You  
46 have outside interest groups that are influxing into  
47 those areas within the Preserve to do exactly what they  
48 want to do, but yet on the other hand you have a local  
49 that's simply applying who is living off the land out  
50 in the country ask for a simple permit to build on so

1 he can continue to do what he's doing today but yet  
2 he's being denied that very request. At the same time  
3 you're giving permits to other user groups to do  
4 exactly the opposite. I think something is wrong with  
5 the system if you can take a look at that picture.

6  
7 MR. HELFRICH: Well, Mr. Sampson, as I  
8 said, one of the purposes of this big game  
9 transportation services plan that we are doing is to  
10 make sure that we have the appropriate management of  
11 those commercial services. And I understand your point  
12 that perhaps they were undermanaged in the past. As  
13 far as Mr. Ashby's request, had he asked to build a  
14 tent frame, it would have been a straightforward yes,  
15 but his building a cabin is what really aroused all  
16 this controversy and has caused us to take so long to  
17 give him a response.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. George,  
20 you're the superintendent of those lands. You have a  
21 responsibility as a land manager, but yet you get  
22 dependant on your solicitor in Anchorage for him to  
23 make that decision for you. I think it's time that you  
24 as the manager start taking seriously your very  
25 responsibility as a land manager to start responding to  
26 requests that are made. You go up to Noatak to tell  
27 Ricky Ashby that very decision that you make and tell  
28 him based on this, you tell him to his face.

29  
30 You have a responsibility as a manager,  
31 but yet you defer those things to the regional office.  
32 If the regional office is making all the decisions for  
33 you, maybe the best thing that can ever happen is to  
34 close down this office and let the regional office make  
35 the decisions for this region so we can work in that  
36 way if that's what it takes.

37  
38 I'm not saying that you leave. What  
39 I'm saying is there is a lack of you as a  
40 superintendent, as a manager, that you need to be more  
41 responsible for. For people that live in this region,  
42 if they have to listen to someone from the regional  
43 office to hear from, then there is a problem.

44  
45 I don't mean to be vindictive or I'm  
46 not saying you shouldn't, but what I'm pointing out to  
47 you, you, as a superintendent, have a responsibility.

48  
49 MR. HELFRICH: Absolutely, Mr. Sampson.  
50 And I am aware that it is my responsibility -- well,

1 for example, in this case, to make a decision about  
2 Rick's cabin request. At the same time, I'm aware that  
3 whatever my decision is has to follow the law, which is  
4 why I involved the regional solicitor, and has impacts,  
5 repercussions, effects across the whole Alaska region,  
6 so that's why I consult with the regional office, but  
7 you are absolutely. In the end, it's my decision.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Pierre.

10

11 MR. LONEWOLF: Yeah, I was going to ask  
12 a clarification question. Basically does Park Service  
13 grant cabins for individuals on a personal basis in any  
14 other place in the Park Service in the Lower 48?

15

16 MR. HELFRICH: I can't speak to the  
17 Lower 48, Pierre. I don't believe so. Here in Alaska  
18 we have given out few, if any, permits to a subsistence  
19 user approving the construction of a new cabin, so this  
20 isn't the reconstruction of an old cabin, this is the  
21 rehabilitation of an old cabin. This is something new  
22 on the landscape and it is, if not without precedent,  
23 certainly rare.

24

25 MR. LONEWOLF: Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: This is an existing  
28 site where his parents used to camp out and that is a  
29 site that his parents used in the past and that was his  
30 intent to do. Am I not correct, Leslie?

31

32 MR. BURNS: Uh-huh. That's correct.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Pierre.

35

36 MR. LONEWOLF: My last comment, so it  
37 all boils down to that your decision in the end will  
38 set precedence that has applications to not only here  
39 but everybody else, so that's why you're with your  
40 solicitor.

41

42 MR. HELFRICH: That's correct.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So I guess what we  
45 can hear from your solicitor is that if there's any  
46 plans to do any studies anywhere we would like to hear  
47 whether it would work or not. If you can't make those  
48 decisions for your regional office here, then maybe  
49 your solicitor can make those recommendations based on  
50 what you want to do within this region.

1 MR. HELFRICH: The solicitor tells me  
2 what he believe he can and cannot defend legally, but  
3 he doesn't make decisions. But, yes, I understand what  
4 you're saying, Mr. Sampson.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much,  
7 George. Attamuk.

8  
9 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I think Ricky should  
10 have a right to build a camp because I know his dad  
11 used to go there. I'm from Noatak and I think under  
12 grandfather rights he should be able to build his  
13 cabin. Not only that, there's a big difference between  
14 a tent frame and a cabin for safety for bears to come.  
15 They will destroy a tent even late fall and when they  
16 first come out, so there's a big difference. I think  
17 that's one of his reasons he wanted to build a cabin,  
18 for his safety also.

19  
20 MR. HELFRICH: Attamuk, that is  
21 correct. That is one of the reasons that he gives in  
22 his application. He needs a cabin for safety from  
23 bears. Travel is more difficult between this site and  
24 the cabin he has on his uncle's allotment. There are  
25 about four or five explanations. Mr. Sampson, what I  
26 would like to stress is I told Rick I'd give him a fair  
27 hearing and that's what I've done. In the past, the  
28 Park Service has just said no to most applicants.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Where was that  
31 hearing at?

32  
33 MR. HELFRICH: well, through this  
34 public process. Rick could have come into my office  
35 and said I want to build a cabin and I could have said,  
36 no, we're not going to give you a permit, but instead  
37 we have engaged in this public process, including an  
38 environmental assessment in order to ensure -- and  
39 trips to Noatak -- in order to ensure that Rick gets a  
40 fair hearing. To me, that's what makes a good decision  
41 whether before or against the cabin ultimately.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: As I understand it,  
44 the way hearings occur is that you, as a land manager,  
45 sit and listen to individuals to try to convince you  
46 why they're doing that. If it's such that you're going  
47 to hold a hearing, I would suggest that you hold that  
48 hearing in Noatak so the rest of the public can listen  
49 to hear that hearing and understand exactly why you  
50 plan to make that decision based on what your solicitor

1 is saying. As far as hearings are concerned, you sit  
2 down in front of the public to listen to folks.

3

4 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Sampson. I was  
5 using the word hearing perhaps more loosely than what I  
6 should have. What we did was complete an environmental  
7 assessment on Rick's cabin request that analyzed his  
8 request and a couple different alternatives and then  
9 described the impacts associated with each one of those  
10 alternatives and then we release that to the public and  
11 we got comments from a number of people, the Northwest  
12 Arctic Borough, the NANA Regional Corporation, and the  
13 Native Village of Noatak, and those comments all appear  
14 in the administrative record and will figure into the  
15 decision.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So will you plan to  
18 hold a hearing then in Noatak to make that final  
19 decision for Rick?

20

21 MR. HELFRICH: I would be pleased to go  
22 up to Noatak and talk to the Native village and to Rick  
23 simultaneously. I'm in regular contact with -- no,  
24 that's an exaggeration. I'm in occasional contact with  
25 Rick as it is.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. So  
28 Leslie can provide that information to folks in Noatak  
29 that Park Service will plan to at some point in time  
30 hold a hearing for such request and people will know  
31 exactly that if anyone wishes to apply for campsite  
32 permits this is what the requirements are, this is what  
33 you can do or this is what you cannot do. So in the  
34 event that others have an interest in applying for such  
35 a subsistence campsite, then you can provide them that  
36 same information that you're providing to Rick.

37

38 MR. HELFRICH: Absolutely. And,  
39 Leslie, I'll get in contact with you or I'll get in  
40 contact with the NANA resource specialist and we'll do  
41 that this spring.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Thank  
44 you very much, George. No hard feelings.

45

46 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you, Mr. Sampson.  
47 No hard feelings.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You're a  
50 professional and I'm a professional in what I do. The

1 exchange that we have, we do that in a professional  
2 manner. Sure, my words might have been harsh, but  
3 that's fine and dandy too. You should be able to take  
4 them in a way that you as a manager should be able to  
5 take it.

6  
7 MR. HELFRICH: And, Mr. Sampson, that's  
8 how I understand it.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
11 We're going to take a 15-minute break and come back  
12 and get the BLM, Fish and Game and the Refuge.

13  
14 (Off record)

15  
16 (On record)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We will reconvene at  
19 this time and listen to BLM. Tim Hammond.

20  
21 MS. CRAIG: Tim's not here today. I  
22 don't know who put Tim in there, but I'm not Tim.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hello, Tim.  
25 Introduce yourselves for the record.

26  
27 MS. CRAIG: Mr. Chairman. Council  
28 members. My name is Erica Craig. I'm a wildlife  
29 biologist for the Central Yukon Field Office for the  
30 Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks and today with  
31 me are Shelly Jacobson, our field office manager and  
32 also John Erlich somewhere.....

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: He'll be right back.

35  
36 MS. CRAIG: .....our Natural Resource  
37 Program coordinator here in Kotzebue. I'll make a  
38 brief presentation of projects that we have ongoing and  
39 issues you may be concerned with or want to comment on.

40  
41 In the fall meeting, I mentioned to you  
42 and presented that BLM had applied for American  
43 Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, which are kind of  
44 a stimulus thing for the economy and try to help create  
45 jobs for a cooperative agreement to help mark  
46 intervillage trails. We did get that funding and that  
47 project is currently ongoing. John and Brandon Saito  
48 with Fish and Wildlife Service and the Northwest Arctic  
49 Borough have been cooperating and are currently in the  
50 midst of that project.

1                   In the handout you have for my  
2 presentation, you'll notice there are names for  
3 contacting and phone numbers if you have additional  
4 questions. This morning, when we had the revision to  
5 the notes from the last meeting, we discussed this next  
6 item.

7  
8                   Shelly gave you an overview that the  
9 Central Yukon Field Office has completed the pre-plan  
10 for the Kobuk/Seward Recreation Management Plan  
11 amendment, which is a real mouthful. That specifically  
12 addresses the Squirrel River Special Recreation  
13 Management area, which you discussed with Shelly this  
14 morning. We're currently in the process of completing  
15 the requirements for issuing the notice of intent,  
16 which will be published in the Federal Register.

17  
18                   Our projected completion date for that  
19 step is sometime in April or May of 2010. Then we  
20 intend to conduct scoping meetings shortly after that  
21 as published in the Federal Register and meeting times  
22 and locations will be announced 15 days prior to any of  
23 those meetings. Our projected completion date for the  
24 plan is April of 2011.

25  
26                   There's been a number of mentions  
27 throughout the day about involving youth in activities  
28 that the agencies are doing. BLM has requested funding  
29 through one of our youth initiative programs, Take It  
30 Outside, to partner with NANA, Maniilaq and the  
31 Northwest Arctic Borough to help fund youth counselors  
32 and a camp director for the Saselik (ph) Camp.

33  
34                   This spring there will be a Northwest  
35 Arctic Borough mining conference and BLM will be giving  
36 a presentation at that conference on how to stake a  
37 mining claim on Federal lands that are open to mining.  
38 It's also in the works that BLM may be giving a  
39 presentation on GPS use at the high school or in  
40 break-out sessions at that conference.

41  
42                   The archeology section, nothing has  
43 changed from the presentation that I gave in the fall  
44 except that at that time Bill Hedman thought that they  
45 would probably be spending more time in the Nulato  
46 Hills this summer. Because of preliminary things that  
47 they found last year it looks like they'll be spending  
48 more time back in the Kivalina area this summer towards  
49 the end of August. In terms of your mentioning wanting  
50 outreach in the villages, Bill Hedman did just recently

1 give a radio interview about the work that he's been  
2 doing in the area.

3

4 In terms of wildlife in the Central  
5 Yukon, I'm the contact for that. It's already been  
6 mentioned that this cooperative interagency project at  
7 Onion Portage where we put collars on caribou and we  
8 participated in that. Did put out 49 satellite collars  
9 on caribou. It was mentioned about the purpose of  
10 handling the animals. As you know, the Western Arctic  
11 Caribou Herd is very important for subsistence uses and  
12 the information that's collected there is something  
13 that has been ongoing for more than two decades.

14

15 The satellite collars are used in  
16 trying to locate animals. A very small percentage of  
17 the herd is actually collared, but they are used in  
18 locating animals and doing photocensusing. Blood  
19 samples are taken, weights and visual assessments and  
20 that's all used in terms of determining health of the  
21 herd. The information that Fish and Game produces then  
22 in reports and Charlotte Westing will give you more  
23 detailed information about that.

24

25 BLM continues to work and be active  
26 with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and  
27 we support that both logistically and with funding. We  
28 also support the involvement of youth in both of those  
29 two projects. Alaska Fish and Game has encouraged the  
30 involvement of youth with this collaring project for  
31 many many years and we have supported that financially  
32 in any way we could. We facilitated high school  
33 students in the project from Deering and Buckland both  
34 attending the Onion Portage and helped pay for them to  
35 attend the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group  
36 meetings last December so that they could present their  
37 information.

38

39 Currently BLM is involved with and on  
40 the committee to update the current Cooperative  
41 Management Plan for the Western Arctic Herd. At the  
42 meeting there were break-out sessions in which we made  
43 great progress towards working on updating that plan.  
44 We hope to have that finished by the end of the year  
45 and that's something again that's cooperating with all  
46 these other agencies that work together to manage the  
47 herd.

48

49 We continue to be a partner in GMU 23  
50 user conflict group. Many of the ideas from this group

1 will be evaluated in our Squirrel River Management  
2 Plan. The next and possibly last user conflict group  
3 meeting will be this spring in Kotzebue, sometime in  
4 April or May.

5  
6           It's already been mentioned that there  
7 will be cooperative big game surveys conducted later  
8 this spring in March and April for both muskoxen and  
9 moose and BLM is cooperating with that. We are active  
10 in reviewing any of these proposals that are related to  
11 subsistence that come to the Board or through the  
12 Office of Subsistence Management.

13  
14           In terms of recreation, the BLM  
15 currently has a total of 10 hunting guides permitted on  
16 BLM lands in GMU 23, so that has not changed since my  
17 report in the fall. Probably the things of greatest  
18 interest is that the BLM has no requests as of yet to  
19 permit new guides within the Northwest Arctic Region,  
20 however there has been a request by two existing guides  
21 in the game management area 2306 to expand those  
22 guides' use from that area to include game management  
23 area 2301 as well in 2010.

24  
25           Attached to the back of this little  
26 flyer that you have in front of you is a copy of the  
27 scoping letter that goes out to the public and to  
28 explain what the request has been by these two guides  
29 and also a list of the people that we currently have on  
30 our list who might be interested in that request and  
31 want to comment on it. If anybody knows of other  
32 people or agencies or groups that might like to be on  
33 the list for things like this, please contact Roger  
34 Delaney or Shelly Jacobson or John Erlich and allow us  
35 to add your name to that list.

36  
37           New as of 2009 the BLM has required  
38 that all transporters and air taxi operators in the  
39 Squirrel River management area be required to have a  
40 BLM permit. We have not done that before, but that's  
41 part of our trying to address some of the issues  
42 related to them. We issued five permits to  
43 transporters in 2009. Two of those permittees reported  
44 no use in the Squirrel River management area. Three  
45 permittees did transport people and they transported 38  
46 clients to BLM lands in the Squirrel River management  
47 area during the last hunting season.

48  
49           Under mining and realty actions, these  
50 projects are ongoing. They are no different than what I

1 reported to you in the fall RAC meeting. The only  
2 difference is that the contact people in both of those  
3 areas have retired, so please note that there are new  
4 contact names and individuals to contact if you have  
5 issues or concerns when in that particular area.

6

7 The last item I want to cover is  
8 related to fisheries. Dave Parker gave you a report in  
9 the fall and his report remains pretty much the same  
10 with the exception that he will return to the Kivalina  
11 River area in the end of August 2010 to complete his  
12 habitat, genetic and fish distribution mapping work.

13

14 With that, Mr. Chairman, that concludes  
15 my presentation. Thank you for your time and we will  
16 try to answer any questions that you may have.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions,  
19 comments from members.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I do have several.  
24 First of all, I want to thank you for your report.  
25 You've indicated intervillage roads, working with the  
26 Northwest Arctic Borough, certainly something that we  
27 that we appreciate. Funding some of the roads is what  
28 you said?

29

30 MS. CRAIG: They're trails, winter  
31 trails.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Oh, trails. I  
34 thought you said roads.

35

36 MS. CRAIG: If I did, I misspoke.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I was going to say  
39 thank you very much for the dollars.

40

41 MS. CRAIG: If I said road, then I  
42 misspoke. Please correct that in the record.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, you said trails,  
45 I said roads.

46

47 MS. CRAIG: Okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The issue in regards  
50 to the Squirrel River Recreation Plan, what are the

1 allowances for that classification?

2

3 MS. JACOBSON: I'm not sure I  
4 understand your question in terms of the  
5 classification. Do you mean the.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What do you allow  
8 within the recreation use area?

9

10 MS. JACOBSON: Right now the area is  
11 open -- all the BLM public lands in this region are  
12 open to the use of four-wheelers under 1,500 pounds  
13 gross vehicle weight without permit. They're subject  
14 to preventing undue and unnecessary degradation. So if  
15 it's determined that that is what they're causing, then  
16 they can be prohibited from continuing that. But, in  
17 general, non-commercial general public is allowed to  
18 use a lightweight OHV off the trails. We encourage the  
19 use on trails wherever they exist.

20

21 Commercial users do have to get a  
22 permit and that includes the guides. Right now of the  
23 50 guides we have I believe we have one or two in the  
24 Squirrel and one down by Galena that have included as  
25 part of their permit the use of four-wheelers not for  
26 tracking and shooting and retrieving game, but the one  
27 in particular that I think, Walter, you may have  
28 brought to our attention up in the upper end of the  
29 Squirrel that's been up there for quite a while.

30

31 I looked into that and he was evidently  
32 permitted to use the four-wheelers to transport his  
33 clients and their gear from his ridgetop landing site  
34 to his camp, which was down below, but I could see from  
35 last year that he's certainly been using them more than  
36 that and Erica and Roger Delaney, our outdoor rec  
37 planner, were able to land. I was in a fixed-wing and  
38 I couldn't land, but I could see what was going on down  
39 there, so I think we're going to be making a compliance  
40 issue out of that because that was not part of what was  
41 permitted. We may have to do some rehab on those  
42 trails or restrict him either back to what he was or to  
43 totally eliminate it if he's not able to contain  
44 himself to what was originally approved.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So if rehab is going  
47 to be done, would you do that at his expense or at the  
48 taxpayers' expense?

49

50 MS. JACOBSON: We'll have to see what's

1 needed. A lot of times you're almost better off just  
2 to leave it alone and let it rehab itself, but if we  
3 needed to put any labor into it I think we'd try to  
4 have the operator do that labor.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess what I'm  
7 getting at, if the guy has been given a permit with a  
8 compliance order in there and he's not in compliance  
9 with the permit that he's required to do, either fine  
10 or have him do some rehab work on the area that he's  
11 degraded. That's something BLM needs to look into.

12  
13 MS. JACOBSON: I think you're right.  
14 We've had a couple complaints. I think he's been sort  
15 of maybe a beneficiary of having a little bit of  
16 turnover in staff and different people have had to get  
17 re-educated about what's going on. Probably we haven't  
18 done as good a compliance with him as we needed to, so  
19 we got that.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. The issue in  
22 regards to collaring of caribou on the river we don't  
23 have no problem because you don't really put that much  
24 pressure on the caribou herd. Where we're having  
25 problems is when you're chasing caribou with a  
26 helicopter or muskox as harassment. If we're not  
27 allowed to do that as residents, then the agencies also  
28 need to consider that. Find another way of dealing with  
29 capture of those critters to do what you need to do.

30  
31 The issue in regards to the numbers of  
32 Western Arctic Herd, you also indicated as participant  
33 to the discussion about that. Do you have any idea  
34 what the numbers are today?

35  
36 MS. CRAIG: I think Charlotte probably  
37 should address that because Fish and Game does the  
38 official updates on numbers.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We'll ask her that  
41 question. Thank you. In regards to the Unit 23  
42 Working Group, you indicated you will certainly use  
43 some of their recommendations. Basically that working  
44 group is an agency group. Very little of this region  
45 folks participate. I bailed out representing NANA and  
46 the Borough from that working group because of the very  
47 fact that what you try to recommend to the facilitator  
48 they don't even consider some of your thoughts be put  
49 into that planning process, so I said why waste time if  
50 your thoughts and recommendations cannot be considered

1 for the working plan.  
2  
3 MS. CRAIG: Are you talking about  
4 the.....  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Unit 23 Working  
7 Group.  
8  
9 MS. CRAIG: The Western Arctic Herd  
10 Working Group or.....  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, we're  
13 talking.....  
14  
15 MS. CRAIG: .....the user conflict  
16 group?  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right. So you're  
19 thinking of a different -- Western Arctic Herd Working  
20 Group is the one you're referring to.  
21  
22 MS. CRAIG: The Western Arctic Herd  
23 Working Group is the one that where we had break-out  
24 sessions where we talked about updating the map.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You said Unit 23  
27 working group. That's why I addressed that issue.  
28 It's a different working group consisting of agencies  
29 and local folks in regards to talking about the user  
30 conflict issue.  
31  
32 MS. CRAIG: Well, right after talking  
33 about the working group I mentioned that we continue to  
34 partner in the GMU 23 user conflict group and that is  
35 the one I think that you are referring to, is that  
36 correct?  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes, that is the one  
39 I'm referring to. Basically what it is is an agency  
40 working group that is having some dialogues. I know  
41 Shelly also participated. Initially I started off and  
42 when it gets to the point where recommendations or some  
43 of the thoughts that were being put on the table were  
44 not considered, then I finally said why participate if  
45 you can't make a dent in regards to bringing your  
46 thoughts into that group.  
47  
48 MS. CRAIG: The Squirrel River  
49 Management Plan isn't completed and so it's my  
50 understanding that the ideas that originated and the

1 concerns brought up in the user conflict group will be  
2 evaluated, some of the issues that are evaluated in the  
3 Squirrel River Management Plan and the development of  
4 that plan. That's what we hope to have completed by  
5 2011.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now the Squirrel  
8 River working plan or the planning process for that, do  
9 you still coordinate an effort  
10 with the folks in Kiana?

11

12 MS. JACOBSON: Yes. We went out and  
13 had several conversations with Kiana and Noorvik. In  
14 the end, Noorvik didn't follow up with the meeting. It  
15 was busy, it was summertime and whatnot, but we did go  
16 out to Kiana. Now we've got the State Department of  
17 Natural Resources, the Borough. I guess those are our  
18 only official partners, but we're going to have the  
19 Park Service and the Refuge and others have agreed  
20 unofficially but still importantly contributing. I  
21 think if we can get this Federal Register notice out in  
22 time to have a round of meetings in the spring, we're  
23 going to continue to try to get out as much as we can  
24 to include the local folks.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thanks. Summertime  
27 is the worst time to try to hold meetings in the  
28 villages. Everybody is out fishing, everybody is  
29 gathering greens and camping and whatnot.

30

31 MS. JACOBSON: Is may summer yet?

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What's that?

34

35 MS. JACOBSON: If we could get them in  
36 in May, would that be all right?

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, part of the  
39 problem with May schedule is that you've got  
40 graduations in different villages that are occurring,  
41 so you have some sort of school activity that's  
42 happening. That's why NANA doesn't have any meetings  
43 set up in May in any of our villages.

44

45 MS. JACOBSON: Right now we don't have  
46 funding, so we came up with this schedule based on what  
47 we thought we could accomplish with just our labor and  
48 time, but if we have to adjust  
49 the schedule we can do that.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Good. The  
2 other thing you talked about was involvement of youth,  
3 certainly something that needs to happen because these  
4 youths are going to think, at least hopefully some of  
5 them, in regards to going into resource management.  
6 The hope is for them to get a view of what BLM does,  
7 how it deals with resources. Now that you have local  
8 participating in management, that's looking good  
9 because the kids are going to see that.

10

11                   MS. CRAIG: That was one of the reasons  
12 that we were interested in facilitating bringing the  
13 kids to be involved in the Western Arctic Herd Working  
14 Group meetings in December. I actually have been in  
15 email contact with some of the kids. They were very  
16 excited about their participation. It gives kids an  
17 exposure to that and an opportunity for them.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much  
20 for that. The issue in regards to the Squirrel, you've  
21 indicated you have six guides operating within the  
22 Squirrel. Could you give us the names of who those  
23 guides are?

24

25                   MS. JACOBSON: You know, I don't have  
26 their names. I could get that for you.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Please.

29

30                   MS. JACOBSON: I will do that. I also  
31 wanted to mention I believe Tom Oakley Sikhead had  
32 sponsored -- the Borough Planning Commission had a  
33 meeting at the right time last spring and he was able  
34 to get the radio stations and the agencies came over  
35 and gave the report on what the current permits were  
36 and took comments, so he said he would try to arrange  
37 that again, but I'm not sure if it's going to tie in  
38 with the Borough or just maybe have a special meeting  
39 just to talk for the agencies.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The reason why I ask  
42 is for six guides within a small area of the Squirrel,  
43 their guiding area overlaps quite a bit. Over time  
44 you're going to have some problems in regards to  
45 keeping up with numbers in regards to moose within that  
46 certain area.

47

48                   MS. JACOBSON: I wanted to mention we  
49 kind of came up with a system that hasn't been  
50 challenged, so I guess we think it's pretty good, but

1 we weren't able to make a big case in terms of limiting  
2 the number of clients that the guides were taking out  
3 for caribou hunting because the caribou numbers are so  
4 abundant, but we did start to put limits on the number  
5 of moose clients. It may be overstepping our bounds a  
6 bit into Fish and Game, but we felt that we could do  
7 that and we did. The guides seemed to accept it. The  
8 trouble is it's kind of on a first come first serve  
9 basis, so the first time we did it it was a surprise to  
10 people, but we did put a little bit of a limit on that.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, thank you.  
13 The other issue I want to caution you on is the use of  
14 four-wheelers. If you're making allowances in one area  
15 for certain people to utilize these four-wheelers, over  
16 time you're going to have some community members, more  
17 specifically younger folks, with high-speed  
18 four-wheelers that are going to be going up into the  
19 Squirrel, up into the hills where there's some good  
20 four-wheeler grounds that they can certainly use,  
21 probably into Kobuk Valley. So I would just caution  
22 you how you address the four-wheeler use within the  
23 Squirrel.

24  
25 MS. JACOBSON: That's a good point.  
26 We're all real limited on enforcement, so that's a fair  
27 point.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Permits  
30 for guides. Do you have any knowledge of how many of  
31 those guides that are given permits also are  
32 transporters?

33  
34 MS. JACOBSON: I can think of several,  
35 but I'd have to get back to you. I believe Matt Owen  
36 is both a guide and transporter. Mike Spesak I believe  
37 is just a transporter at least on BLM lands. There are  
38 definitely a couple that are both.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The reason why I'm  
41 asking that question, you've given a guide a permit to  
42 do their guiding. Once their guiding is done they  
43 become the transporters and go pretty much into same  
44 general area to be dropping off transporters, then it's  
45 going to become a problem down the road more so for  
46 moose and a lot of folks in Kiana depend on moose as  
47 well too. Over time there's got to be issues in  
48 regards to number of moose within that certain area.  
49 So I caution you as an agency to making sure that the  
50 health of the moose population stays at a number to

1 where overlapping guides and transporters don't  
2 eliminate the moose numbers in that area.

3  
4 Kivalina River Fish and Game. Is there  
5 a working relationship in regards to State Fish and  
6 Game on doing work on Dolly Varden and other fishes on  
7 Kivalina and Wulik?

8  
9 MS. CRAIG: At least when I was out in  
10 the field last year with Dave and Bill Hedman there  
11 were just BLM biologists working in that area.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What I would suggest  
14 to you is that I know State of Alaska as far as  
15 fisheries are concerned Fred DiCicco out of the  
16 Fairbanks office does a lot of studies on both the  
17 Wulik and Kivalina. Also Al Ott is part of that study  
18 group within that area. I would suggest that the  
19 agency connect with those folks to coordinate an effort  
20 so you two agencies can have consistent reports of  
21 what's being done. I mean I would hate to see BLM set  
22 different numbers than what the State of Alaska might  
23 have. I know at one point the State of Alaska did some  
24 tagging I believe on the Wulik just to see where the  
25 fisheries from that size go within the state. After  
26 they did that there was a study that was coordinated  
27 with the Russian folks on the other side. Some of  
28 those fish that were tagged on the Wulik were found on  
29 the Siberian side. Some go down to the Norton Sound.  
30 Some go up the Kobuk as well as Noatak.

31  
32 MS. CRAIG: Perhaps some of the Fish  
33 and Game personnel here or other agency personnel can  
34 speak to this. I'm not a fish biologist and I don't  
35 know how much Dave has coordinated this particular  
36 project with other agencies.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
39 That's all the questions I have and I appreciate your  
40 report. Go ahead, Jon.

41  
42 MR. GREGG: You said you're constrained  
43 in your enforcement activities. Could you give us a  
44 brief overview of what you are able to do specifically  
45 in the recreation area.

46  
47 MS. JACOBSON: Sure. We have in the  
48 northern field office for BLM two law enforcement  
49 rangers. There's one I have for my field office, Mimi  
50 Thomas, and we have an area of responsibility that

1 includes -- goes all the way down the Alaska Highway to  
2 the Canadian border down by Northway, comes all the way  
3 up through the Tanana Valley, all the way out to here,  
4 goes north up the Dalton Highway to about 300 miles up  
5 the Dalton, not quite to the top, and then south to  
6 just about Denali Park. So it's about a 96 million  
7 acre humongous block in which there are 26 million  
8 acres of BLM managed public lands. So it's a big area  
9 and it's hunting season everywhere.

10

11                   Basically September is really busy. We  
12 try to pull rangers a little bit from other areas if we  
13 can. We have one pilot ranger out of the Anchorage  
14 field office that is sometimes available, although he's  
15 just getting some ratings. So we're trying to partner  
16 wherever we can to get our capability more -- LeeAnne  
17 Ayres has made us aware of the village trespass officer  
18 program and we're trying to get a little bit more  
19 connected with that to try to have some eyes and ears  
20 and people we can connect with that could report things  
21 that we aren't seeing.

22

23                   Last year she spent about a week up  
24 here in this area and then we also pulled in a law  
25 enforcement ranger from the Lower 48. I think we'll  
26 try that again, but I'm hoping that maybe we can start  
27 to get maybe the same person or couple of people so  
28 that we can benefit from the training it takes to get  
29 them acquainted with the area.

30

31                   MR. GREGG: Sure. Thank you.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Shelly, in regards  
34 to the trespass program, NANA also has a trespass  
35 program where we encourage our trespass folks to work  
36 with Parks Service, Fish and Wildlife and BLM  
37 enforcement office to coordinate an effort.

38

39                   On another note, I think one of the  
40 things I also would like to encourage you, you know,  
41 John being a new employee of the Federal system it's  
42 only fair to him as well as to us that if there's any  
43 way that you can take John to start the process so he  
44 can get some knowledge in regards to how BLM lands are  
45 being managed out in the field. What I'm saying is  
46 take advantage of him and take him to areas that he  
47 will be managing hopefully down the road because he's  
48 just starting, he's learning and I would encourage you  
49 to introduce him to other folks that he can work with  
50 out in the field.

1 MS. JACOBSON: Yeah, we're really  
2 pleased to have John. He has a lot of good connections  
3 and people relate real well to him in the village. He  
4 came out to Kiana with us last summer and he'll be out  
5 all over the place this year.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. That's why I  
8 say utilize more out in the field to connect with  
9 people.

10  
11 MS. JACOBSON: Yeah.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
14 If there's no other questions, thank you for your  
15 report.

16  
17 MS. JACOBSON: Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We'll go to the  
20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. You have all  
21 night.

22  
23 MS. WESTING: Good afternoon, Mr.  
24 Chair. Members of the Council. My name is Charlotte  
25 Westing. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
26 Game here in Kotzebue. I'd like to start off first by  
27 talking about caribou. Before I do that I'll mention  
28 that Jim Dau is still around and very much a part of  
29 our caribou and other wildlife management programs here  
30 in Kotzebue. He's just on leave right now.

31  
32 I'll start off by talking about Onion  
33 Portage, which has been mentioned by a couple of the  
34 different agency folks. That's a project that's been  
35 conducted on the Kobuk River for more than 25 years by  
36 the Department and now with our Federal partners  
37 participating. This year we put out many collars and  
38 we had two schools joining us. This year it was  
39 Deering and Buckland.

40  
41 Next year we'll have two schools, but  
42 it will be Nome and Golovin. What we're trying to do  
43 there is have representation from schools throughout  
44 the entire range of the Western Arctic Herd and that's  
45 why periodically Barrow schools will participate and  
46 Seward Peninsula schools, so it's not just schools in  
47 Unit 23, but this year it was. Those students were  
48 really great and we really loved having them out there.

49  
50 The Onion Portage collaring program is

1 largely viewed as one of the most effective and least  
2 invasive collaring programs in the state of Alaska or  
3 that any resource management agency does. It's a  
4 unique situation where these caribou have been crossing  
5 the Kobuk River for thousands of years and we're able  
6 to put collars on them without using any drugs or  
7 significant capture stress, so it's a unique project  
8 and we get a lot of great information.

9  
10 One of the things that we get from that  
11 collaring project is the ability to monitor those  
12 animals as a sample of the entire herd throughout the  
13 entire year. So the next time that we look at them  
14 again up close is with our short yearling counts in the  
15 spring. So in between Onion Portage and April and May  
16 we do periodic radiotelemetry flights to basically just  
17 see where the animals are. We can detect mortality  
18 because there's a change in the audio signal that we  
19 hear. We also have satellite collars out there that  
20 transmit their location. So we use that information  
21 throughout the year.

22  
23 We start to get visuals again in April  
24 and look for short yearling counts, so we want to just  
25 basically see how calves are surviving through the  
26 winter. We look at them again in June with calving  
27 surveys and we look at that data over time. The other  
28 thing we use them for is our photocensus. So the main  
29 function that they perform in our photocensus is, first  
30 of all, finding groups of caribou during the post-  
31 calving aggregation when they're all bunched up in  
32 their insect relief habitat, but also to make sure that  
33 we're not missing large groups of the herd, so it helps  
34 us to have confidence in our minimum count.

35  
36 So the status of that count right now,  
37 Don Williams up in Ambler has those photographs and is  
38 counting them. Last I heard he was three-quarters of  
39 the way done and he's gained on that even further since  
40 the last we spoke to him. So we hope to have that  
41 information within the next month.

42  
43 One of the other things that Jim is  
44 working on is analysis of this long-term dataset that  
45 we've been collecting for more than 25 years on these  
46 animals. Now that there are two of us here, I'm in the  
47 area biologist role focusing on all animals but caribou  
48 and he's focusing exclusively on caribou. We hope to  
49 have more time to analyze those long-term datasets that  
50 have been collected.



1 it's all clean, but it looks like our minimum count  
2 will be just over 300 animals.

3  
4                   Additionally, this year we're going to  
5 focus on doing a complete muskox census on the Seward  
6 Peninsula and that's going to start in March. The  
7 portion on the Seward Peninsula that we have a hunt in  
8 that's managed out of Unit 23 is that portion called  
9 Unit 23 southwest and that's in the proximity of  
10 Buckland and Deering. The quota for that population is  
11 16 muskox. That hunt occurs as RX106. It's a  
12 registration hunt. You can pick up a permit in  
13 Kotzebue or Deering and Buckland. Anyone can pick one  
14 up, but there's that aircraft restriction that I  
15 mentioned earlier. So 13 have been taken so far, so  
16 there's three animals left on the table and that season  
17 closes in mid March.

18  
19                   I was pleased to see this year, as Ken  
20 was mentioning earlier in the day, the State has the  
21 flexibility to proceed with that hunt using a split  
22 quota. So this year I said we'll take up to 12 bulls  
23 before the end of the year. If we get there, we're  
24 going to stop. Well, we never got there this year.  
25 Only eight were taken before the end of the year. So  
26 we haven't had to issue any closures. January 1st the  
27 cow season came open and a few more animals were taken,  
28 so now we're at 13. Three animals left with less than  
29 a month to go. I'm very pleased that this year the  
30 people in Buckland and Deering have had ample  
31 opportunity to pursue those muskox.

32  
33                   With this being only the second year of  
34 that hunt occurring down there, we're really finding  
35 ourselves in a position where we really want to make  
36 small adjustments to how we do this hunt to really make  
37 it work for the people in this area. So things are  
38 kind of settling out with that hunt and I'm pleased  
39 with the way that it's going so far.

40  
41                   I think that's all I have at this  
42 point. Does anyone have any questions for me.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions for  
45 Charlotte.

46  
47                   (No comments)

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If there's none, I  
50 do have several if I may. The issue in regards to the

1 numbers of caribou. You indicated Mr. Don Williams is  
2 doing the actual count for this year. What was the  
3 last count that was reported? I know we were up in  
4 half a million sometime back. Can you tell us some  
5 numbers?  
6

7 MS. WESTING: Sure. I believe it was  
8 the census in 2005 that found us at our peak that has  
9 been observed, which is 490,000 animals as a minimum  
10 count. In 2007, the herd was photocensused again and  
11 was found to be at 377,000.  
12

13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
14

15 MS. WESTING: Now when we get these  
16 counts, these minimum counts, we don't really like to  
17 put a whole lot of weight on a number until we get a  
18 subsequent number and see if it's just a blip or are we  
19 on a continued downward trend. We really need more  
20 than one data point to really start to understand  
21 what's going on. So we're very excited that we got  
22 good photographs this year and this year was very  
23 unique because we were able to shoot the herd within  
24 the first two days that we were actually up at Eagle  
25 Creek. Previous year we were there for almost two  
26 weeks before we got the photos.  
27

28 We were very pleased with what we saw  
29 for two reasons. We were able to count for pretty much  
30 every collar that was out there and that's a really  
31 good sign that we're not missing big globs of groups of  
32 animals. Also we were just pleased that we didn't see  
33 gloom and doom. I hesitate to say much more about it  
34 at this point.  
35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So the information  
37 that will be provided to you hopefully this coming  
38 spring will indicate what the herd is doing.  
39

40 MS. WESTING: Yes. We'll have a better  
41 feel at that time for just what's going on.  
42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you.  
44 The issue in regards to Onion Portage certainly is  
45 something we also -- again, with our school kids  
46 participating in that, it's certainly something we  
47 appreciate.  
48

49 The issue in regard to the planning,  
50 how much of that gets, as far as the village is

1 concerned participate in planning of studies, do you  
2 coordinate efforts with the villages?

3

4 MS. WESTING: As far as coordinating  
5 studies, we haven't really been able to add new studies  
6 until just recently because Jim has been the only  
7 person working here. So we've just been trying to  
8 maintain core programs. But, yes, any time we're  
9 getting ready to conduct new studies, especially if  
10 they're going to be invasive in any way or involve any  
11 kind of sampling or collaring, we engage with those  
12 communities and get their feedback.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good.

15

16 MS. WESTING: I would also mention the  
17 twinning surveys, that's all aerial survey. When we  
18 are doing aerial surveys, I make it a point to call the  
19 communities and talk to their IRA's and let them know  
20 Jim and I are going to be flying in your area, we're  
21 going to look at muskox and just trying to get our  
22 minimum count as we've done every year and we always  
23 try to do this with minimal impact on the animals and  
24 also any hunters that are in the field. If you do get  
25 any reports from the public that they're seeing planes  
26 out there and they're concerned about it, if you could  
27 please tell them who we are and what we're doing and  
28 transfer that information to us. We're happy to also  
29 talk to them specifically.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you.  
32 The issue in regards to moose down in Buckland area,  
33 Buckland drainages, you've indicated 53:100 and you've  
34 also reported low calf recruitment. Is it predators or  
35 what is it that's keeping the numbers low?

36

37 MS. WESTING: That's one thing that no  
38 one is real sure about. We do know there is a lot of  
39 bears on the Seward Peninsula. We'd like to get more  
40 information about that. We hope to work with the Park  
41 Service on their planned study in 2011. That's part of  
42 why I'm interested in doing these twinning surveys. I  
43 will say that there is no opportunity for non-residents  
44 to harvest moose down there and this is part of the  
45 reason why. We want to do everything we can to help  
46 that population out.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. The  
49 issue in regards to the Cape Thompson area for muskox,  
50 you've indicated 300 animals. Do you have any idea

1 what the previous counts were previous years?

2

3 MS. WESTING: I don't have the numbers  
4 with me right now for those counts, but they peaked out  
5 around, I believe, 400 animals. In the last three  
6 surveys they've been gradually decreasing. We're not  
7 sure how much of that is an emigration from the core  
8 areas that we have looked at over time and there's a  
9 possibility that there's some of that going on, that  
10 muskox for whatever reason are abandoning the core  
11 range that we traditionally survey them in. There's  
12 also the possibility that that population is going  
13 down. We're in a position now where we feel like we  
14 have enough data to really start figuring out what, if  
15 anything, needs to be done about that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
18 Any questions for Charlotte.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you for your  
23 report, Charlotte. There's the expert. Tell us the  
24 numbers. For the record, please state your name.

25

26 MS. BUCKNELL: Susan Bucknell. I work  
27 for the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
28 Board Support Section. I work with the advisory  
29 committees. First I'd like to say I had grand jury  
30 service this morning, so I'm sorry I missed the first  
31 part of the meeting.

32

33 Mr. Chair, your questions to BLM about  
34 the sportfish biologist and I just wanted to pass on  
35 Brendan Scanlon is a sportfish biologist that's taken  
36 over a lot of the work Fred DiCicco used to do for this  
37 area and he wasn't able to be here today but I know if  
38 we could pass on what your interests and questions  
39 were, I'd be happy to try and get that to him and make  
40 sure he gets information back to you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.

43

44 MS. BUCKNELL: The other item, I just  
45 wanted to pass on that the Alaska Board of Fisheries  
46 did not pass a proposal from this region to allow rod  
47 and reel for subsistence fishing. That just happened  
48 the end of January. Their rationale was that it wasn't  
49 something they wanted to see spread out to other  
50 regions and they also pointed out that people under 16

1 don't need a sportfish license anyway and that people  
2 over 60 or 65 can get the permanent license. I think  
3 also on Federal land -- do Federally qualified users  
4 need a permit to use rod and reel for subsistence  
5 fishing? I wasn't sure if that was something that Ken  
6 wanted to clarify.

7

8

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Larry.

9

10

MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 Under the Federal subsistence regulations you may use a  
12 rod and reel to take fish without a subsistence fishing  
13 permit unless an area requires a permit. That's a  
14 general stipulation. So then you'd need to go to the  
15 Kotzebue portion of the Federal Regulations and there  
16 is no stipulation for requiring a permit within the  
17 Kotzebue area. So when you put the two pieces together,  
18 you may take fish by rod and reel for subsistence under  
19 Federal regs and you don't need a permit to do it.

20

21

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: But I guess to make  
22 sure that allowance in the Federal regs we also need to  
23 make sure that the communities know what areas you're  
24 allowed to do that. Otherwise we have a regulation in  
25 place that would allow for people to do that. If  
26 Wendall Booth, who is 80-some years old, hears that  
27 there is a regulation that allows for him to do that  
28 and he goes down to the Noatak River and does that and  
29 here comes the State, we're sorry, we're going to cite  
30 you for using rod and reel to fish, I think there's got  
31 to be a clarity in regards to making sure that  
32 information is provided to the community members on who  
33 owns what water bodies.

34

35

The other thing that also is bothersome  
36 is that the State of Alaska does not allow for take of  
37 fish by rod and reel, but yet allows catch and release  
38 to happen. In some cases, I'm sure that fish die from  
39 doing that. But, yet, for an individual who sometimes  
40 maybe -- if they don't have a net to deal with, then  
41 they've got a problem with getting fish. Would jigging  
42 be considered as rod and reel?

43

44

MS. WESTING: Right now you don't have  
45 to have a fishing license to jig through the ice.

46

47

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

48

49

MS. WESTING: But if you're not fishing  
50 through the ice, you have to have a fishing license.

1 Unless you're over 60 or under 60.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So those of you that  
4 live in Noatak as long as you're ice jigging you're  
5 okay, but the minute you start throwing that piece of  
6 metal into the water, then you've got a problem. So  
7 something to know. Any other questions. Go ahead.

8

9 MS. WESTING: Mr. Chair. I tried to  
10 sit down, but there was one thing I wanted to share.  
11 That's that the Alaska Board of Game passed a mandatory  
12 pilot orientation program at the last Board meeting in  
13 November. Basically what that is seeking to do, that  
14 was a recommendation and a proposal that came from the  
15 Unit 23 user conflict working group. The idea is that  
16 a lot of people may be doing things that are flaring up  
17 user conflicts just out of ignorance and that we could  
18 maybe give people information that will help them to  
19 make good decisions that will not exacerbate user  
20 conflict.

21

22 So the State is in the process of  
23 compiling information that will be in that pilot  
24 orientation. We're working with our AC's, so we have  
25 Kotzebue Sound, Noatak, Kivalina, the Upper Kobuk,  
26 Lower Kobuk and the Northern Seward Peninsula. We're  
27 seeking comments from all of those advisory committees  
28 on what kind of things they would like to have in that  
29 curriculum, in that orientation. So everyone who flies  
30 a plane with the intent of hunting or transporting  
31 hunters in Unit 23 is required to take this. It's a  
32 one-time thing and everyone will have to do it if  
33 they're going to fly. So Jim Dau will have to do it,  
34 anyone who has their own plane. So we're putting that  
35 together and we welcome your feedback.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. I guess  
38 that probably can work out through the State advisory  
39 councils to make sure information is provided out  
40 through them.

41

42 MS. WESTING: We're also working with  
43 the Borough and other entities, but if anyone ever has  
44 ideas for what they'd like to see on that, we welcome  
45 it from anyone.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Final question to  
48 you. What is the makeup of the State Game Board now?

49

50 MS. WESTING: Well, Mr. Chair, as you

1 know, the State Board of Game is appointed by governor  
2 and maybe I'll let Susan Bucknell explain.

3

4 MS. BUCKNELL: Thank you, Walter.  
5 Recognizing your service on the Board of Game. When I  
6 left my office, I had information with me that would  
7 have told you that and I'm afraid I left that on my  
8 desk.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess what I'm  
11 asking is as far as rural representation is concerned.  
12 What do you have out of the seven?

13

14 MS. BUCKNELL: From Bethel there's  
15 Stosh Hoffman. Is there anyone else?

16

17 MS. WESTING: Teresa Sager Albaugh is  
18 from Tok, so she's road system based, but they consider  
19 her to be a rural user. The remainder of the  
20 membership comes from road system people.

21

22 MS. BUCKNELL: Ben Grussendorf is still  
23 on from Sitka.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Basically how things  
26 are set up, is that -- when you're going to get  
27 confirmed into a State Game Board you will be asked in  
28 regards to how you think and how you feel of the equal  
29 protection clause of the constitution. That's the way  
30 they appoint Board members into that system. Unless  
31 you say, yes, I support the equal protection clause of  
32 the constitution, you more than likely will make it in.  
33 If you don't, they'll say sorry, Jack, you're out.

34

35 Thank you very much for your  
36 presentation.

37

38 MS. WESTING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We will finally hear  
41 from the Selawik Refuge.

42

43 MS. MORAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 Council members. I'll try to make this brief. I'm  
45 going to talk about a few topics and then Brandon is  
46 going to go over our biological program.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If you can state  
49 your name.

50

1 MS. MORAN: I'm sorry. My name is Tina  
2 Moran. I'm the new deputy of the Selawik Refuge  
3 manager. I've been the biologist for the refuge for  
4 the past eight years and I've been in my new position  
5 three weeks. LeeAnne apologizes for not being able to  
6 be here today. She had to be out of town. Brandon  
7 Saito is our biologist. We're hoping to in the next  
8 few months to backfill my position as another wildlife  
9 biologist. We'd also like to hire another  
10 environmental education specialist. We'd like to hire  
11 a new refuge information technician for the village of  
12 Selawik. Clyde Ramoth resigned recently, so we need to  
13 fill his position soon.

14  
15 I gave you a table. I was hoping to  
16 put that in the packet, but I didn't get all the  
17 reports from the transporters in time. The refuge had  
18 three transporters that were permitted to operate on  
19 the refuge. One of those transporters is a guide, Joe  
20 Schuester. As you can see on the results, they  
21 transported 24 hunters onto the refuge commercially,  
22 seven moose were taken and 14 caribou were taken. It's  
23 pretty evident right now that we have some low use on  
24 the refuge. We're anticipating about the same number  
25 of transporters to be on the refuge this year. Our  
26 application process ends March 15th, so we'll know by  
27 then.

28  
29 We expect to have a similar law  
30 enforcement strategy as last year. This entails refuge  
31 officer detailed here for the fall hunting season.  
32 Will be working with Eric Lohring of the State wildlife  
33 trooper. He'll be especially checking clients of  
34 transporters and guides at the Kotzebue airport and  
35 we've been doing this for the past few years and also  
36 cooperating with the other agencies in the area.

37  
38 We're also still in the process of  
39 revising our comprehensive conservation plan. This is  
40 our refuge management plan. The original was produced  
41 in 1987 and we are legally supposed to revise it every  
42 15 years. We're obviously a little late, but our  
43 internal review draft is hopefully going to be  
44 completed in early March and then once that's completed  
45 and we do the required revisions, it will go out to  
46 public comments. We'll let you know when that will be.  
47 We're hoping to produce newsletters and go out to  
48 villages.

49  
50 This is what we did when we first

1 started the revisions. We did some house-to-house  
2 talks and tried to do some open houses in the area. So  
3 we're trying different ways of getting public comment  
4 because we understand that people want to contribute,  
5 but we're having problems trying to get public comment.  
6 So we will take suggestions on that.

7

8                   Lastly, on my end, we're also working  
9 with the Northwest Arctic Borough on their winter trail  
10 safety plan. Eric See, our pilot, and Brandon Saito  
11 have been flying all the current trails and taking GPS  
12 points. So Brandon can talk to that in more detail if  
13 need be.

14

15                   So Brandon will give you an overview of  
16 our biological program. In the back of your packet  
17 there should be the list of all the projects we're  
18 going to be hoping to do this summer and fall. So I  
19 will give it over to Brandon.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Before you turn the  
22 mike over to Brandon, is there any questions for Tina.

23

24                   (No comments)

25

26                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I do have a couple,  
27 Tina. Thanks a lot for your -- you were pointing out  
28 the issue with regards to wildlife biologist. Through  
29 the process of your hiring folks to that position, do  
30 you consider local knowledge as part of the process in  
31 hiring for those positions?

32

33                   MS. MORAN: We definitely would love to  
34 have somebody who is qualified who knows the area.  
35 We've been really lucky in having Brandon Saito come on  
36 board. He spent his high school years here. So it's  
37 been great having him on board and we'd love to have  
38 more folks like that that are qualified. We are  
39 definitely encouraging students to get -- it's hard,  
40 but we're trying to get students to get involved in  
41 natural resources and go through the requirements to  
42 become qualified to take these positions because I  
43 agree. I've been working in Alaska for 19 years, 10  
44 years at Yukon Delta and almost nine here, but I could  
45 never equal the knowledge of the people that live here.  
46 So it would be wonderful to get somebody who lives  
47 here.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Now Joe  
50 Schuester is a guide and plus two you've indicated.

1 MS. MORAN: Right.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Out of the three  
4 guides, are those three transporters as well too?  
5  
6 MS. MORAN: No, there's only one guide  
7 that's permitted on our refuge.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: One guide.  
10  
11 MS. MORAN: Joe Schuester is our only  
12 guide. He also transports. The other two are  
13 Northwest Aviation, Jim Kinkaid, and I can't remember  
14 the other guy's name, but he's with Bear Paw  
15 Outfitters.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. As far as  
18 highlight is concerned, if you take a look at the  
19 special use permit activity report dating from '93 to  
20 '09, it looks like at 2000 you had the highest peak of  
21 number of transported as well as transporters dealing  
22 within the refuge system and the numbers continue to  
23 decline from there. Do you have an idea what the cause  
24 of decline might be? Is it because Fish and Wildlife  
25 is not issuing additional permits or is it the resource  
26 that are starting to decline or what is it that causes  
27 both the transporters and transported numbers to  
28 continue to decline?  
29  
30 MS. MORAN: There are a number of  
31 different things. One is the timing of the caribou  
32 getting to the refuge. They're getting there later, so  
33 less people are hunting on the refuge because of that  
34 because you don't want to eat a caribou closer to rut.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right.  
37  
38 MS. MORAN: Also in the 2000 area is  
39 that Maverick Air and other transporters are no longer  
40 transporting. They were high volume hunters, so  
41 they're no longer working. So there's a number of  
42 different reasons for that.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Okay. Thank  
45 you very much. Any other questions for Tina.  
46  
47 (No comments)  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Brandon, welcome to  
50 Kotzebue. You are a Kotzebue kid anyway and I'm glad

1 you are with Fish and Wildlife. I certainly appreciate  
2 your being there. I think that's the outlook of the  
3 future for hopefully some of the students is to look at  
4 you as a role model to work in an agency like that. I  
5 think one of the things that I certainly would  
6 encourage you to do is to make some periodic visits to  
7 the school, especially to high school students that are  
8 graduating. Hopefully you can instill in their minds,  
9 oh, I can go into resource management. I can become a  
10 biologist or I can become a pilot. These thoughts can  
11 get into some of the students' mind at an age when you  
12 make your visits to the schools, so I would encourage  
13 you to do that.

14

15 Thank you very much for coming.

16

17 Go ahead.

18

19 MR. SAITO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
20 name is Brandon Saito, wildlife biologist for the  
21 Selawik Refuge. I do try to get to the schools and be  
22 involved with programs to help out with that kind of  
23 stuff. Let kids know that they can go into biology and  
24 anybody can do it.

25

26 I'd like to go over the biological  
27 program we have here. Starting off with we'll be  
28 cooperating with Fish and Game and National Park  
29 Service and BLM to do the spring moose surveys. We  
30 also have the Black Scoter breeding population aerial  
31 surveys. We'll be doing mostly logistical support for  
32 the Migratory Bird Management Program from Anchorage  
33 coming down. Also the Kotzebue Sound Coastal Bird  
34 Aerial Survey, looking at Kotzebue Sound to Espenberg  
35 to Izhut Bay.

36

37 Going into the research and monitoring  
38 part, we have the altitude climate change monitoring  
39 systems, which is part of a worldwide global  
40 observation for climate change. Selawik and Arctic  
41 Refuge are the only places in Alaska in the United  
42 States that is cooperating in that program. It's been  
43 selected since 2006.

44

45 The sheefish winter movement patterns  
46 and habitat use of the Selawik drainage. It's a  
47 recently funded to the University of Alaska. We're  
48 cooperating with them to look at the distribution  
49 patterns of the Selawik sheefish versus Kobuk sheefish  
50 and where they winter. Wintering information wasn't

1 available before with telemetry, so this should shed  
2 some new light.

3  
4 The Upper Selawik thaw slump is in July  
5 through September. Ben Crosby is coming back up. This  
6 is his second year of a three year study to look at how  
7 the sediment is affecting the river and the fish. He's  
8 going to be using remote sensing to look at potential  
9 future slumps and see how that will affect the rivers.

10  
11 We're going to be helping out doing  
12 avian influenza sampling. We've been doing that since  
13 2006 with Migratory Birds, looking at swans, which are  
14 one of the listed species that are known to carry avian  
15 influenza. Also we'll be implementing a new gull  
16 sampling program that 12 refuges from around Alaska are  
17 going to be doing.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What was that again?

20  
21 MR. SAITO: Gull sampling, shore birds.  
22 Gulls are a natural -- they have a high level of being  
23 carriers of avian influenza. We'll also be doing some  
24 aerial tracking of sheefish that have been planted with  
25 radio transmitters on the Kobuk and Selawik Rivers.

26  
27 Down under miscellaneous we'll be  
28 putting in another weather station in the Tag Hills.  
29 It's a Roz weather station and it will be located next  
30 to the repeater, I guess.

31  
32 The final thing I wanted to mention was  
33 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Technical Committee  
34 meeting. We met in December and I don't know about the  
35 results yet if they're going to be posted, but maybe  
36 Tina can speak to that.

37  
38 MS. MORAN: We work with the Western  
39 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and what we're trying  
40 to do is in 2003 the group developed the cooperative  
41 management plan for the herd, so every five years we're  
42 supposed to revise that plan. So during this group  
43 meeting we broke out into a number of different working  
44 groups. Our goal was to try to get from the working  
45 group members, especially the representatives from the  
46 villages, their comments on the plan and what they  
47 would like changed or stay the same. We're still  
48 working on the summary report for that. Our plan is  
49 hopefully by next year to have a revised cooperative  
50 management plan for the Western Arctic Herd.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is that it?  
2  
3 MR. SAITO: Yes. Thank you.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.  
6 Any questions for Brandon or Tina.  
7  
8 (No comments)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I've got a couple.  
11 First I want to thank you for coming and participating.  
12 I want to encourage you. You're really going to be a  
13 role model to children in the future. The relationship  
14 that we have as people in this region certainly has  
15 been close with Fish and Wildlife and we appreciate  
16 your openness to have a discussion in regards to issues  
17 that would have an impact or may have an impact or  
18 potential impact for resources as well as people within  
19 Selawik area.  
20  
21 The migratory bird issue. What can we  
22 do as a community, as an organization, either to create  
23 a migratory bird organization like the folks in  
24 Kuskokwim have? I mean a lot of people hunt in this  
25 area for migratory birds. What can we do to try to  
26 create that or is there a way that we can join the  
27 migratory bird organization and the Kuskokwim to have a  
28 dialogue so we can know what's happening within the  
29 treaties. So what can we do?  
30  
31 MS. MORAN: So you're thinking like the  
32 Goose Management Plan Kuskokwim has, something like  
33 that?  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.  
36  
37 MS. MORAN: If you're interested, folks  
38 around here are interested in something like that, that  
39 would be something we'd have to bring up with Migratory  
40 Birds. I know we try to do harvest surveys with them.  
41 We could be better at getting information back to you  
42 for sure.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.  
45  
46 MS. MORAN: But I can talk to you more  
47 about exactly what you would like.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess I was  
50 driving towards either creating an organization to do

1 that with or if there's a way that one of us from this  
2 committee can periodically attend their migratory bird  
3 organization meetings in Bethel, certainly something  
4 that we'd be interested in because a lot of people hunt  
5 migratory birds in this region.

6

7 MS. MORAN: They also have the Alaska  
8 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

11

12 MS. MORAN: I don't think this region  
13 has been too involved lately, but I'm not sure about  
14 that. That's another avenue to be involved. I know  
15 there should be a representative from the Northwest.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Maybe what you ought  
18 to do is check with LeeAnne and see what she can do to  
19 find a way for us to participate in that. We'd love to  
20 find someone to participate.

21

22 MS. MORAN: Okay.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And the issue in  
25 regards to avian influenza issue, certainly you folks  
26 have been doing a lot of work on the swan sampling.  
27 Certainly if there's a way that we can support to  
28 making sure that people in the region know that these  
29 things are happening is something that we certainly  
30 would love to make sure people know that.  
31 Communication certainly is an integral part of a  
32 process to making sure that things go smoothly and you  
33 folks do very well on that side.

34

35 MS. MORAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If there's no other  
38 questions, thank you very much for your report.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do we have any new  
43 business.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Larry.

48

49 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. None that  
50 I'm aware of.

1                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Barbara, do you have  
2 any new business?

3  
4                   MS. ATORUK: No, I don't. Thank you.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, thank you very  
7 much. What's the wish of the committee.

8  
9                   MR. LONEWOLF: Move to adjourn.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion to  
12 adjourn.

13  
14                   This meeting is adjourned.

15  
16                   (Off record)

17  
18                   (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 171 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 19th day of February 2010, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Kotzebue, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of February 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/10