

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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PUBLIC MEETING

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8

Kotzebue, Alaska

9

March 7, 2006

10

8:30 o'clock a.m.

11

12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

13

14 Raymond Stoney, Chairman

15 Victor Karmun, Vice Chairman

16 Calvin Moto, Secretary

17 Joe Arey

18 Robbie Everett

19 Percy C. Ballot, Sr.

20 Reggie Cleveland

21 Attamuk (Enoch Shiedt, Sr.)

22 Ralph Ramoth

23

24 Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 3/7/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Since our clock is running, so good morning. I'll say good morning to everybody. But it's happy face, even though the weather is cold outside. And welcome to Kotzebue everybody.

So this morning I'll call the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to order. It's 8:35 a.m. Okay. Roll call, please, Michelle.

MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
Joe Arey.

MR. AREY: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Raymond Stoney.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Robbie Everett.

MR. EVERETT: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Percy Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Reggie Cleveland.

MR. CLEVELAND: Good morning. Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Enoch Shiedt. Calvin Moto. I did speak to Calvin on the phone last night. He is weathered out. He's going to try to make it in today. He might be in around 11.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes. Yes.

MS. CHIVERS: Ralph Ramoth.

MR. RAMOTH: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Okay. And he also talked to Raymond as well this morning, correct. Okay.

1 Sorry.  
2  
3 Ralph Ramoth.  
4  
5 MR. RAMOTH: Here.  
6  
7 MS. CHIVERS: Victor Karmun.  
8  
9 MR. KARMUN: Yes.  
10  
11 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
12 quorum.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Michelle.  
15  
16 Next we go to -- first of all, welcome  
17 to Kotzebue. Like I said, it's kind of cold out, but  
18 we walk -- our distance is a walk distance, so it's not  
19 like last week. We had 79 below last week here. You  
20 guys all see that the visibility, can't even see the  
21 buildings outside. It was stormy.  
22  
23 So we'll go to introductions. We'll  
24 start from that corner for our new member here, and  
25 then go down the line.  
26  
27 MR. EVERETT: Robbie Everett from  
28 Kotzebue, and I'm glad to be here.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Welcome to Regional  
31 Advisory Council. thank you very much.  
32  
33 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chairman.  
34  
35 MR. AREY: Joe Arey, Noatak.  
36  
37 MR. RAMOTH: Ralph Ramoth, Selawik.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Ralph.  
40 I'm Raymond Stoney from Kiana. I have been with the  
41 RAC since '93. I think some of you have been on, also,  
42 so we've been with the group for a while. So welcome  
43 to Kotzebue.  
44  
45 MR. BALLOT: Percy Ballot from  
46 Buckland.  
47  
48 MR. CLEVELAND: Reggie Cleveland from  
49 Shungnak. I'm Barbara Armstrong's younger brother.  
50

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's not what  
2 she says.  
3  
4 MR. KARMUN: Victor Karmun, Kotzebue.  
5 Welcome aboard, Robbie Everett.  
6  
7 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Council  
8 Coordinator.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Michelle.  
11 So we'll start from the corner and go all the way to  
12 our guests here. Welcome to the guests, and I know I  
13 seen you guys last week, so just introductions from  
14 everybody.  
15  
16 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you. My name is  
17 Jim Magdanz. I work with the Subsistence Division,  
18 Fish and Game, here in Kotzebue.  
19  
20 MS. MORAN: My name is Tina Moran. I  
21 work for the Fish and Wildlife Service at the Selawik  
22 Refuge.  
23  
24 (This portion indiscernible, not close  
25 to microphone - some continued introductions from back  
26 of room)  
27  
28 MS. SWANTON: I'm Nancy Swanton with  
29 the National Park Service out of Anchorage. I took Bob  
30 Gerhardt's place when Bob retired last year.  
31  
32 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson from the  
33 National Park Service, Subsistence Management Program  
34 in Nome.  
35  
36 MR. JOLY: Kyle Joly, BLM in Fairbanks.  
37  
38 MR. HELFRICH: George Helfrich. I'm  
39 Henry Bisson's representative from BLM on the  
40 Subsistence Board.  
41  
42 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli. I'm  
43 an anthropologist with the BIA Subsistence Office in  
44 Anchorage.  
45  
46 MR. JACK: Carl Jack, Staff Committee  
47 for the Chair. Support Staff.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Hi, Carl.  
50

1 MS. CLARK: Maureen Clark, Office of  
2 Subsistence Management.

3  
4 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm Chuck Ardizzone,  
5 wildlife biologist for this Council form OSM.

6  
7 MR. HILE: Nathan Hile, I'm the court  
8 reporter.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Did we miss anybody.  
11 Okay. Welcome aboard. So we'll longer on our schedule  
12 today.

13  
14 Those of you that wish to testify, this  
15 is a green form right here, and fill that out and then  
16 put your name in it and who you're representing, give  
17 it to Michelle. And we'll give you an opportunity to  
18 testify.

19  
20 Okay. For our agenda today, first of  
21 all, as you know, we normally elect officers annually.  
22 Every year we do that. We'll do that as we go along.

23  
24 And the review and adoption of the  
25 agenda today. And the minutes and the Chair's report,  
26 and the Council reports and public testimony, and, of  
27 course, the proposals. I know we'll take a little bit  
28 of time on the proposals. And then we'll go down to  
29 agency reports, and on other business, and time for  
30 next meeting. Anything else on the agenda.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Did I miss  
35 anything from any of that, Michelle. I'm glad all of  
36 you are here.

37  
38 It's very interesting, you know, our  
39 gentleman here, and I'm very honored to have you with  
40 the RAC here. It's been -- like I say, some of us have  
41 been since this was formed. It began in '93. I'm  
42 happy to get all the -- having to get to know all the  
43 agencies that work around us. And you'll see the  
44 people here from the State and Federal, the Park  
45 Service, everybody. Good people to work with. Welcome  
46 aboard.

47  
48 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. Raymond.  
49 There is one item. Under FIS when we get to those  
50 reports after the wildlife proposals, there was to be a

1 report from the Fisheries Information Services Program,  
2 but they are not here. But there is -- there was  
3 suppose to be a handout, and I haven't seen anything  
4 from the office, but I don't think we had anything  
5 actively ongoing, new projects or anything here, so  
6 that's one item that we'll probably just skip over when  
7 we get to it.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

12

13 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair. Jim Magdanz,  
14 Fish and Game. Just I have a report to hand out, and a  
15 proposal to talk about the FIS program. I don't know  
16 whether that's the place to do it or whether you want  
17 me to do it in agency reports, but just to make you  
18 aware that I do have.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Agency reports?

21

22 MR. MAGDANZ: Either place. Either the  
23 FIS section or the agency reports.

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We'll probably do it  
26 at the agency -- do you want to do it under agency  
27 reports?

28

29 MS. CHIVERS: Well, is it a FIS  
30 project?

31

32 MR. MAGDANZ: The proposal's an FIS  
33 proposal, and the project was an AYKS, a side project  
34 that's similar to the FIS proposal. So I was just  
35 going to bring the RAC up to date on the proposal and  
36 what it was about. So it could be wherever the Chair  
37 thinks it's best to put that.

38

39 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. I think I'll leave  
40 that up to the Chair and let him decide.

41

42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Under agency reports.

43

44 MR. MAGDANZ: Fine. Perfect.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. On the State  
47 reports you want it. Okay. Okay.

48

49 Anything else on the -- we'll go  
50 through our agenda, and then we'll come to the addition

1 or change and adoption after the elections of officers,  
2 that is what is written. It says -- Okay. Percy.

3

4 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't  
5 mind waiting until we get -- we have a couple members  
6 missing, and give them a little time to get in here.  
7 Otherwise, that would be good.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy.  
10 Like I said, we have a couple of people that's still  
11 missing. They're not here. If you guys want to table  
12 this election of officers here, what's the wish of the  
13 Council. I'm not going to say yes or no, but you guys  
14 decide. What do you want to do?

15

16 MR. KARMUN: Do you want it in a  
17 motion, take a vote on it?

18

19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You know, for the  
20 record, you know, we take action making motion to table  
21 the election of officers, you know, for the records.  
22 Whatever do you guys want to do. If you want to table  
23 the election of officers, it's up to you. I won't tell  
24 you what to do, so you'll decide yourself.

25

26 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I was just  
27 suggesting that we postpone it until 11:00 o'clock or  
28 whenever one or two of the other guys come in.  
29 Otherwise we continue and have the election.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that your move?

32

33 MR. BALLOT: I'll move to postpone to  
34 11:00 o'clock.

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. There's a  
37 motion on the floor by Percy to postpone the election  
38 of officers until 11:00 a.m. this morning. Michelle.

39

40 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, I was going to  
41 suggest maybe just waiting until after lunch, because I  
42 think Calvin's going to try to make it in, and his  
43 plane would arrive at 11.

44

45 MR. BALLOT: 1:00 o'clock then.

46

47 MS. CHIVERS: And then so if we give  
48 him a little bit of time.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: I take that back.

1 MS. CHIVERS: I think if we just  
2 postpone it until after lunch, how's that.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. The motion is  
5 for to table the election of officers until 1:00 p.m.  
6 this afternoon. Is there a second?  
7  
8 MR. RAMOTH: Second. Second the  
9 motion.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Ralph.  
12 And any further discussions on the election of  
13 officers.  
14  
15 (No comments)  
16  
17 MR. BALLOT: Question.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been  
20 called. All in favor of tabling the election of  
21 officers until 1:00 p.m., signify by saying aye.  
22  
23 IN UNISON: Aye.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.  
26  
27 (No opposing votes)  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Election of  
30 officers will be after lunch, 1:00 p.m.  
31  
32 Okay. We'll go down to Item Number 5,  
33 the review and adopting the agenda for today's meeting.  
34 If you want to put additions or corrections. I know  
35 that most of you have worked with this for a while, you  
36 know. These were sent out to you almost like two weeks  
37 ago, 10 days ago.  
38  
39 MR. KARMUN: Mr. Chairman.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Victor.  
42  
43 MR. KARMUN: I'd like to see a  
44 correction on that. On the roll call vote, my name is  
45 not even on there, yea or nay.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: In the minutes?  
48  
49 MR. KARMUN: Yes, sir, it's in the  
50 packet, it's in the minutes, but my name is not on

1 there.

2

3

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Michelle.

4

5

MS. CHIVERS: I'm sorry, can you specify which page, and are the other names on it? Mr. Chairman, we normally -- when there's a roll call vote, we generally put in the number of yeas, the number of nays. But if you would like to have the names put in there, we can do that.

11

12

13

MR. KARMUN: Yeah, it's on Page 9, the second paragraph down.

14

15

16

MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Karmun. It will be added.

17

18

19

MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

20

21

22

23

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. And we'll have some more discussion on that. Mr. Karmun, some of these are on the minutes, so we'll update it. So we're on Item Number 5.

24

25

26

For the record, we've got what's his name, I can't even pronounce his Eskimo name here.

27

28

29

ATTAMUK: Attamuk.

30

31

32

33

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk. Right. For the record. At the moment, we're down to Item Number 5.

34

35

36

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I move to approve the agenda as amended.

37

38

39

40

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. There's a motion by Percy to approve the agenda as amended. Second.

41

42

43

44

45

MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second by Reggie.

Any discussions on the agenda.

46

47

48

49

(No comments)

MR. CLEVELAND: Question.

50

CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been

1 called for. All in favor of adopting the agenda for  
2 today signify by saying aye.  
3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.  
7  
8 (No opposing votes)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That passes, so we'll  
11 go through it all today.  
12  
13 Now, for those of you that are new  
14 here, there's a green card right here, and then fill it  
15 out and then it's for your testimony right here to us  
16 here, so if I don't forget it, you know, because I  
17 forget fairly easy, so let us know, and give it to  
18 Michelle.  
19  
20 Okay. Item Number 6. It's review and  
21 adopting minutes of October 7, 2005. And the minutes  
22 begin on Page 5. So a few minutes to review to review  
23 the minutes, Attamuk.  
24  
25 ATTAMUK: I need a.....  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, you need a --  
28 Attamuk. Michelle, he needs a book.  
29  
30 MS. CHIVERS: You didn't receive a  
31 book?  
32  
33 ATTAMUK: I moved offices, remember? I  
34 called over yesterday. I did not.  
35  
36 MS. CHIVERS: It would have been sent  
37 to your home.  
38  
39 ATTAMUK: I didn't get it.  
40  
41 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. We don't have any  
42 extras. I think what I'll do is.....  
43  
44 ATTAMUK: Okay.  
45  
46 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. I'll loan you  
47 Maureen's book.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, get one of --  
50 Calvin Moto's.

1 (Pause)  
2  
3 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chairman.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Reggie.  
6  
7 MR. CLEVELAND: I move for the adoption  
8 of the minutes.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. There's a  
11 motion on the floor to adopt the minutes. If there's  
12 further discussion. Is there a second.  
13  
14 MR. KARMUN: Second.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second. Any  
17 discussions on the minutes of October 7. I know if you  
18 look at, go down to Page Number 9, it says on the  
19 National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission  
20 appointments, one thing is who is Raymond Holly. It's  
21 Hawley, on Page 9 on the minutes. So correct that for  
22 the record. It's Hawley. It's.....  
23  
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: H-A-W-L-E-Y.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. H-A-W. These  
27 are appointments to the Subsistence Resource  
28 Commission.  
29  
30 Okay. On discussion of the minutes.  
31 We're on discussion of the minutes.  
32  
33 (No comments)  
34  
35 MR. CLEVELAND: Question.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been  
38 called for by Reggie. All in favor of adopting the  
39 minutes from October 7th signify by saying aye.  
40  
41 IN UNISON: Aye.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.  
44  
45 (No opposing votes)  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The minutes are  
48 passed.  
49 Okay. Chair's report. Some page on  
50 there, you've got that letter.

1 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: In here some place  
4 that letter, .805.

5

6 MS. CHIVERS: The .805(c) letter from  
7 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting, we didn't have a  
8 representative at the meeting, but inside your packets  
9 that are in front of you, there's the .805(c) letter,  
10 and it shows what the Federal Subsistence Board action  
11 that was taken on the statewide proposal, and also --  
12 yeah, on the statewide proposal that the Council voted  
13 on. So we can give everybody a moment to take a look  
14 at it if you'd like.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So on your handout,  
17 you've got this .805 letter. It comes from the Chair  
18 of the Federal Board of Game in Anchorage. It's sort  
19 of self-explanatory. It state there was one proposal,  
20 it's FP06-01, and it was a statewide proposal, on the  
21 last meeting in October 7, the Council voted in favor  
22 of support this proposal. So in January I reported to  
23 the Federal Board of Game as support it as written.  
24 That's the only thing that came out from this meeting.

25

26 If you want more information, you know,  
27 if you want that information, you can get any of that  
28 from her, anything that comes up.

29

30 MR. EVERETT: Right, I received that in  
31 the mail as well.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. Any questions  
34 on this letter, .805.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. If none, Okay.  
39 Down to Item Number 8. I know we pretty fast, you  
40 know, like I want to get done today, so I'm sure we'll  
41 get done today, right, Michelle?

42

43 Okay. Council member reports. I think  
44 that it will be interesting to hear from the  
45 surrounding villages concerning caribou, moose, muskox,  
46 sheep, ptarmigans, rabbits, and wolf and whatever it  
47 is. So we'll probably start with Mr. Karmun, because  
48 Victor's an outdoorsman. He likes to be out there  
49 hunting ptarmigan. Mr. Karmun, have you got anything?

50

1 MR. KARMUN: Yes, I do like ptarmigan,  
2 but it seems as though they're in low numbers around  
3 this part of Kotzebue Sound this winter, although I do  
4 see flocks, but earlier on. Because of the lack of  
5 snow, almost impossible to negotiate the willows to go  
6 retrieve them.

7  
8 I've seen good bands of caribou,  
9 whether it be behind Sealing Point or the Igichuk Hills  
10 or the Choris Peninsula. And for the most part, they  
11 appear to be in very good shape. The one I got in  
12 December was in very good shape. It was a female and  
13 it still had fat on the rump and everything.

14  
15 It was, outside of that an unusual  
16 winter. Some of the coldest days on record. Some of  
17 the warmest days on record, highest winds on record. I  
18 don't know what else, maybe high water. One more to  
19 go.

20  
21 Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Victor.  
24 So you said you haven't seen much ptarmigan, you know,  
25 that they'll usually be around Sealing Point area and  
26 over that Rabbit Creek area, so there's not any  
27 ptarmigan at all either?

28  
29 MR. KARMUN: Oh, Rabbit Creek has never  
30 failed me before. Of any place I use as a yardstick or  
31 whatever, if there's no ptarmigan around Rabbit Creek,  
32 they're in pretty low numbers.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Victor.

35  
36 Those of you in the public, if you have  
37 any questions, you know, as to any of it, just ask us  
38 here. We'll give you some time to ask, you know, any  
39 Council member any question about the species in the  
40 areas.

41  
42 Mr. Cleveland.

43  
44 MR. CLEVELAND: I don't have a report  
45 at this time from my area, just because of me, because  
46 of my elders. The elders usually report their winter  
47 activities right about May, then they get into their  
48 fishing boat, and report about fishing boat in the  
49 falltime, so a little bit awkward right now to make a  
50 final report on this year's activities.

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Reggie.  
2 Percy.

3  
4 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
5 Buckland's a wintering ground for the caribou, so we do  
6 have them all over, north, south, east and west.

7  
8 But we do have some concerns with the  
9 bears again this year. They've been breaking into  
10 cabins and stuff like that. So I think all our cabins  
11 from Bear Creek on to Selawik and to Galahan, they've  
12 all been breaking in by bears. And so we're trying to  
13 repair them good enough for people to use.

14  
15 And then there's a lot of abundance of  
16 foxes that have been come in town, but we're trying to  
17 get a handle on that.

18  
19 Otherwise everything's pretty fine.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy.  
22 It's kind of unusual, you know, for -- you know, when  
23 you say a lot of bears is doing into all the buildings,  
24 and have you seen a bear just recently this winter, or  
25 was that during the fall season?

26  
27 MR. BALLOT: Probably the fall season.  
28 It's probably more during the fall season. We haven't  
29 seen any this winter. I think they're sleeping. But  
30 they were out late.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Percy.

33  
34 I got a report like two days ago from  
35 one of the Bering Air pilots. He's flying from I  
36 believe it was Selawik going to Kotzebue, seeing  
37 somebody walking on the trail, off the trail quite a  
38 bit, so he went to Selawik and came back, rechecked it,  
39 circled it. It turned out to be a grizzly bear. It  
40 was just three days ago. Evidently the big ones really  
41 don't hibernate, they stay out.

42  
43 Attamuk. (In Inupiat)

44  
45 ATTAMUK: Okay. Falltime was a little  
46 bit unusual freeze up. I'm getting calls from Noorvik,  
47 Noatak, Kivalina, the glare ice was taking some caribou  
48 And once they spread their legs, we know that they  
49 never get up. They'll die right there. And that  
50 happened all over, mainly the coast here in Kotzebue,

1 and a few -- and there was about 60 around my camp that  
2 I heard.

3  
4 And otherwise, conditions were pretty  
5 fat, the ones they were getting by Noorvik, a few  
6 towards Noatak. Kivalina, not too much caribou, and  
7 they're mainly probably right across here, and they  
8 haven't -- they were going to check. They started  
9 getting ready for their winter hunt.

10  
11 I got a call from Koyuk and Shaktoolik  
12 that they were getting caribou, but they weren't very  
13 healthy. I think it's just their route, it's just far.

14  
15  
16 I mean, these are the calls I'm getting  
17 when I was at Maniilaq. Right now I've switched jobs  
18 to NANA, but I'm still getting calls from there.

19  
20 And for your information, my email is  
21 e.shiedt@nana.com now. I just hooked up my computer  
22 this morning. That's why I was late. And you could  
23 get ahold of me there. And they're not going to hold  
24 me and stop me from all my meetings, from what I'm on.  
25 So it's a good report.

26  
27 And on the bears, they saw a couple of  
28 wintering grizzlies towards Noatak. And we never see  
29 them again after that. They (in Inupiat). They get  
30 iced up when they're going to spend the winter. They  
31 do get iced up.

32  
33 But the caribou that was spotted toward  
34 Noatak was young kids from Kotzebue, and they were  
35 wondering what's going on. They see them in late  
36 November right after Thanksgiving, and when they do  
37 call me, and I tell them, this do happen. That when  
38 they're going to winter, bears will ice themselves up  
39 so they won't freeze.

40  
41 And, Victor, for your ptarmigan, like  
42 you I like to have my ptarmigan, yes, towards Sealing  
43 Point area was unusual. Hardly any. But I'll tell you  
44 one thing, toward Riley Rec (ph) the numbers is high.  
45 I couldn't believe it. So I think it's just the  
46 conditions I guess. I don't know. Maybe like  
47 migratory birds, maybe they do change patterns once in  
48 a blue moon. I don't know. I'm not really into that  
49 ptarmigan, but my boys get some from Riley Rec area  
50 towards Choris. Quite heavy.

1                                   And the ice conditions here was  
2 terrible for all over, for all our animals I guess.  
3 And the snow was late. Otherwise, everything is --  
4 caribou fat this year, the females are fat, except the  
5 ones toward Koyuk.

6  
7                                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Attamuk.  
8 Attamuk?

9  
10                                  ATTAMUK: Attamuk.

11  
12                                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

13  
14                                  ATTAMUK: You're an Eskimo. You'll  
15 make it yet.

16  
17                                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

18  
19                                  (Laughter)

20  
21                                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Ralph.

22  
23                                  MR. RAMOTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
24 I have little to report from Selawik.

25  
26                                  But the caribous are very unusual this  
27 year. They're around my yard.

28  
29                                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: On your yard in  
30 Selawik?

31  
32                                  MR. RAMOTH: On my yard. They had the  
33 lake, we've got a lake behind out house, and across the  
34 lake there's caribou grazing around there. About 20 of  
35 them. Even though the snowmachines came around, they  
36 don't go away. They just hang around mostly all winter  
37 long. You know, they're around Selawik area. There's  
38 numbers of caribous grazing in Selawik this year.  
39 They're only about, oh, the ones I've seen from my  
40 window is about a quarter mile, maybe less. And a good  
41 size of a herd east of Selawik, and they've been  
42 grazing there all winter.

43  
44                                  And there's some wolves around. Of  
45 course, there's always wolves around where there's  
46 caribous.

47  
48                                  Nothing else. We got a lot of foxes  
49 again this year. They come around our people's houses,  
50 they come around town, walk around all over. Come

1 around our yard and grab a fish and run away. Learning  
2 to come around at nighttime.

3

4 But then everything is pretty good this  
5 year. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Ralph, I know it's a  
8 very difficult question I'm going to ask you. Those  
9 caribou, you said they were within a quarter mile of  
10 the back of your back yard. And I know you won't know  
11 whether they're reindeer or caribou. I know they all  
12 mix in, so -- and that they're not aware of those snow  
13 machines.

14

15 MR. RAMOTH: Well, I tend to think  
16 about that and talk about those, you know. I know when  
17 the reindeer is new, people around, you know, they  
18 don't go away. So I kind of thought they might be  
19 mixed with the reindeers, but I didn't really get too  
20 close to them. I seen them every day though.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Ralph.  
23 Good report.

24

25 Joe from Noatak, also one of our new  
26 RAC members. And the first time -- I think the second  
27 time you've been with us, Joe. I know you're  
28 interested in this group, this RAC. So afford you the  
29 opportunity to say words from Noatak. Joe.

30

31 MR. AREY: Yeah. Victor's ptarmigan.  
32 My nephew's been going out and looking for ptarmigan,  
33 too, but he comes back with nothing. There's nothing  
34 right before him.

35

36 And then rabbits. Gee, how many years  
37 now we haven't seen rabbits up there. And so they  
38 have, what a seven-year cycle? Or somebody said, but  
39 nothing yet.

40

41 The caribou, last fall they were really  
42 late. When they did come, they didn't come close  
43 enough to our village like they did before. They went  
44 through the flats and they went to the Aggie, and they  
45 were crossing there at Aggie. And they said there were  
46 a lot of -- lots of people there was hunting there, I  
47 got a report one time from a guy from the village. He  
48 went down to the Aggie, because they said they were  
49 crossing down there, and he said he got there. He said  
50 he'd seen caribou behind there in the tundra just here

1 and there, just shot. He said, they got one there  
2 close to the river, and he just took their tongue out,  
3 nobody around. It was just waste. And I call up Jim  
4 Dau who is not around Call up the officers, protection  
5 officers, Fish and Game and he was in Bethel. Gee, try  
6 to get somebody on those, and you can't get nobody  
7 when.....

8  
9 But on the fish this year and the  
10 trout, we got them early. We get at the good parts.

11  
12 Something else will come up later.  
13 That's all I have ready.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Joe. Joe,  
16 for your information, you know, that Noatak, it's also  
17 managed by I believe National Park, Ken? That national  
18 park/preserve?

19  
20 MR. ADKISSON: Yes.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So if anything comes  
23 up like that, then the National Park also has a 800  
24 number for the Kotzebue here, you know, that -- I'll  
25 give it to you before I go so just in case something  
26 happen like this, so you're going to have the number to  
27 contact somebody here in Kotzebue. They've got a  
28 number of rangers here that probably they've got -- I  
29 don't know how many aircrafts they've got. They've got  
30 airplanes here. So I'll give you that.

31  
32 MR. AREY: Yeah. On these -- we've got  
33 a different sections, like Park Service or the State,  
34 we've got Federal, and I recall somebody from that end  
35 you're on, we'd have to have all different phone  
36 numbers. See, I can get ahold of Julie Eron and Tilly  
37 Martin, and that way you can get ahold of the other  
38 agencies was our problem. But I couldn't get nobody.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Joe, like that you  
41 said, you know, we're divided to five different land  
42 managers, just like you said, yet it's very difficult  
43 to find somebody that works here, responsive to  
44 complaints and reports, but however that there's still  
45 conflicts among all five land managers. Most will say,  
46 well, it's just under state land, just call the State.  
47 It's, well, it's on BLM, just call up BLM. So  
48 sometimes, you know, it gets very discouraging. And if  
49 it's -- when wanton waste especially is happening. So  
50 what I normally do myself is just contact directly to

1 State Fish and Game people, the Troopers, I want you to  
2 know that were responding, and respond to something and  
3 reports, especially when there's a lot of wanton waste  
4 happening. So that's a good point of view you've got,  
5 you know, we'll -- before -- even after I get home,  
6 I'll give all the numbers for all the land managers  
7 which are in that area.

8

9 Thank you, Joe.

10

11 And, Robbie, I know you're new with the  
12 group. Would you give your, you know, length in  
13 Kotzebue and what you're doing and what you have, and  
14 then what did you. Ready?

15

16 MR. EVERETT: Yes. This is my fifth  
17 year here in Kotzebue. Just so you know, I teach  
18 school at Kotzebue Middle High School. I have three  
19 boys. We have two foster native children at the time,  
20 we've had for a year. And my wife teaches computers at  
21 the elementary. And I have a little gun shop just on  
22 the side to keep my boys busy. And I guess that's kind  
23 of my interest.

24

25 We participate in subsistence hunting.  
26 In fact my middle son, who's an eighth grader, on his  
27 caribou he caught in December was also very fat, and he  
28 enjoys hunting. And we've noticed a few ptarmigan and  
29 rabbits as well, and the snow conditions right now are  
30 really bumpy, but we still like getting out and  
31 enjoying that. In fact, we were just subsistence  
32 hunting for sheep on Saturday, this last Saturday, and  
33 it was a good experience. Didn't harvest any, but it  
34 was fun seeing a few and having the kids out, so.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: How far did you go  
37 for sheep hunting?

38

39 MR. EVERETT: Clear up in the Bairds,  
40 so up the Aggie and actually went on Trapper's Trail  
41 past Knapp Creek and over the pass and up in the  
42 mountains in the Bairds. I was waiting for my son to  
43 harvest his so he go within 40 yards of one and it  
44 stood up butt first and went over the edge, so he  
45 didn't get a shot. But it was exciting for him to have  
46 that experience anyway.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Robbie.  
49 Interesting report.

50

1                   Like for myself, you know, and I'm from  
2 Kiana, you know, that this year the caribou has been  
3 around. Got a number of stragglers in Kiana, and maybe  
4 100 or some, but most of them is down in Selawik area  
5 And I noticed they're generally moving easterly, but  
6 they seen it in the Selawik. I just guess that maybe  
7 about 30,000 that went through Selawik and  
8 continuously going. But, however, that below Noorvik,  
9 there's about like 1,000 wintering there. And they're  
10 real healthy caribou.

11  
12                   For Kiana area, the moose population is  
13 just right in town, that they've got about like 100  
14 around a quarter of a mile from Kiana. They just  
15 stayed there all winter.

16  
17                   I think what is amazing there's a lot  
18 of wolf pups everywhere in Kiana area, Selawik area,  
19 Noorvik area, they're hanging around.

20  
21                   For a lack of ptarmigan, Mr. Karmun, I  
22 think you're correct. The moose situation that in the  
23 village, because very strange, because, you know, you  
24 see -- you know, the brush willows, it's just like  
25 someone wearing a flat duck haircut. All the tips have  
26 been eaten by the moose. That's what the ptarmigan  
27 feeds on. And now where the ptarmigan go by hundreds,  
28 I don't know where they went. Probably further north.  
29 So just can't see them nowhere.

30  
31                   Otherwise, people like Ralph said in  
32 the Selawik and Noorvik and Kiana, and I think up at  
33 Kobuk, too, that they were pretty well delighted what  
34 they experienced this winter about caribou. There was  
35 a lot of caribou in the Unit 23 this year. You know,  
36 that good winter.

37  
38                   Otherwise it turned out to be start off  
39 of good weather in the fall, and through January was  
40 good. And February was blizzard conditions and  
41 temperatures wend down to way below sub zero  
42 temperatures. Had a number of loss of lifes concerning  
43 very cold temperature and unusual, variable winds,  
44 storms. Like the weather conditions, you know, I don't  
45 want to say too much about caribou, weather conditions  
46 in February was variable. There would be clearing and  
47 just like this, not one cloud in the sky. An hour  
48 later, blizzard conditions. An hour later, clear  
49 again. An hour later, blizzard conditions. Which kind  
50 of get somebody on the trails, they get lost, and we

1 had a number of lost, a number of searches. Just like  
2 in Buckland, you know, it's very amazing that very  
3 honorable people get -- but the weather conditions were  
4 not favorable to travel, but they were traveling, but  
5 they just got this (indiscernible) like first lodge  
6 (ph).

7  
8 Have you got anything else about that,  
9 Percy?

10  
11 MR. BALLOT: On the loss of life?

12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

14  
15 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Yeah. I think they  
16 were trying to come here, and some people were going to  
17 Noatak and they lost the trail. And nobody knew they  
18 were traveling, so if they had communicated, I guess  
19 Buckland usually by people. And during that time it  
20 was just real stormy, so we had like five or six  
21 searches last month, or the last four or five weeks in  
22 our area. So we're pretty windy all over. But our kids  
23 and everybody will learn from this experience. The one  
24 thing important is to do is to let people know you're  
25 going to travel. Probably the main things, and then  
26 taking their gear. Yeah.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy.  
29 You know, you see our comments, our report from the  
30 villages. Anybody got any questions from the audience  
31 here to any of us here concerning moose, ptarmigan,  
32 caribou, wolf, sheep. We've got sheep now, that's a  
33 good report. Any questions before we go to the next  
34 item.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, gentlemen,  
39 for the good reports. Do you want a break? Okay.  
40 Before we go to our next item, Item Number 9, will be  
41 public testimony, Victor is calling for five-minute,  
42 10-minute break.

43  
44 MR. KARMUN: Yeah.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Get a cup of coffee  
47 and then.....

48  
49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Everybody find their  
4 seats. Everybody find their coffee.

5

6 Now I see we got the report from the  
7 villages, if there are any questions from the audience  
8 about the report we got from the communities? Attamuk.

9

10 ATTAMUK: I've got an answer for Joe, a  
11 little, not all of it. The caribou you're talking  
12 about that was killed, they were all shot with machine  
13 gun. I heard about it when I was in Anchorage, and my  
14 boy run into one, the one you talk about. That was  
15 after the fact that he saw one that was just taken, so  
16 it had to be someone from the one you mentioned.

17

18 This activity, stuff like this, when we  
19 do have concerns, we're hearing nothing from the  
20 agencies, yet, yet when a native need to be cited,  
21 they're there. I mean, this protocol got to change.  
22 Our people hunt to harvest food for the table. And  
23 these people that do break the law, it's okay for them  
24 to do it? I mean, this got to stop, whether you're  
25 Federal Park Service, Selawik Wildlife Refuge, the  
26 Monument, the Bering Land Bridge, Park Service, this  
27 need to stop, because when our natives are out there  
28 just trying to provide, they do get cited. They try to  
29 do with their time. And we need to have enforcement  
30 here. I think what need to happen here is we need the  
31 Bering Land Bridge, Kivalina Monument, Noatak, Selawik  
32 Wildlife Refuge, SRC, all the agencies need to put  
33 money in a pie where we could hire local rangers in our  
34 villages, and that way they could enforce in any lands.  
35 NANA could only enforce just in the NANA lands. Park  
36 Service, the Selawik Wildlife, they could only enforce  
37 in their lands. If we put money in a pie and hire  
38 rangers, I think we would have our rangers needed,  
39 because we need to be -- have them there. They don't  
40 have to work all summer, because we need it mostly  
41 during when the sport hunting season starts. that's  
42 when the trouble begins. This trouble starts most of  
43 the time, right. Because if I see another native,  
44 we'll talk to them, we'll stop them. But very seldom  
45 this happens.

46

47 The younger ones, we need education  
48 starting at the schools about subsistence that's being  
49 abused. And once they hear it, they will take it.

50

1 I've got nothing against a native being  
2 cited if he break the regulations. You got to learn  
3 how to live with it. But the one Joe was talking  
4 about, they were shot with machine -- my boys said  
5 there's several -- he said he count 11 shots in one  
6 caribou. And he saw this, and they couldn't do nothing  
7 with that, he said they were well spoiled. Because I  
8 had drop-off hunters a quarter of a mile from my camp  
9 upriver. Two. One a little above, another one quarter  
10 mile. And then I had three in the mountains, see. We  
11 all know we have conflicts, user conflicts is  
12 happening.

13  
14 But Joe is coming right from Noatak,  
15 and it's unusual for Noatak to hunt downriver. And  
16 we've said that for how many years now. Because when  
17 you hunt down downriver, the problem is you have to go  
18 upriver toward the curve, and it's shallow. If you  
19 hunt upriver towards Noatak, when you go empty with  
20 empty boat, you mainly drift down. That's the problem  
21 we're seeing. I think you guys are not hearing what  
22 we're saying, it's hard for us to go upriver toward  
23 Noatak with a load.

24  
25 Thanks.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Attamuk.  
28 Okay. We're going on to any further questions from the  
29 public today.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Those of you that's  
34 on here, you know, this green piece of paper we've got  
35 right here for your testimony. All you do is just fill  
36 out right here and give it to Michelle, and then you'll  
37 have opportunity to testify.

38  
39 So if you don't have any questions, on  
40 the agenda we'll go to the next item. It's public  
41 testimony. I believe we've got one for Mr. Schaeffer,  
42 Pete Schaeffer. He's from Kotzebue, and he says  
43 caribou use. Mr. Schaeffer, use that mic over here and  
44 then give your report.

45  
46 MR. SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Mr.  
47 Chairman. It's good to see you all again, familiar  
48 people. I guess in a few months I can say that I'll  
49 know you guys for about 60 years.

50

1                   But anyway I'm here to speak on the  
2 caribou user issue. And I just want to kind of take  
3 you back to about 50 years ago when I think things were  
4 a lot simpler them days, and I think life was something  
5 that, since it had a lot of Inupiat ways about it was  
6 just simple, but not simple in the sense of the skills  
7 needed to survive at the time.

8  
9                   And I think as pointed out by Attamuk  
10 that the risk of the younger generation is that we lose  
11 some of the traditions of caring and the traditions of  
12 respect and that kind of thing, and I think it's  
13 beginning to show in every village, including Kotzebue,  
14 which I just consider a bigger village.

15  
16                   Anyway, during the last few months  
17 we've had a number of meetings related to mostly  
18 caribou and the issues of conflict between users. And  
19 I think you know, a long time ago it was like we were  
20 the only users around, and now we've got a number of  
21 them, and primarily sports hunters and primarily  
22 transporters, which are the biggest problem. And I  
23 think that problem was Identified in varies forums in  
24 the past, but I think by focusing on the problem, I  
25 think now any organization that has anything to do with  
26 fish and game including those that don't seem to, you  
27 know, particularly NANA Regional Corporation, Maniilaq,  
28 I think know are on the bandwagon in terms of trying to  
29 press the issue to the Board of Game.

30  
31                   Last November you'll recall that we had  
32 an evening session with the Board of Game members that  
33 chose to show up. And the whole discussion was based  
34 on the problems with users. And the -- either the  
35 problems they cause on purpose or inadvertently I think  
36 is beside the point, but I think what's really the  
37 problem is we're just seeing too many hunters up here,  
38 and too many are really the ones that come in because  
39 transporters thrive on numbers of clients, and they  
40 develop methodologies that have begun to shrink the  
41 areas of opportunity for subsistence hunting by native  
42 hunters. Taking their best spots, traditional best  
43 spots. Another means of access that never was around  
44 before is can place, curb (ph) an Otter with floats  
45 that goes in lakes and rivers and drainages where they  
46 never really had access before.

47  
48                   But as the meeting went on, I think we  
49 began to view the problem somewhat differently in that  
50 similar to salmon, which is a migratory species similar

1 to caribou, but out in the water obviously, that there  
2 are major conflicts when you talk about salmon  
3 interception, which was basically fixed to a point by a  
4 constitutional amendment that allowed limited entry,  
5 and that program to limit the amount of fishermen.  
6 Well, on land now what's happened is that the native  
7 hunter primarily/subsistence hunter now has to deal  
8 with interception by sports and recreational hunters  
9 right in the middle of the major migration routes of  
10 the caribou.

11 We had the Department of Fish and Game,  
12 mostly Jim Dau, map all of the fall migration that  
13 occurred with the radio collars for the last 20 or so  
14 years. And it basically it shows over the span of this  
15 20 years there are corridors of migration that  
16 obviously caribou prefer. The problem now though is  
17 that on access by either more skilled and better  
18 technology with aircraft and floats, now those campers  
19 are right in the damn middle of those migration routes,  
20 and that's the problem.

21  
22 We also factor in the issues of weather  
23 and that kind of thing, but I think that's beside the  
24 point, because as we all know, we ain't got no control  
25 over Mother Nature, except if you're Wally Hickel, of  
26 course, and you say you kind of let Mother Nature lick  
27 you.

28  
29 But I think what we're saying is that  
30 there is merit and a lot of credibility should be  
31 placed on the native observation. And then as we,  
32 Attamuk and several others in here, know, that when you  
33 go to the Board meetings, they always ask for  
34 scientific data, and if you don't have it to support  
35 what you're saying, then it's kind of like saying next  
36 -- right next to gossip. You know, it's anecdotal  
37 information, is what their technical term is. And that  
38 really infuriates native hunters, because we've been  
39 around a long time.

40  
41 I think that the other thing that's  
42 different is that we live here year around so we  
43 observe the animals year round, and we know what  
44 they're doing. And we are also knowing why, because  
45 the outside forces that come in, such as sports hunters  
46 or recreational hunters, for people that really need  
47 meat, really raises a moral question as to whether the  
48 State system or the Federal system prefers sports and  
49 recreational hunters or people seeking recreation over  
50 the basic needs of people that rely on caribou for

1 sustaining, you know, their traditional and spiritual  
2 way of life.

3  
4 I know that the State folks cringe when  
5 you throw in the word spiritual, and I know the Federal  
6 folks cringe, but the fact of the matter is that part  
7 of the religion so to speak of the native people up  
8 here includes the animals, and includes also the  
9 animals that we depend on for sustaining their way of  
10 life, because when you get a caribou, it's not just  
11 getting the caribou, it's a lot of other things that  
12 unless you take the time to understand what those are,  
13 it's just nonexistent to the mind set of a sports  
14 hunter.

15  
16 And then like everybody else, I watch a  
17 lot of TV and I watch the Outdoor Channel, and I kind  
18 of see some spiritual experience by even non-native  
19 numbers that, you know, take animals. And to tell you  
20 the truth, I have really nothing against sports  
21 hunters, because I meet some at the airport and they're  
22 just like you and me. They're nice people. They care  
23 about other people.

24  
25 But the problem is that the  
26 transporters, and I'm talking about two different  
27 classes of transporters. We have those that have been  
28 here a long time and understand what's going on and try  
29 to stay away from the traditional areas. And then now  
30 we have the other in, which is now in the majority, and  
31 those are the ones that just don't give a damn about  
32 the native people at all, or their ways of life, and  
33 basically fly over where they think the caribou are,  
34 look for tracks and then plop a hunter right in the  
35 middle of those tracks, because that's what's  
36 happening, is that when you get down to that degree of  
37 competition, I think it really raises issues of access,  
38 of equal access, whether or not natives have the same  
39 means of access as non-natives when it really comes  
40 down to that.

41  
42 And I believe that it's kind of  
43 revealing itself to be a really bad situation where now  
44 as we prepare to go to the Board of Game meeting here  
45 this weekend in Fairbanks of all places, I just hate  
46 that place, but I'm going to go. I think that what  
47 we're expecting is the Board of Game to provide some  
48 relief, and then as you all also know, that the other  
49 board that's been revived is the Commercial Services  
50 Board, which is the old Guide Board, and if the

1 transporters are under their authority, then we plan to  
2 lobby them to educate them, to try to get some relief  
3 of this major problem, because I do believe that the  
4 moral issues far outweighs any benefit that the State  
5 of the Feds get out of whatever it is that, you know,  
6 is in the regulation or in the constitution that  
7 prevails over basic human need.

8

9                   And I think that over the years,  
10 especially those that have been involved in fish and  
11 game issues, is to find out the complexities of having  
12 to deal with the Board of Game, having to deal with the  
13 Federal Subsistence Board, you know, since the McDowell  
14 decision. Well, similarly after the Owscechuk (ph)  
15 decision, which was basically declared the use areas of  
16 guides at the time unconstitutional, it basically  
17 opened the doors for a free-for-all for the  
18 transporters to come in and just do what they're doing  
19 now. I just find it truly amazing and unbelievable  
20 that they would allow such an unregulated mass  
21 destruction of resources when they go from drainage to  
22 drainage, control the drainage, and then just clean out  
23 all the trophy animals, and then have no responsibility  
24 for the long-term viability of those species. And then  
25 go to the next drainage and do the same strategy. And  
26 I think we're seeing the results of those kinds of  
27 strategies, simply because the numbers of moose are  
28 down.

29

30                   And then let me make another point,  
31 that in the pursuit of regulatory fixes, we instituted  
32 a permit system for moose where you have to come to  
33 Kotzebue to get a permit. And although the number of  
34 sports hunted moose has dropped considerably, the  
35 numbers of hunters coming in has still climbed. And  
36 that's the problem. There are just too many hunters,  
37 and all of the wrong places.

38

39                   In my testimony to the Board of Game,  
40 and just to let you know what the strategy is, because  
41 we're not lawyers, and we're not expects to the degree  
42 that we need to know all of the constitutional and  
43 regulatory constraints that prevent us from doing what  
44 we need to do to really fix the problem, there was a  
45 series of teleconferences held by the Fish and Game  
46 Advisory Committees, the Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk,  
47 Buckland/Deering, Noatak, Kivalina, and I think Selawik  
48 on the Buckland/Deering, and I do believe that when  
49 they laid out the areas that they were concerned about,  
50 that they thought would fix the problem with a

1 controlled use area.

2

3                   What we did was we put together a quick  
4 map just with all of those areas highlighted, and  
5 unless we have a regionwide controlled use area,  
6 there's just no way the Board of Game is going to  
7 accommodate the problem, because one of the issues  
8 pertaining to an existing controlled use area like the  
9 Noatak, is that what happened was that although it  
10 somewhat alleviated the hunting pressure on the Noatak,  
11 the X amount of hunters that used to go there went  
12 somewhere else in this region. And unless we have a  
13 regionwide controlled use area that would prohibit  
14 aircraft access for caribou specifically, there's just  
15 no way that anybody's going to fix the problem.

16

17                   But we also understand the politics of  
18 how the Board of Game hates to institute controlled use  
19 areas, because you'll have to understand that the  
20 Noatak one has been under significant legal attack over  
21 this last 10 years. But it still prevailed. I mean,  
22 it's still in place.

23

24                   Now, I'm talking about the State side,  
25 but I do believe that there's also a responsibility by  
26 the Federal managers to assist us in this issue of too  
27 many hunters as well.

28

29                   As you know, all of this activity is  
30 compressed into very narrow calendar type of year,  
31 roughly about -- and it's getting earlier, roughly  
32 about the first of August until the end of September  
33 now. And, you know, several years ago we could say  
34 maybe the middle of August to the middle of September.  
35 But what's happening is they're coming earlier and  
36 they're leaving later. And the only reason why they  
37 leave late in the falltime, when it gets close to  
38 October, is that the weather goes to hell, and then  
39 it's kind of like our monsoon season, and, you know, no  
40 sane person's going to come up here. And, you know, if  
41 they want a wilderness experience, they want sunshine  
42 and all that good weather that we have like say in  
43 August and early September.

44

45                   Unfortunately, every user group,  
46 including those that raft, those that use the rivers  
47 under Federal system, congregate into that time of  
48 year, because it's actually very beautiful and I don't  
49 blame them. But the problem is that when it begins to  
50 substantially effect subsistence hunting use patterns,

1 I believe that the first sentence in the Wilderness Act  
2 basically says, you know, that the subsistence way of  
3 life is going to be protected. Well, if that's the  
4 case, you know, where are the Federal managers?  
5

6                   Now what's going to happen is that we  
7 have to go and visit the ANILCA legislation to research  
8 again what happened in terms of some of the language  
9 that's in ANILCA pertaining to how other Federal  
10 agencies are supposed to respond like say to an annual  
11 report by this Council. And if the Council determines,  
12 for example that there is a user issue that is  
13 beginning to preclude the opportunity for subsistence  
14 hunters to take caribou, then that is a problem that  
15 should be addressed under that section of ANILCA,  
16 because even though we have like say the Noatak  
17 Preserve which was intentionally made a preserve and  
18 not a park, was to allow the continuation of sports  
19 hunting in that neck of the woods, because, you know,  
20 basically that's where the action is when caribou  
21 migrate. You know, we natives, Inupiat, knew that, you  
22 know, 15,000 years ago.  
23

24                   But now the problem is that since it's  
25 now an interception problem, I think that the Federal  
26 managers have a responsibility to react, to assist us  
27 in trying to alleviate this problem. I mean, to the  
28 degree that, you know, each agency is able to do that.  
29

30                   Now, having said that, I think that the  
31 only other avenue that we have for relief, and I  
32 mentioned the Guide Board before, was to see that for  
33 sure the transporters are included under their purview  
34 and what they've done with the first Guide Board  
35 meeting is to establish committees to figure out what  
36 the extent of their authority is. We hope that  
37 transporters are included, and indications are that  
38 that might be the case until a lawsuit happens where  
39 more than likely the transporters will continue to  
40 think that they're above any regulatory authority. We  
41 hope that doesn't happen, but more than likely that  
42 will.  
43

44                   But still I think the aggravating  
45 problem with the Guide Board is that it only is a law  
46 that was created to have two years in existence, and  
47 right now Reggie and Donny are looking for current  
48 legislation that is in the works to attach an amendment  
49 to extend the Guide Board sunset clause, because, you  
50 know, their feeling is what's the worth of putting so

1 much work if the thing is going to disappear in two  
2 years. So what we would like to see it is to be a  
3 permanent authority over an increasing amount of  
4 hunters, and an increasing amount of sports hunting  
5 activity.

6  
7                   And then not only hunting activity, but  
8 you all know that there are people that like to see  
9 wildlife, and the only shooting they do is with a  
10 camera and that kind of thing. And I think that's  
11 okay, but until such time that they begin to appear  
12 between you and the caribou you're waiting to get, you  
13 know, I think potentially they could be a major problem  
14 if they aren't under some authority or regulation as  
15 well.

16  
17                   When we get to the Guide Board meeting  
18 -- or the Game Board meeting, I think what we're going  
19 to suggest, and I mentioned the controlled use area  
20 scenario, is to get the Board to realize that this is  
21 how big the problem is if they didn't get the message  
22 on our November meeting.

23  
24                   And the other strategy that we're  
25 taking is to institute or propose to institute a  
26 permitting system for caribou with an allotted number  
27 to sports hunting which is under the authority of the  
28 Game Board, because, you know, as Mike Feagle says, we  
29 can control use, but not users. But there's ways  
30 around the regulatory process to try to take the  
31 hunting pressure off of certain areas, which has been  
32 done in other areas of the State.

33  
34                   And then basically we're going to plop  
35 the problem right in their lap and say, you know, we  
36 need help and we're looking to you for some assistance  
37 to this problem. And then if they do little, that's  
38 not satisfactory in our opinion to deal with the  
39 problem, then I think there are other avenues to  
40 pursue. That probably would include consulting with  
41 attorneys and all that kind of stuff, but we don't want  
42 to really go there, because we know that that has a  
43 real negative effect in terms of developing a working  
44 relationship like say with the Board of Game, which we  
45 think we did with that meeting that we had here in  
46 Kotzebue.

47  
48                   And then finally I think if we get no  
49 relief from the Board of Game, and if we look to the  
50 Guide Board to get some relief and we get none, I think

1 we're right back to square one where we're going to  
2 have to figure out some way to deal with the problem,  
3 because one of the issues related to hunting in a big  
4 area like this is that it might be a huge area, but  
5 it's kind of like the desert waterhole syndrome where  
6 the specific areas or corridors of caribou harvest is  
7 much smaller, so if all the hunters congregate there,  
8 you know, you might have a desert with 100,000 acres,  
9 but if you have a one-acre waterhole, that's where  
10 everything is. I mean, you can understand what I'm  
11 saying.

12  
13                   And then if that's controlled to a  
14 point where we disburse the hunting activity elsewhere,  
15 then I think it's probably clear that the upper Kobuk  
16 and the Selawik/ Buckland drainages are really going to  
17 feel the pressure of you know, what it is that they've  
18 started already, because we've seen the methodology  
19 used by transporters that don't care, that come up and  
20 tie entire drainages and then hog that area, even  
21 excluding opportunities for enforcement aircraft to  
22 land, for crying out loud, and that's allowed to  
23 continue from one drainage to the other.

24  
25                   And then the big question is, of  
26 course, if we're such a great area to hunt, where it  
27 the long-term interest in making it stay that way.  
28 Well, I can tell you that the transporters have  
29 absolutely no interest, nor do they give a damn about  
30 the long-term viability of resources. Why they're here  
31 is just for the money, period.

32  
33                   And then finally I think as indicated  
34 in that meeting that we had with some members of the  
35 Board of Game, is that this is not an issue of just  
36 user conflict. It's an issue of moral value as to what  
37 the State's going to do to try to protect people that  
38 use the resource for food.

39  
40                   The ideal scenario, just like in  
41 Canada, how they're allowed to do what they do, because  
42 fish and game management is under their land claims, is  
43 that in Canada you can be a native person, you can take  
44 a person out that's wanting to go hunt. You can go and  
45 get the best caribou in the fall and early fall, and  
46 then you get the meat, the guy gets the horns. He pays  
47 you.

48  
49                   And then why don't that work in this  
50 state? Well, obviously if you get convicted of guiding

1 without a license, what that means is that it's a Class  
2 C felony -- or Class C misdemeanor. You can be a  
3 doctor in Alaska, and if you get somebody killed, the  
4 worse they can do is a misdemeanor. But if you get  
5 caught guiding without a license, it's a Class C  
6 misdemeanor. What that means is that, you know,  
7 basically you'll probably wind up getting fined, all  
8 your equipment will be confiscated, and you'll probably  
9 spend time in, well, here maybe Anvil Mountain I guess  
10 or somewhere.

11  
12 But, you know, that's how powerful the  
13 lobby is in Juneau to protect the interests of the  
14 transporters. And I just want to say that, because  
15 that's the same resistance that Representative Joule  
16 and Senator Donny Olson will fact when they try to get  
17 legislation in there to narrow this problem down to  
18 legislation.

19  
20 I'll just close by saying that I talked  
21 to Reggie a big on the likelihood of -- you probably  
22 heard of some legislation called no meat, no horns  
23 bills, I think it's 464, House Bill 464. And I asked  
24 them, in all truthfulness, Reggie, how far do you think  
25 that will go? And he says, well, he says, it still has  
26 to be scheduled for committee, so, you know, it's like  
27 they are treating it like a 10-foot poll ain't long  
28 enough already.

29  
30 What would be really great if something  
31 like that would pass, because that would require and  
32 put the burden on transporters that any hunter that's  
33 taken out by a transporter, if he shows up at a check  
34 station or something with at least half the meat, then  
35 the State would confiscate the trophy. You know, you  
36 can bet transporters wouldn't be in business very long  
37 if that happened to a few of them, which is actually  
38 what's happening now, because there's an enormous  
39 amount of waste happening out in the field. And  
40 whether a bear got it, or whether you're rained out and  
41 the plane couldn't come in, that doesn't excuse you  
42 from the fact that if you're responsible for the meat,  
43 or if somebody's responsible for the care of the meat,  
44 then that should nullify the trophy value of the hunt  
45 period, no matter who you are.

46  
47 So anyway, with that, Mr. Chairman,  
48 that's about the extent of my testimony, other than  
49 mentioning, too, that, and I think maybe Jim Magdanz  
50 might have more detail, it's that there is this problem

1 of barter and trade with -- like say if somebody wanted  
2 to sell a sack of tipla (ph) trout from Kivalina or  
3 something, technically that's a violation, so what  
4 we're trying to do is to fix those kinds of instances  
5 so that we don't get over-zealous enforcement type to  
6 go and arrest some native for trying to sell kolk (ph)  
7 for crying out loud.

8

9                   So, anyway, that's the extent of my  
10 testimony. I'd be happy to try to answer any questions  
11 you might have.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you,  
14 Peter. It's something that all of us are very  
15 concerned about you know, about the transporters and  
16 guys all over the place. You know, thank you. You  
17 know, the report you gave us is very interesting. I  
18 know there will be some questions from the Council,  
19 you'll be here for awhile, because they have some  
20 questions.

21

22                   I've got one question that's been with  
23 me for quite some time now. As you know, we've got a  
24 number of land managers. The only enforcement we've  
25 got up here in Unit 23 is Selawik Wildlife Refuge, and,  
26 of course, the Park Service. They've got law  
27 enforcement. However, you know, that like in the  
28 Squirrel River and other places, there's no law  
29 enforcement in the State. I know that you're close to  
30 our lawmakers, Senator Olson and Representative Joule.  
31 My question to you, Mr. Schaeffer, is how can we  
32 approach the lawmakers to get some law enforcement up  
33 here for the entire Game Unit 23, not divided into five  
34 different land managers. Like if -- you know it  
35 probably more than I do, like at the wildlife refuge on  
36 the Squirrel, or the Noatak at the preserve, the land  
37 managers, well, it's somebody else's control in that,  
38 like the Park Service, that they're coming up, would  
39 be, no, let's contact the Park Service. And then if  
40 there's something happening on the State land, the Park  
41 Service says, well, go the State, they'll help you.  
42 The same thing with the BLM. So if they could be one  
43 umbrella, introducing legislation to make one whole  
44 umbrella about the whole Unit 23 concerning law  
45 enforcement. How can we approach that, instead of  
46 fighting each other's with all the land managers. Can  
47 that be worked out to make one umbrella so somebody  
48 could enforce all the land managers, if there's any  
49 violation going on?

50

1 MR. SCHAEFFER: I think that's kind of  
2 a difficult question to answer, because on one hand,  
3 you know, where enforcement is needed is where the  
4 action's at, and falltime's pretty much GMU 23, this  
5 game management unit. But you'll have to remember that  
6 several years ago they dismantled the brown suiters and  
7 made them all blue suiters. I mean, they're all  
8 troopers. And my experience with those Division of  
9 Wildlife Protection at the time was that, you know, I  
10 had a lot of respect for most of them, because they  
11 really understood how guides and those kinds of people  
12 work, and did a lot of investigation when the trail led  
13 to whatever game management unit was affected. This,  
14 you know, was probably happening probably with the  
15 heyday of the polar bear hunters when poaching and all  
16 that kind of stuff was a real issue. And we had world  
17 class guides and world class animal stuffers up here  
18 that found way to even then work around enforcement.  
19 So enforcement focus at the time was to certain user  
20 groups.

21  
22 And I think the fear on one hand of  
23 enforcement is that they're going to wind up picking on  
24 the wrong people. A classic example of that was the  
25 muskox that were killed over on the Kivalina side, you  
26 know, last fall. And then the statement by the trooper  
27 at the time was indicative that, you know, somebody  
28 from some village is guilty already. Well, it turns  
29 out to be a non-native from Point Hope.

30  
31 We press for properly oriented  
32 enforcement up here for several years, and the advisory  
33 committee has even written a couple of letters asking  
34 for some assistance to Commissioner Tandeske and  
35 company and, you know, basically I guess they just  
36 referred lower and lower until it goes nowhere. It's  
37 probably filed in a trash can or something. But  
38 they've paid little attention to, you know, our request  
39 for more enforcement, because we think that the  
40 possibility for a partnership in enforcement is  
41 probably like interdepartment cooperation now. It's  
42 something that's got to be worked at before you get  
43 anywhere.

44  
45 As far as I know, that -- and the  
46 enforcement specific to certain lands like the National  
47 Park Service are just enforcement on park lands.  
48 However, when they get to other lands, like BLM or, you  
49 know, some other agency, then it's their call as to  
50 whether or not they have an MOU with the Feds or

1 anything. I don't now. But I think that some Federal  
2 lands here are absent enforcement, just because I think  
3 it's a budget issue and a personnel issue. And then  
4 like U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, you have to  
5 remember that although they're main administrative  
6 office is headquartered in Anchorage, the enforcement  
7 division, at least it used to be, is headquartered in  
8 Fairbanks. And after that Ambler experience years ago,  
9 nobody wants to invite them anywhere.

10

11 I think that if there is a possibility  
12 for partnership of enforcement, then obviously it's got  
13 to be specific to whose authority is under which kind  
14 of land. And I know that of all of the private  
15 entities up here, NANA's been practically the only one  
16 that's had any enforcement -- sort of enforcement.  
17 They're not armed, nor have they the authority to  
18 arrest anybody. It's just like seeing where -- who's  
19 going where and then making sure that they stay off of  
20 like, say, NANA lands when they inadvertently or  
21 sometimes on purpose try to go and hunt in those areas.

22

23 So I guess just like a lawyer that's  
24 being paid 200 bucks an hour, I'm saying I don't know.  
25 And I didn't mean it as a joke. I mean, I'm serious.  
26 I don't know.

27

28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr.  
29 Schaeffer. I know that it's very difficult, like you  
30 say, a very difficult question to answer, but however  
31 that this thing has to be looked at a we go along. You  
32 see what's happening in the last five years now,  
33 there's not too much law enforcement. So it's sort of  
34 like that's a question that's going to be asked to the  
35 agencies, how can we approach it. We need law  
36 enforcement regardless of where we go.

37

38 I know there's some questions from the  
39 Council, Mr. Karmun or somebody, before you go, asked  
40 Mr. Schaeffer what you've got.

41

42 Mr. Karmun.

43

44 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Chairman.  
45 Pete, I know time is awful short, but would it do any  
46 good if we drafted some correspondence before you left  
47 to reinforce what you're going to present the State  
48 Game Board?

49

50 MR. SCHAEFFER: Well, right now a draft

1 letter is being circulated to do exactly that from the  
2 Borough to NANA to Maniilaq, and then press upon the  
3 Board of Game that this is an issue that's of areawide  
4 concern, and that we are concerned about some of the  
5 negative effects that may occur, and I'm looking for  
6 your help to help us, you know, fix -- or at least to  
7 the extent of their authority to assist in fixing the  
8 problem.

9  
10 I'd like to expand on one thing, Mr.  
11 Chairman, if I could, on the annual report to the  
12 Secretary of Interior. It was actually done before on,  
13 i forget what the issue was, maybe the same one, but  
14 problem was at the time that there was no knowledge of  
15 the format that was acceptable to the Department of  
16 Interior, so I think that annual report just got  
17 sidetracked. I know that some of the response from the  
18 Department of Interior is really slow, sometimes two  
19 years, just to respond to a letter. But I think that,  
20 you know, the possibility exists that if the Regional  
21 Advisory Council agrees that the issue is a problem,  
22 then I think the first step would be is to address it  
23 in a letter to the Secretary of Interior, especially  
24 with this user issue, because I think that, you know,  
25 whether you -- as you probably will learn when you are  
26 on the caribou working group or on the Regional Council  
27 that the effects of too many hunters already is  
28 actually a threat to the normal continuation of the  
29 subsistence way of life as we know it. Or I think what  
30 begun to happen, you know, I think we are going to be  
31 winding up going to extremes that may be harmful to  
32 like say the caribou overall.

33  
34 I mean, if we're forced to compete with  
35 taking snowmachines of fourwheelers to those camps that  
36 are right in the migratory route, we just add to the  
37 problem. But if we don't, then how are we going to get  
38 our needs met. I've heard of one person getting so  
39 angry that he jumps in his snowmachine in the falltime  
40 when there's no snow, to go, you know, six miles to get  
41 caribou over on the Buckland side, or the Selawik area.  
42 And that's forcing hunters to do extreme things to go  
43 and get their needs met.

44  
45 And I think that if we take one step at  
46 a time with an annual report to the Secretary of  
47 Interior with the notation of the problem as we know it  
48 to exist, then that's part of the administrative relief  
49 that we're seeking that can be a track record to go and  
50 take further steps.

1 I'd like to remind you also that we  
2 have Congressional delegation, although at times they  
3 don't agree with what we do up here for subsistence use  
4 and our subsistence priority, that I believe people  
5 like Don Young would be open to some Federal relief if  
6 it came to that to try to fix the problem. But I think  
7 that's a step that's going to be dependent on whether  
8 or the Board of Game does anything, or whether the  
9 Guide Board has the authority to deal with  
10 transporters.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
13 for Mr. Schaeffer. Attamuk.

14  
15 ATTAMUK: yeah. Pete, I know our  
16 guides start hunting at a certain date. We all know  
17 that, and they pretty much far away, but they hunt in a  
18 certain area. I know this might be impossible, maybe  
19 we should try to put a proposal together for  
20 transporters to start dropping off hunters at a certain  
21 time, because that's mainly our problem right there,  
22 transporters and outfitters coming in too early, or  
23 just when they start migrating. These transporters  
24 exactly know what's going on in different drainages.  
25 Because you understand, you know, that they're the ones  
26 that really is our main problem. And maybe -- because  
27 we pretty much regulate the guides. Maybe we need to  
28 somehow start regulating transporters and outfitters  
29 and say, you can drop off hunters in Unit 23 after a  
30 certain date. I mean, that's probably something to  
31 look at. It might be impossible.

32  
33 And, you know, like you say, in  
34 commercial fishing, they will allow only so many  
35 fishermen in a bay, in an area, Nome, here, wherever,  
36 because they don't want to overharvest. We need to  
37 start limiting our transporters and outfitters so hey  
38 won't overharvest our caribou. It's not overharvesting  
39 our caribou, it's the issue of changing the migration  
40 where our own natives are paying for it, and they've  
41 been living off the caribou for thousands of years.  
42 And that's ours, because we have to think of the other  
43 villages. I know Noatak people will worry all the way  
44 to Buckland, because they have to make the first  
45 caribou cross. And these guys that come from town,  
46 they don't even worry about none of this.

47  
48 MR. SCHAEFFER: Well, the first  
49 question we ran into, and we're going to run into at  
50 the Board of Game is you've got half a million caribou

1 running around. What's the problem. It's kind of like  
2 the opposite of a fishery where limited entry was  
3 instituted to safeguards the numbers based on the  
4 diminishing numbers. Caribou are still pretty healthy.

5  
6

7                   And I think our strategy is basically  
8 to remind them that we have half a million caribou in  
9 an area the size of Indiana, but we have too many  
10 hunters. And I think the Borough is actually doing  
11 something. Kim is here and probably will expand on  
12 what the Borough is doing, but I think, you know,  
13 that's an example of the degree of the problem. And  
14 we're trying to use every authority possible to try to  
15 address the problem.

16  
17

                  And then when I suggested like say the  
18 annual letter to the Secretary of Interior to start the  
19 process, well, the means that relief is probably years  
20 down the road yet, but the problem is still getting  
21 worse, and what do you do in the meantime. So I think  
22 we're depending on the Board of Game to try to figure  
23 out how help us ease the problem, but I think the  
24 problem until it's addressed more meaningfully even in  
25 Federal or -- well, probably Federally land managers  
26 doing something different, I think it's going to just  
27 continue to get worse. So what we're looking for is  
28 any kind of relief right now based on the limited  
29 wiggle room that we have, because as native people we  
30 have virtually no say so other than being a rural  
31 resident and a participant in forums like that advisory  
32 committee system, the Federal Subsistence Board, and  
33 that kind of thing.

34  
35

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

36  
37

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

38  
39

MR. BALLOT: Thank you, Pete, for your  
40 testimony. I'm on the Seward Peninsula Advisory  
41 Committee, and we a lot of discussions with this  
42 things. Also what Enoch was talking about is a second  
43 option of controlling the time when they're out there.  
44 But my question was, the State recognizes local option  
45 laws and wouldn't controlled use laws be just about the  
46 same? They enforce these laws, would be able to  
47 enforce them?

48  
49

MR. SCHAEFFER: No, because under  
50 different authorities, like say the fisheries issue,

1 limited entry was actually a constitutional amendment  
2 that handed back in the 70s. So a constitutional  
3 amendment related to what you suggested would probably  
4 be real pie in the sky. I mean, it's not likely to  
5 happen, because we have -- I mean, support for the  
6 commercial limited entry program came from big money, I  
7 mean, you know, commercial fisheries, whereas what  
8 we're talking about here is whether or not big game  
9 hunting would support something like this, and I can  
10 guarantee you they wouldn't see the time of day  
11 unfortunately.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
14 from the Council to Mr. Schaeffer. If not, we'll.....

15  
16 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I've got another one,  
17 Pete.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

20  
21 ATTAMUK: It's off the subject what  
22 you're talking about a little bit, but for these  
23 transporters and outfitters and our guides, we have --  
24 for the meat, they could debone the meat. Maybe we  
25 should put a proposal together where the transporters  
26 and outfitters in all of Game Unit 23 that they don't  
27 use trash bags anymore, they use skein bags, because  
28 most of the time when the guides, transporters and  
29 outfitters try to give us meat, it's already spoiled.  
30 But what we need to do probably in the proposal is say  
31 most -- within three days I'd like to put my meat in  
32 the freezer. It depends on the weather. If it's a  
33 little bit colder, I like to hang it and age it a  
34 little bit and get it soft. I think that's what we  
35 need to do. That way the transporters will be  
36 responsible and our guides will be responsible of  
37 taking the meat back edible, because it's spoiled.  
38 They go through the -- to be in place in regulation,  
39 they take our meat here, and it's -- the majority of it  
40 is non-edible. You -- we all know that. No matter  
41 where we go. If they're hunting by Selawik, drop them  
42 off in Selawik. If they're hunting Squirrel River,  
43 drop them off to Kiana. If their edible. But not just  
44 change that part where they've got, you know, a real  
45 low percentage of it. Increase where they have to take  
46 it in. Because I tell you one thing, like I stated on  
47 our last meeting, that when I went up the Aggie, I saw  
48 so many skins that was by outfitters that just -- what  
49 I could see, you know. And one stack was about two  
50 feet high, because I know, because I was there. I'm

1 the one that dragged that little boat. Once I make it  
2 inside, it was pretty deep. But I'll tell you, I  
3 worked to see this, and it's being -- we're being  
4 abused completely, and more horns are moving out than  
5 the meat.

6  
7 MR. SCHAEFFER: Actually when we're  
8 down at the Board of Game meeting, we're going to be  
9 addressing Proposal 150, which called a placeholder  
10 proposal that was developed her during the Board of  
11 Game meeting in Kotzebue, and that was an education  
12 requirement for hunters coming into orientation.

13  
14 In our discussions with the Advisory  
15 Committee and several other forums, we kind of come to  
16 conclude that that's going to be pretty weak, difficult  
17 to do, because it requires administrative time by  
18 somebody to it, and I think I'm not going to take words  
19 out of the Fish and Game Department's mouth, but I  
20 think they're going to actually probably oppose it,  
21 simply because there's no time for them to deal with  
22 that kind of thing if it's a requirement.

23  
24 Well, the placeholder proposal, and the  
25 reason it's called a placeholder is to have amendments  
26 proposed to it during the course of the Board of Game  
27 meeting, which is what we're going to do, was developed  
28 by Ron Somerville and the Department of Law fellow that  
29 was here, Kevin Saxby, as just a means to put something  
30 in place so that when the Board of Game convenes in  
31 Fairbanks, it's on the agenda. And my understanding is  
32 that the first order of business, they've allowed folks  
33 to testify on behalf or against that proposal with the  
34 amendments that we're going to be proposing, even  
35 though we know that they're probably pie in the sky.  
36 Basically speaking, our backs are up against the wall,  
37 and we have no choice to try to see if, as unreasonable  
38 as it may sound to people from the outside looking in,  
39 to us that's a means of trying to address the problem.

40  
41 So as amendments to the placeholder  
42 proposal, the Board of Game has the authority to adopt  
43 whatever they deem by majority vote by the Board  
44 whatever it is that they choose to do. And hopefully  
45 it will be something that will help us with the  
46 problems here.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
49 from the Council to Mr. Schaeffer. Percy.

50

1 MR. BALLOT: When you talk about  
2 education, I wonder if there's something our  
3 organizations could do together to have a pamphlet or  
4 something up there the hunters could pick up and look  
5 at. We all know that we could let the meat last a long  
6 time out there if we put a tarp over it and put some  
7 pepper on it, it would last for two, three weeks, so  
8 you can dry it up and bring it out there, and you bring  
9 it in dry, we'll eat it. Or somebody will eat. But  
10 there's way they could preserve that meat if they're  
11 out there longer than so many days.

12  
13 MR. SCHAEFFER: I think it would be  
14 helpful for any kind of hunter education, but they'll  
15 have to remember that the hunters are there only to get  
16 the horns, and don't particularly care about the meat.  
17 That's why we're trying to make it a requirement, for  
18 example, to bring in some or most of it, otherwise they  
19 lose the trophy.

20  
21 And I think as far as hunter education  
22 in a meaningful way, I think, you know, if other  
23 organizations would be able to propose to the  
24 Department of Fish and Game and maybe the Board of Game  
25 that this is a reasonable first start, and that's maybe  
26 where the head of the Board of Game might be, that they  
27 think this is enough to start to address the problem,  
28 that might be all we'll get. We're kind of pinning our  
29 hopes on, you know, what they learned here back in  
30 November to add on to previous testimony that was kind  
31 of spotty know, in the previous years, because it was  
32 never an organized issue. Now it's a bunch of  
33 organizations, including committees that are singing  
34 from the same page of music now. So hopefully they  
35 can't ignore us forever.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy, you know, that  
38 I was reading the paper last night in Gambell about  
39 that guy was digging something and he found a piece of  
40 muktuk that was 1,000 years old. Just last week. You  
41 could see how the native people prepare their food.  
42 This piece of muktuk was well prepared when it was  
43 there for 1,000 years, and the guy said he's going to  
44 eat some of it. That's how we prepare our meat up here  
45 in Northwest Alaska, packed it in ice. It was kind of  
46 interesting seeing that on the Arctic Sound paper. It  
47 was in Gambell.

48  
49 Any further questions for the Council  
50 for -- Robbie.

1 MR. EVERETT: Thank you. thank you for  
2 your report. I appreciate it and I enjoyed being at  
3 the meeting with the Department of -- or the State  
4 Board of Game was here in Kotzebue. I had my students  
5 actually participate during the day, and I'm sure they  
6 were a distraction, but it was very good for them I  
7 think to be a part of that.

8  
9 Just a thought, and I know that there  
10 was a lot said during that meeting about education of  
11 the hunters, from my point of view, I think most of the  
12 hunters are unfamiliar with Alaska to start with, may  
13 only be here once to hunt in their life, and I question  
14 that they even are considering a lot of the things that  
15 we feel are very important, because they have a list  
16 from whoever their guide is of what to bring.  
17 Oftentimes we know they don't bring the right stuff.  
18 You know, they get up here and they don't realize that  
19 it rains almost every day in the fall, and, you know,  
20 they think it was going to be a pleasurable outing, and  
21 they find that the water on the Squirrel goes up and  
22 they get high centered and hung out on an island or  
23 something.

24  
25 But I would encourage that we look at  
26 educating the transporters, because most of these  
27 hunters will do whatever their told by the guides and  
28 the transporters. So I think that's still an option.  
29 And keep getting the students involved.

30  
31 MR. SCHAEFFER: I agree with you 100  
32 percent, that I think education, no matter where it  
33 happens to what really goes on is always helpful, and I  
34 think along those lines we have a responsibility, too,  
35 to our younger generations to teach them to be as  
36 considerate and respectful of the resources as, you  
37 know, their forefathers, so hopefully we have some  
38 forum to do it.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Karmun.

41  
42 MR. KARMUN: Yeah, one more question.  
43 Pete, what is your suggestion and recommendation this  
44 Council do? Just write an informative letter to the  
45 Secretary of Interior, or what's you're suggestion?

46  
47 MR. SCHAEFFER: After we wrote that  
48 particular letter back in the 80s I think it was, or  
49 maybe early 90s -- yeah, it's about the 80s I think, it  
50 pretty much indicated to us that you have to know the

1 rules of the road to get that thing to be effective, so  
2 I would probably consider a partnership between this  
3 Council and maybe some of the Federal managers to see  
4 that through. I know there are some real excellent  
5 technicians in the Federal system, Adkisson and company  
6 are several of them, that would probably provide some  
7 insight and maybe methodology as to how to make that  
8 letter do what it's supposed to do. That would be my  
9 suggestion, because I just don't have the legal  
10 wherewithal, nor do I got the time to go to Page 14,866  
11 to read the Federal Register all over again. I mean,  
12 you know, that's hard work. Besides that, I'm retired,  
13 so I don't get paid for nothing. Not that I don't  
14 mind.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more questions  
17 from the Council.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from  
22 our audience to Mr. Schaeffer.

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, thank you, Mr.  
27 Schaeffer.

28  
29 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, just to let you  
30 know, that I've got stuff to do, so I won't be here all  
31 the time, but if you need me to come back or something,  
32 just let me know. Some people know my number. And  
33 thank you for the opportunity. I appreciate it.

34  
35 MR. BALLOT: Thank you, Pete. I heard  
36 something down here, I know that you said you might not  
37 be here to ask all these agencies that are currently  
38 here how can they assist with the issue of controlling.

39  
40 MR. SCHAEFFER: I guess that depends on  
41 what their authority is, you know, but the current  
42 management plans, public use plans and that kind of  
43 thing. So that's kind of up to the individual agency.  
44 But I do know that the majority of the problem exists  
45 in the Noatak Reserve, so, you know, right away I think  
46 the Park Service would be a great place to start.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Pete.  
49 Okay. Thanks a lot.

50

1                   Any more testimony from the public. If  
2 you want to share testimony, you're supposed to fill  
3 out those green appears, so fill it out and give it to  
4 our coordinator. And then we will hear your comments.  
5

6  
7                   Okay. We're down to proposals. So it  
8 will take a while and I know that you're getting tired.  
9 Do you want to take a 10-minute break before the  
10 proposals? Counsel? Yes. Okay. Let's take 10-minute  
11 break before we get on proposals.

12   (Off record)

13   (On record)

14  
15  
16  
17                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Call the meeting back  
18 to order. And as you know in our last agenda, we just  
19 hear from one individual about this testimony, which  
20 was very interesting. So if we want testimony as we  
21 continue on today, if somebody wants to testify, or is  
22 it off our -- Attamuk.

23  
24                   ATTAMUK: Raymond, I wasn't here, but  
25 the minutes -- I mean, the agenda was already adopted.  
26 I think we can't really make changes to agenda, unless  
27 whoever proposed and seconded the proposal to adopt the  
28 agenda. Because they have a chance -- I am in favor of  
29 public saying, you know, but we have to go through the  
30 process of how we have our meeting. The protocol of  
31 how our meeting. Because if we start changing agenda  
32 any time we could change it, I will have feeling if I  
33 have an interest and I'm late again, that we could  
34 change the agenda any time I want. Am I wrong or am I  
35 right?

36  
37                   MS. CHIVERS: Well, normally, unless  
38 there's extending circumstances where somebody has to  
39 leave or something, then at that point I think we would  
40 make a change. We try to adopt it first thing in the  
41 morning so we kind of stick to it, but -- I mean, it's  
42 happened before, where we've had to make changes. But  
43 you weren't here, so if you need to make a change, and  
44 it's approved by the Council, then that would be fine.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Okay.  
47 We'll go down on our agenda today, we're down to  
48 proposals. The first item is Unit 23 and 22 maps.  
49 You'll see it right there on Page 13.

50

1                   So this proposal, it's Statewide  
2 Proposal WP06-01. I think Chuck right here has got the  
3 duties of information about it. Chuck.

4  
5                   MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Council  
6 members. Chuck Ardizzone, OSM. I'll be presenting  
7 WP06-01 this morning.

8  
9                   This proposal addresses the commercial  
10 sales of handicrafts made from bear claws. Last year  
11 we had a proposal that addressed several elements of  
12 bear handicraft regulations. The Federal Subsistence  
13 Board adopted most elements of that proposal, the  
14 definition of handicrafts, the definition of skin,  
15 hide, pelt, and fur, and language that had clarified  
16 that claws can be used in handicrafts for sale.  
17 However, it deferred the part of the proposal that  
18 addresses -- or, excuse me, that addressed commercial  
19 sales to allow the Councils to review the Board's  
20 modified language.

21  
22                   Remember, handicrafts made from black  
23 bears harvested on Federal lands statewide can be sold.  
24 Handicrafts made from brown bear can only be sold if  
25 the bears were harvested on Federal lands in Eastern  
26 Interior, Bristol Bay and Southeast regions.

27  
28                   The Board is considering a regulation  
29 that limits commercial sales of bear claw handicrafts,  
30 because an opportunity to sell large quantities of bear  
31 claw products may create an incentive for poaching.

32  
33                   State regulations allow the sale of  
34 handicrafts made from brown and black bear fur, but not  
35 the claws; therefore, handicrafts with claws can only  
36 be sold under federal regulations.

37  
38                   The Board's proposed language would not  
39 prohibit a subsistence user with a business license  
40 from selling their handicrafts to individuals, such as  
41 at a craft show. However, it would not allow these  
42 handicrafts to be sold to a business, and it does not  
43 allow a business to buy the bear claw handicrafts.

44  
45                   Let me read that one more time. The  
46 Board's proposed language would not prohibit a  
47 subsistence user with a business license from selling  
48 their handicrafts to individuals, such as at a craft  
49 show. However, it would not allow these handicrafts to  
50 be sold to a business, and it does not allow a business

1 to buy the bear claw handicrafts.

2

3 A gift shop selling handicrafts under  
4 consignment would also be prohibited if the gift shop  
5 is generating a profit from the activity.

6

7 This regulation will remove commercial  
8 incentives for harvesting bears, thereby providing  
9 additional protection from overharvest of bear  
10 populations. The Board's intent in allowing the sale  
11 of bear handicrafts is to provide the customary and  
12 traditional making and selling of handicrafts from  
13 bears taken for subsistence, not to provide a  
14 commercial incentive to harvest bears.

15

16 This is in contrast to some recent  
17 Board of Game action. The State has recently adopted  
18 regulations to provide a commercial incentive to  
19 harvest bears in specific areas. A regulation adopted  
20 by the Board of Game in January will allow bear hides  
21 with claws attached from bears harvested in active  
22 brown bear predator control areas, which are Unit 20(E)  
23 and Unit 12, to be sold through use of a permit. This  
24 is not a handicraft regulation. It applies to the raw  
25 and tanned -- I'm getting tongue tied here. It applies  
26 to the raw and tanned bear hides with claws attached.

27

28 The Staff recommendation for WP06-01 is  
29 to support after removing the proposed exemption for  
30 Southeast Alaska. The proposed Southeast exemption  
31 will result in difficulty with enforcement of the  
32 regulation. Allowing commercial sales of handicrafts  
33 made from bear claws taken in any part of the State  
34 without a tracking system, will have a significantly  
35 detrimental effect on the ability of law enforcement  
36 officers to differentiate between legitimate sales and  
37 the commercial sales of products from poached bears, or  
38 bears harvested under State regulations, and brown  
39 bears harvested under Federal regulations in Eastern  
40 Interior and Bristol Bay regions.

41

42 Subsistence users in Southeast should  
43 be able to carry out their customary and traditional  
44 making and selling of bear claw handicrafts from bear  
45 taken for subsistence uses without selling to  
46 businesses or becoming a significant commercial  
47 enterprise.

48

49 Are there any questions. I'll try to  
50 answer them.

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Any  
2 questions.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Alaska Department of  
7 Fish and Game. Anybody from Alaska fish and Game on  
8 Proposal WP06-01.  
9  
10 REPORTER: Your mic.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, thank you.  
13 Alaska Department of Fish and Game on this proposal.  
14  
15 (No comments)  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Other Federal, State  
18 agencies.  
19  
20 (No comments)  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any InterAgency Staff  
23 Committee comments.  
24  
25 (No comments)  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Fish and Game  
28 Advisory Committee comments.  
29  
30 (No comments)  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Summary of written  
33 public comments.  
34  
35 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Victor.  
38  
39 MR. KARMUN: Yeah, would this proposal  
40 make it legal under certain conditions the use of black  
41 bear or brown bear on the bear claws for native crafts?  
42  
43 MR. ARDIZZONE: Currently it is legal  
44 for brown bear claws, and for brown bear -- for black  
45 bear claws, and brown bear claws in certain regions.  
46 Brown bear claws, it only applies to Southeast, Bristol  
47 Bay and Eastern Interior regions.  
48  
49 MR. KARMUN: That's the way I interpret  
50 this, but it is not legal in Unit 23 or this region,

1 Northwest Arctic, Alaska?  
2  
3 MR. ARDIZZONE: Correct.  
4  
5 MR. KARMUN: Okay. Thank you.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Victor.  
8 So we'll continue right on to Regional Council  
9 deliberation, recommendations, and justifications. Do  
10 you want to start down this side, you know, for.....  
11  
12 MR. KARMUN: Do we want a motion on the  
13 table to accept or reject this to make it legal or  
14 illegal?  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, the  
17 justifications and recommendations from the Council's  
18 deliberation. What have you got to say about the  
19 proposal. You know, it's a comment in which you have  
20 to describe what this proposal's all about. You  
21 already said part of it already on your question to  
22 him.  
23  
24 MR. KARMUN: Well, I'll make a motion  
25 that we accept this proposal.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, depending on  
28 what the other Council members feel.  
29  
30 MR. KARMUN: Well, let's put a motion  
31 on the table.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. Anybody from  
34 the Council.....  
35  
36 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. We do have a  
37 meeting protocol that we're following. He's calling on  
38 different people prior to the Council's discussion. So  
39 he's going to go through all these -- yeah.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: And we're down to  
42 Council deliberations on this one.  
43  
44 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, in terms of  
45 written public comments, we did receive a couple.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, public comment,  
48 okay.  
49  
50 MS. CHIVERS: Yes. We did receive from

1 the Defenders of Wildlife, they support the amendment  
2 deleting the Unit 1 through 5 exemption. The sale of  
3 claws to businesses as defined in the regulation should  
4 apply to all game management units. Without further  
5 justification, there is no reason to exempt Units 1  
6 through 5. The sale of claws has been closely  
7 restricted in State regulations for the obvious  
8 commercial incentive involved and relative ease of  
9 procurement, handling and transfer of these desired  
10 items in the broad commercial market. Exceptions for  
11 parts of the State are inconsistent and raise serious  
12 monitoring and enforcement problems for State and  
13 Federal agencies.

14  
15 The comment we received from the AHTNA  
16 Tene Nene' Subsistence Committee out of Glennallen is  
17 they do not support this proposal; however, they  
18 support small sales by rural residents of handicrafts  
19 made from claws of black and brown bears taken under  
20 Federal subsistence hunting regulations. And these  
21 comments can be found on Page 29 in your book.

22  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Michelle.  
26 I think we've got somebody from the public that wants  
27 to also testify. Is it legal? Can we do that?

28  
29 MS. CHIVERS: I don't think we had any  
30 public that wanted to testify. I didn't receive any  
31 forms. Or did we receive one?

32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

34  
35 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. You can go ahead  
36 with him then.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

39  
40 MR. STEIN: Mr. Chairman, I just have a  
41 comment to.....

42  
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Will you get to the  
44 mic with it, please, Mr. Stein.

45  
46 MR. STEIN: Mr. Chairman, there was a  
47 motion made and put on the table. You can either have  
48 it die due to the lack of a second, or the maker of the  
49 motion has to withdraw it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Stein.  
2 Now to the Council, right? Okay.

3  
4 So now we're down to the Council  
5 deliberation, justification, and recommendation on this  
6 proposal. On Proposal WP06-01. I know Victor began  
7 the way, what is it again.

8  
9 MR. KARMUN: If anybody wants to  
10 continue this particular motion, somebody's going to  
11 have to second it.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, what, that you  
14 moved? Okay. That's for recommendation,  
15 justifications?

16  
17 MR. KARMUN: Right.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Chuck.

20  
21 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Just for  
22 clarification, if you look at Page 20 in your book, the  
23 preliminary conclusion, that's the language that the  
24 Staff from the office recommends. Just if that will  
25 help clarify things.

26  
27 MR. CLEVELAND: Mr. Chairman, I'll  
28 second Victor's motion.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It has been moved by  
31 Victor and is second by Reggie. Any further discussion  
32 or deliberation on the Proposal WP06-01.

33  
34 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, just for  
35 clarity there, their motion is to support this  
36 proposal, am I correct, right now?

37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Right. To support  
39 the proposal. Recommendations and justifications.  
40 It's been seconded. We're on discussion.

41  
42 MR. ARDIZZONE: Just for clarification,  
43 Mr. Chair, do you want to support the language that's  
44 on Page 20? Just so we get it correct. I want to make  
45 sure we're correct when we go to.....

46  
47 MR. KARMUN: That's a pretty good self-  
48 explanatory as they've got on Page 20, and that's -- I  
49 thought that was the basis of this motion. Thank you.

50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: I just wanted to make  
2 sure, because it's been modified on Page 20 a little  
3 bit.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Robbie.

6  
7 MR. EVERETT: I have a question. Could  
8 you clarify the language that you read a little bit  
9 earlier about, for instance, the Borough here has  
10 handicrafts that they sell. How that could affect in  
11 different regions the sale of those handicrafts that  
12 are basically being housed for the particular artist,  
13 but being sold through the Borough?

14  
15 MR. ARDIZZONE: So on consignment?

16  
17 MR. EVERETT: On consignment type  
18 program.

19  
20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. This would  
21 affect that, if you -- let me get the right one. Yeah,  
22 so it says, a gift shop selling handicrafts under  
23 consignment would be prohibited if the gift shop is  
24 generating profit. So if you're the maker and you put  
25 it on consignment and that shop is making money off  
26 your sale, that would be illegal under this language.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

29  
30 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. But it  
31 wouldn't have anything on local subsistence users that  
32 make arts and crafts for their own use?

33  
34 MR. ARDIZZONE: Correct.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk, you got  
37 anything?

38  
39 ATTAMUK: No. Percy asked it.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Discussion on this  
42 proposal.

43  
44 ATTAMUK: So under discussion, is what  
45 you're really saying the people that use the fur to  
46 sell their artifacts can sell it, is what -- as  
47 written? Is that what you understand the way.....

48  
49 MR. KARMUN: No, basically you can make  
50 artcrafts, the way I understand it, from bear claws,

1 whether it be brown bear or black bear. You just  
2 cannot put them to a commercial or give them to or sell  
3 them to a commercial entity, and they cannot sell them  
4 for a financial gain. You as an individual, or any  
5 subsistence user the way I interpret it, can take these  
6 and by word of mouth, you can sell them. But I don't  
7 think the way I interpret it you could turn it over to  
8 the Borough outlet, because if they make a profit on  
9 it, it would be illegal. It would not be illegal if  
10 you as an individual took these bear claws and made  
11 crafts out of them and sold them yourself. That's the  
12 way I interpret it.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Does that answer your  
17 question, Attamuk?

18

19 ATTAMUK: Yes.

20

21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Yeah.

22

23 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman. I under --  
24 I was out of the room for a few minutes, and I  
25 understood that you asked about State comments on this  
26 proposal.

27

28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

29

30 MR. MAGDANZ: I can provide those State  
31 comments.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

34

35 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz with the  
36 Department of Fish and Game.

37

38 The State comments are on Page 29, and  
39 I want to make a point for the record that these  
40 comments were provided to the Office of Subsistence  
41 Management before some recent Board of Game actions  
42 regarding the sale of bear parts. At the time that  
43 these made these comments, the Department did not  
44 support this proposal, and did not believe that the  
45 Federal Subsistence Board had established a record  
46 demonstrating that the sale as opposed to barter,  
47 sharing or use of bear claws, teeth or bones was a  
48 customary and traditional practice.

49

50 It's not clear to me how the

1 Department's position may change after the Board of  
2 Game's action. I talked with Terry Haynes yesterday  
3 about this, and we haven't received any additional  
4 clarification from the Department about how the  
5 Department will view this proposal when it comes before  
6 the Subsistence Board.

7

8                                 So that's where we are right now, Mr.  
9 Chair. Thank you.

10

11                                 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So the State is not  
12 supporting this proposal like you said?

13

14                                 MR. MAGDANZ: At the moment, the  
15 State's position is do not support. And we'll have  
16 further comments probably with the -- at the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board.

18

19                                 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

20

21                                 ATTAMUK: Jim, I've got a question for  
22 you. Maybe I'm reading this wrong, but the way you say  
23 it, maybe I'm just not understanding something here.

24

25                                 The State may take enforcement against  
26 non-Federally-qualified, is that what you're saying, us  
27 natives are non-Federally-qualified? I thought we were  
28 Federally-qualified.

29

30                                 MR. MAGDANZ: No, the way I read that  
31 is that the State may take enforcement action against  
32 any non-Federally-qualified subsistence user.  
33 Conversely what they don't say, but the way I would  
34 interpret is that they do not expect to take action  
35 against Federally-qualified subsistence users who are  
36 all the residents of this region and Unit 21 when it  
37 comes to brown bear. So I think this is saying they're  
38 not talking about you guys. They're talking about non-  
39 Federally-qualified users.

40

41                                 ATTAMUK: Thanks.

42

43                                 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Jim. Any  
44 more discussion from the Council. As you know, there's  
45 already one recommendation from the State stating non-  
46 support the proposal. So we're on deliberations. You  
47 make recommendations, whether you will support this  
48 proposal or not. We're on discussions.

49

50                                 (No comments)

1 ATTAMUK: Call for question.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been  
4 called for by Attamuk. Now, listen to this. All in  
5 favor of supporting proposal signify by saying aye.  
6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: How many. Which  
10 ones, hands.  
11  
12 (No opposing votes)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. But you know  
15 they'll -- what that say, it will become effective.  
16 Proposal WP06-01 has passed. Thank you.  
17  
18 Okay. We're down to another proposal.  
19 We'll go through the same procedure again. It's  
20 Proposal WP06-02. And on introduction of the proposal  
21 and analysis. Chuck.  
22  
23 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. The  
24 proposal starts on Page 32.  
25  
26 Proposal WP06-02 addresses the sale of  
27 handicrafts made from non-edible byproducts of wildlife  
28 other than bears. Current Federal regulations prohibit  
29 the sale of wildlife or byproducts of wildlife unless  
30 specifically permitted in Federal regulations.  
31  
32 Current Federal regulations only allow  
33 the sale of handicrafts made from bear skin, hide,  
34 pelt, or fur, including claws from some parts of the  
35 State. The sale of handicrafts made from bear bones,  
36 teeth, sinew or skulls taken in Southeast, and pelts  
37 from furbearers and subsistence harvested fish under  
38 customary trade regulations.  
39  
40 Under current State regulations, many  
41 handicrafts and parts of game can be sold, purchased or  
42 bartered. They have a specific list of what cannot be  
43 sold, such as most meat, bear parts, big game trophies,  
44 et cetera. Therefore, many wildlife handicrafts,  
45 individual antlers and horns, capes and other items can  
46 be sold under State regulations, but they cannot be  
47 sold from animals harvested on Federal public lands  
48 under Federal regulations.  
49  
50 The purpose of this proposal is to make

1 Federal regulations consistent with State regulations  
2 with respect to handicrafts. this action will not  
3 alter existing harvest limits or seasons and therefore  
4 should have no impact on wildlife populations.  
5

6 This action will provide those  
7 subsistence users who make handicrafts an opportunity  
8 to sell those handicrafts made from wildlife harvested  
9 under Federal subsistence regulations. This change  
10 will be minimal, because the activity is currently  
11 allowed for wildlife harvested under State regulations.  
12 This change will have no effect on other users.  
13

14 Because this proposed regulation uses  
15 the terms big game and trophy, definitions are provided  
16 for those terms in the analysis.  
17

18 This proposed regulation also prohibits  
19 sales from constituting a significant commercial  
20 enterprise, which are consistent with the sale of bear  
21 claw handicraft regulations.  
22

23 Adoption of these new regulations will  
24 provide Federally-qualified subsistence hunters the  
25 same opportunities that are currently available to  
26 those harvesting under State regulations, and would  
27 accommodate existing practices.  
28

29 There's a question, why doesn't this  
30 proposed regulation allow the sale of capes and  
31 individual horns and antlers as State regulations do.  
32 The answer to that question is the proposed Federal  
33 regulation requires that the sales be limited to  
34 handicrafts to be consistent with the definition of  
35 subsistence uses in ANILCA Section .803.  
36

37 The Staff recommendation for this  
38 proposal is to adopt it with recommended modifications,  
39 and they're on Page 34 of your book.  
40

41 Are there any questions.  
42

43 MR. BALLOT: Yes. Mr. Chairman. Give  
44 us the reason for taking the bear parts?  
45

46 MR. ARDIZZONE: Bear is not included in  
47 this, because we just discussed other regulations that  
48 talk about bear. That's the reason why.  
49

50 MR. BALLOT: Oh, yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions to  
2 Chuck. Victor.  
3  
4 MR. KARMUN: This proposal, does it  
5 pertain to this region or just certain regions in the  
6 State right now?  
7  
8 MR. ARDIZZONE: This would be  
9 statewide.  
10  
11 MR. KARMUN: Is it already statewide?  
12  
13 MR. ARDIZZONE: This proposal would be  
14 statewide. Currently it's not allowed statewide, but  
15 if this is adopted statewide, it would apply statewide  
16 by the Board if it's adopted. So currently under  
17 Federal regulations, you can't make handicrafts from  
18 the parts that are discussed, and sell them under  
19 Federal regulations, but you can under State. So we're  
20 just trying to be consistent with the State so no one's  
21 breaking the law basically.  
22  
23 MR. KARMUN: Well, that leads to  
24 another question then. Would all the other Regional  
25 Councils have to adopt this also?  
26  
27 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah, all the other  
28 Regional Councils will be addressing this, yes. So  
29 this went to all regions. This will go to all regions.  
30 So if you want it to apply to your region, you support  
31 it. The other regions will also have their input at  
32 their Council meetings.  
33  
34 MR. KARMUN: Would it affect this  
35 region if any other region rejected it?  
36  
37 MR. ARDIZZONE: I guess it depends on  
38 what happens at the Board meeting. It depends on what  
39 happens with the Board I mean. But if you want it to  
40 apply to your region, support it. If you don't want it  
41 to apply to your region, oppose it.  
42  
43 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Victor, the way I see  
46 this, on occasions I've seen this, the statewide  
47 proposals, some of them reject, any proposals, and some  
48 areas they supported it, so otherwise there would be no  
49 conflicts of interest at all in some of their regions  
50 of Alaska.

1 Any more questions from the -- Attamuk,  
2 before we go to the State.

3  
4 ATTAMUK: Yeah. I'm trying to  
5 understand what you're saying. If we support it and  
6 the other regions don't support this, for Unit 23, is  
7 it going to be in place? Or if we're outvoted by other  
8 regions for caucus -- you know, for majority, is it  
9 going to be, you know, whether we support it nor not,  
10 it's going to die, or it's going to non-support, or  
11 which way it's going to go? I've just got a question,  
12 because this is for the whole State.

13  
14 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. It will --  
15 depending on what happens at the Board meeting, the  
16 Board has in the past cut certain regions out and made  
17 it only apply to that region on statewide. So what may  
18 happen, if the other regions don't support it, and you  
19 do, the Board may say, well, it will apply to Unit 23  
20 only .

21  
22 ATTAMUK: I've got another question  
23 now. Did the other regions meet already on some of  
24 these proposals here, or are we leading?

25  
26 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, there's only a  
27 few regions that have met so far, and I was kind of  
28 looking around to see who may have attended some of  
29 those meetings, and to see what the other Councils may  
30 have done.

31  
32 MR. ADKISSON: I believe the Seward  
33 Peninsula -- Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

34  
35 I believe the Seward Peninsula voted to  
36 adopt. Let me make one other point.

37  
38 Mr. Chair. Council members. Ken  
39 Adkisson, National Park Service.

40  
41 I don't have my copy of ANILCA handy  
42 right now, but I believe one of the issues that this  
43 proposal is intended to address is the making and  
44 selling of handicraft things from non-edible by-parts  
45 is provided for by Federal law in ANILCA. The problem  
46 is there are no Federal regulations in 50 CFR to  
47 implement that, so it's prohibited. And this proposal  
48 would basically fix that situation by bringing the  
49 regulations into alignment with the law. If that's not  
50 correct, maybe Chuck or someone can, you know, correct

1 me, but I believe that's one of the issues.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Chuck.

6

7 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I do  
8 believe that -- I can't speak for every region, but  
9 most of the regions that have met have supported this.

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more questions to  
12 Chuck before we went to the State.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, The Alaska  
17 Department of Fish and Game, any comments on Proposal  
18 WP06-02. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Jim.

19

20 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Fish and  
21 Game.

22

23 Our comments are toward the bottom of  
24 Page 35. I'll be brief. We support this. It would  
25 align Federal and State regulations. It would also  
26 make the game regulations consistent with fish  
27 regulations. So we are in favor of this proposal, Mr.  
28 Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions to the  
31 State.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Jim.  
36 Other Federal and State agencies.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: InterAgency Staff  
41 comments.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Victor.

46

47 MR. KARMUN: If we don't get any more,  
48 I'll make a motion that -- or put a motion on the table  
49 that we adopt this.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Victor, the procedure  
2 of adopting a proposal, you have to go through all the  
3 things here.

4  
5 MR. KARMUN: Where are we at now?  
6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Down to InterAgency  
8 Staff Committee comments.

9  
10 MR. KARMUN: Oh, okay. Thank you.  
11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So we're down on the  
13 bottom of the list where it says Regional Council  
14 deliberation, justification, and recommendation.  
15 That's when you make you motion.

16  
17 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Victor.  
20 Okay. Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Summary of public  
25 comments.

26  
27 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
28 have some, a couple of written public comments that  
29 were received.

30  
31 One was received from the Ahtna Tene  
32 Nene' Subsistence Committee, and they support the  
33 proposal so that rural residents may sell handicrafts  
34 made from non-edible byproducts of most wildlife. This  
35 practice has been done under State regulation, but not  
36 under Federal regulation, since there is no regulation  
37 in place under Federal subsistence management.

38  
39 The other comment received was from the  
40 Mentasta Tribal Council, and they support the proposal.

41  
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any question to  
45 Michelle before we get to the Council.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Victor, now it's for  
50 Regional Council deliberation. Now you could have

1 discussion on Proposal WP06-02.  
2  
3 MR. KARMUN: Let's check the media one  
4 more time. There might be some more comments out there  
5 first.  
6  
7 (Laughter)  
8  
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do you have any  
10 public comments?  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I don't have any  
13 comment right now. But anybody -- have you got  
14 comments, Percy?  
15  
16 MR. BALLOT: No.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I know most of you  
19 have reviewed the proposal for at least 10 days.  
20  
21 MR. KARMUN: Okay. The motion is still  
22 the same then.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. A motion.....  
25  
26 MR. BALLOT: Second  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....by Victor to  
29 support this Proposal WP06-02.  
30  
31 MR. KARMUN: Yes, sir. Thank you.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion by Victor to  
34 support. Is there a second.  
35  
36 MR. BALLOT: Second, Mr. Chairman.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Percy.  
39 Any further discussion on this Proposal WP06-02.  
40 Chuck.  
41  
42 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Once again,  
43 just for clarification sake, do we want to support the  
44 original proposal, or support with modification as on  
45 Page 34, which is the Staff recommendation. Before we  
46 take a vote, I just want to be clear.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: What you say, Chuck,  
49 is is this supported with modification?  
50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Right. And that as  
2 the clarification I made on the last proposal, so I  
3 just want to make sure we know which one we're talking  
4 about. So it would either support what's on Page 34 or  
5 what's on Page 32. The Staff analysis supports what's  
6 on Page 34.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Since we're on  
9 this, on the discussion on the Federal Board of Game,  
10 this will also come up to the attention and reported by  
11 the Chair whether the Northwest Alaska supported it or  
12 delete it. So it will come again to the Federal Board  
13 of Game.

14  
15 We're still on discussions on this  
16 Proposal WP06-02.

17  
18 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

21  
22 MR. BALLOT: If the motion maker can  
23 confirm, I think I was going to support the motion with  
24 the intention of the modification.

25  
26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's up to the  
27 Chair.

28  
29 ATTAMUK: Victor, you're the one that  
30 put the proposal. It's your call.

31  
32 MR. KARMUN: If that's -- yeah, I --  
33 either one to me would work. But if the Council wants  
34 to go with the modification, I have no problem with  
35 that either.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Of course, the  
38 modification is very important when you get to the  
39 Board of Game with modification to make some changes,  
40 you know, with our motion.

41  
42 MR. KARMUN: Well, let's go with the  
43 modification then.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

46  
47 ATTAMUK: Question.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been  
50 called for. All in favor of adopting Proposal WP06-02,

1 signify by saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion carries.

10 Thank you, Victor.

11

12 You know, we're getting close to lunch.

13 We're moving pretty good here. I thought they'd take a  
14 lot longer.

15

16 Okay. This is sort of a long proposal.

17 It's two of them in one. It's WP06-42 and 52. So I

18 guess Ken is ready for us.

19

20 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I think so. Mr.

21 Chair. Council members. Ken Adkisson, National Park

22 Service. I'm filling in this morning for Helen

23 Armstrong on these proposals.

24

25 There's a series of proposals, you'll  
26 find them in Page 37 of your books. Basically these  
27 proposals taken together, and they have been lumped for  
28 the purposes of analysis, request and C&T determination  
29 for beaver, Arctic fox, red fox, hare, lynx, marten,  
30 wolverine, spruce grouse, ptarmigan, both rock and  
31 willow, ground squirrel and porcupine for residents of  
32 Unit 22. Then Proposals 51 and 52 also requested a  
33 year around season and no harvest limits for ground  
34 squirrel and porcupine.

35

36 These proposals were submitted by  
37 Kawerak, Incorporated of Nome, the regional nonprofit  
38 organization there in the Seward Peninsula.

39

40 For the purposes of this analysis, I  
41 should probably point out that ground squirrels and  
42 porcupines currently have sort of an interesting status  
43 in how their classified by the State and the Federal  
44 system. And these are basically they're considered  
45 unclassified wildlife primarily, and as such the really  
46 don't have any closed seasons and bag limits and things  
47 like that, so that -- for the most part, so that in  
48 this case there already exists a no season restriction,  
49 and an unlimited harvest, so those proposals, 51 and  
50 52, really add nothing to the subsistence opportunity,

1 nor does it take anything away from the subsistence  
2 opportunity that currently exists. So for the purpose  
3 therefore we're just not going to deal with the -- as  
4 far as the purpose of the analysis does, because it has  
5 no real change or effect one way or the other.

6  
7 The C&T though does, and that's why you  
8 have the proposal before you. It's considered a cross-  
9 over proposal, and would essentially establish the  
10 positive C&T for Unit 22 residents, and that has  
11 potential implications then to restrict some uses by  
12 adjacent Federally-eligible users. And so that's why  
13 the proposal's before you.

14  
15 Currently, and we can go through the  
16 whole thing if you'd like, but we probably ought to  
17 shorten it up so that you really don't have to go  
18 through -- you've got all the material in your book as  
19 far as the eight-factor analysis for the C&T  
20 determinations. Probably the only one of those really  
21 that you might be more interested in looking at, and we  
22 perhaps should discuss, were customary and traditional  
23 use of the animals.

24  
25 And basically an analysis was done from  
26 existing information, and for beaver, lynx, wolverine,  
27 grouse, ptarmigan, ground squirrel and porcupine,  
28 essentially all the residents in Unit 22, except for  
29 Little Diomedes, Gambell and Savoonga traditionally took  
30 those animals. For hare, Arctic fox, red fox, all the  
31 communities in Unit 22 took those animals. And for  
32 marten basically the taking of those animals was  
33 essentially limited to the more woodland portions of  
34 the Seward Peninsula, so basically only Council, White  
35 Mountain, Golovin, Elim, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet,  
36 St. Michael and Stebbins have existing records  
37 apparently of taking those animals.

38  
39 As far as existing C&T status goes,  
40 basically grouse and ptarmigan already have a Federal  
41 C&T determination for them that was adopted by the  
42 State, and that's very broad and include rural  
43 residents of Units 11, 13, 15, 16, 20(D), 22, 23, and  
44 Chickaloon, so a huge block of the State.

45  
46 As far as sort of similar regulatory  
47 history, steps have been taken in the past for certain  
48 species that had these very broad determinations to  
49 narrow them down, especially where local subsistence  
50 users felt there was more of an impact from outsiders.

1 One specific case I can think often comes up, and that  
2 relates to wolves, that had a very wide C&T originally  
3 adopted from the State, and has been narrowed down in  
4 some cases. For all the other species that we're  
5 considering this morning, their status is that no  
6 determination has been made.

7  
8                   What the C&T process involves, you  
9 really have three things. You can have a positive  
10 finding which then gives C&T to those communities or  
11 areas identified. You can have a no determination, in  
12 other words that -- or a negative C&T that finds that  
13 they don't have C&T. And I don't think, you know,  
14 we're talking about that in this case, because there  
15 clearly, you know, ample evidence these people have  
16 used these species locally.

17  
18                   Or you can have a no determination, and  
19 that's kind of where we're currently at in the  
20 regulations for the bulk of these species. And what  
21 that means is, unless a determination is made, all  
22 rural residents are eligible to take these species in  
23 the area. So right now residents of Unit 22 can under  
24 Federal regulations go out and take these species. No  
25 problem. But so can you and so can residents of Unit  
26 21 and so can rural residents throughout the State.

27  
28                   I believe that Kawerak was seeking to  
29 narrow the C&T for a number of reasons. One is to get  
30 on record and establish their use of these animals for  
31 customary and traditional purposes in an official  
32 manner. I think there's also concerns that with  
33 declining moose populations and some shifts in other  
34 resources, down the road there may come a time when  
35 utilization of these species increases locally, and  
36 they want to get on record and protect that now.

37  
38                   But in beginning to work up the  
39 analysis, I think OSM found a number of questions about  
40 the restrictions to other people outside of Unit 22,  
41 and that's really the question I think, and why you  
42 have the proposal in front of you.

43  
44                   The recommendation, the initial Staff  
45 recommendation is to defer this proposal. And the  
46 reason to that is to allow the Staff additional time to  
47 gather information related to the use of these species  
48 by other residents, to provide ample time for this  
49 proposal to circulate around through the other Regional  
50 Councils and get comments.

1                   So that's the proposal, and after we  
2 get the comments, I might come back to you, because it  
3 is important that you take this opportunity to I think  
4 comment, especially share any information on your  
5 knowledge or use of these species by residents of the  
6 Northwest Arctic in Unit 22.

7  
8                   Thank you.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: So, Ken, you're  
11 saying that you want it deferred back to the agency?

12  
13                  MR. ADKISSON: What's that?

14  
15                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Did you say you want  
16 to defer back to the agency this proposal?

17  
18                  MR. ADKISSON: Now, what it means is  
19 that it would just be deferred for a later time. In  
20 other words, it would not come up -- or it would get to  
21 the Federal Board, and they would simply defer to it to  
22 some time down later. So it's not being tabled. It's  
23 only being set aside for additional work for a  
24 specified time, that the Board would make that  
25 decision.

26  
27                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

28  
29                  MR. ADKISSON: And I should also point  
30 out that the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council  
31 did vote unanimously to defer the proposal also.

32  
33                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Any questions  
34 to Ken on the proposal. Victor.

35  
36                  MR. KARMUN: Yeah, you answered my  
37 question. I would have suggested before Norton Sound  
38 and Bering Straits didn't, they didn't vote on it yet,  
39 and if we did, it seems like it would make us maybe  
40 suggest or recommend to them on what to do. If they  
41 didn't take action on it yet, I would much rather we  
42 just defer this for a later date.

43  
44                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Otherwise  
45 you'd defer it back to Kawerak.

46  
47                  MR. KARMUN: Yes.

48  
49                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Attamuk.

50

1 ATTAMUK: Are we taking comments now,  
2 or is it going to go through the procedures for  
3 proposals.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We ought to go  
6 through the whole procedure again. That's the way.....

7  
8 ATTAMUK: I'll wait until.....

9  
10 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken  
11 Adkisson, National Park Service.

12  
13 If I might make a recommendation, I  
14 think Staff really would like as part of your  
15 discussion at some point to hear if you have any  
16 knowledge of use of these species by folks in your  
17 region from down there. I suspect especially Deering  
18 and Buckland might have a real interest in some of that  
19 Unit 22 area, but there may well be others. And maybe  
20 a point to do that would be after you get the comments  
21 from the written public comments or the Department of  
22 Fish and Game and others as part of your discussion.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
27 of Ken.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, the Alaska  
32 Department of Fish and Game on Proposals 42-52. Jim.

33  
34 Attamuk, you know, the reason why I do,  
35 it's directed we have to follow these on proposals.  
36 We're supposed to, you know, go through procedure in  
37 order to make these proposals pass.

38  
39 Jim from Alaska Department of Fish and  
40 Game on Proposals 42-52.

41  
42 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman. Jim  
43 Magdanz. Our comments are on 45.

44  
45 A brief bit of background. This  
46 proposal originated with Austin Ahmosuk at Kawerak, and  
47 I do a lot of work with Austin. And I really enjoy  
48 working with Austin, because Austin takes a big picture  
49 view and looks a long ways into the future.

50

1                   And this is one of those proposals  
2 where Austin has stepped back from the details of day-  
3 to-day management and thought about the long term. And  
4 what he wanted to do with this proposal was identify  
5 now, even though there are no issues, to identify now  
6 the customary and traditional uses of the people of  
7 Unit 22, the Seward Peninsula. And we support that.  
8 The Department supports properly drawn customary and  
9 traditional use determinations.

10  
11                   Like the Federal Staff, one of the  
12 questions that we had -- well, let me back up. If this  
13 were adopted, it would mean that a resident of Unit 23  
14 in Buckland or Deering who happened to cross over into  
15 Unit 22, was down there for caribou hunting perhaps,  
16 and encountered a flock of ptarmigan, if this proposal  
17 were passed in its current form, he could not take  
18 those ptarmigan for subsistence uses under the  
19 regulations, because he doesn't have -- he would no  
20 longer be a subsistence user under Federal Law. And so  
21 that seemed kind of an absurd situation, and Austin  
22 agrees with that.

23  
24                   And our suggestion was that the  
25 adjacent units, Unit 21 with Hughes and Huslia and  
26 Nulato, and Unit 23 with Buckland and Deering and  
27 Selawik and even Kotzebue people might find themselves  
28 down in 22 sometimes, if it's appropriate, that the  
29 definition of customary and traditional uses be  
30 expanded to include those adjacent communities as it is  
31 for caribou and some other big game species. So that's  
32 why we're thinking that this proposal should be  
33 modified, and we certainly agree with the deferral  
34 recommendation.

35  
36                   Mr. Chairman.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for the  
39 State.

40  
41                   (No comments)

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Other  
44 State and Federal agencies.

45  
46                   (No comments)

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: InterAgency Staff  
49 Committee comments.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Fish and Game  
4 Advisory.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Summary of written  
9 public comments.  
10  
11 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
12 There were no written public comments received at this  
13 time.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Public testimony.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Regional Advisory  
20 Council.  
21  
22 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chair. I just  
23 wanted to say that there's no line out there, but when  
24 we're out there, we never know, and whatever is out  
25 there, we're hungry, we'll get it. Just like everybody  
26 else, wherever they're at, you're traveling for, you  
27 well all know we'll get what we can. So we don't mind  
28 moving to defer.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy.  
31 Anybody else from the council on deliberations on  
32 Proposals 42-52. I know Victor had something.  
33  
34 MR. KARMUN: Well, I know there's a few  
35 people here that like to go to Granite Mountain Hot  
36 Springs and there's no line. I still would say I  
37 wouldn't feel very comfortable voting on this or  
38 accepting it the way it is before Bering Straits take  
39 action on it.  
40  
41 Thank you.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Just like I said, you  
44 don't have to take no action on this, or defer it back  
45 to the Bering Strait.  
46  
47 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.  
50

1 MR. BALLOT: Hearing that, then I'll  
2 just move to defer this proposal -- these proposals, 42  
3 through what?  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: 42-52.  
6  
7 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. That.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. A motion by  
10 Percy to defer these Proposals 42-52 to Bering Strait.  
11 A second.  
12  
13 ATTAMUK: No, Raymond, I just had a  
14 comment on this proposal if I could hold your -- I was  
15 trying to raise my hand, but you were speaking already.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Sorry. Yeah.  
18  
19 ATTAMUK: I've got no real against this  
20 proposal.....  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Just one thing for  
23 the record, there was a motion to defer this proposal.  
24 We'll get an opportunity on discussion. Is that okay  
25 with you.  
26  
27 ATTAMUK: Well, I thought -- I'm sorry,  
28 I though we were on section 8 for Regional Council  
29 deliberation at the time. That's why I was trying to  
30 raise, you were looking down.  
31  
32 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I could  
33 move to remove my motion.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Remove?  
36  
37 MR. BALLOT: My motion is removed.  
38 Pulled.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. His motion has  
41 been withdrawn. We'll go back to it. Comments.  
42  
43 ATTAMUK: Okay. My concern. I support  
44 this proposal, except these animals, even if their  
45 numbers in high, or numbers in low, this proposal is  
46 saying all year round. We don't really harvest them  
47 any more that much, but I have a problem. No matter  
48 what animals are in numbers in high, when they're  
49 rearing their young, they should be, because what we're  
50 doing is in one part of the regulation, we don't want

1 our hunters to take animals, fawns of any kind, and yet  
2 when these animals, their season's all year around,  
3 when their rearing their young, we're telling our other  
4 hunters that it's okay to do certain things a certain  
5 way, and change it. because I was raised by elders  
6 that no matter where number are in high, when they're  
7 rearing their young, give them a chance to rear their  
8 young. That way they could always produce and have for  
9 the future. So we're putting a proposal here for  
10 opening the season all year around whether they're  
11 rearing their young or not. Am I misunderstanding this  
12 here?

13

14 MR. ARDIZZONE: Attamuk. Chuck  
15 Ardizzone.

16

17 Currently it is opened year around. We  
18 weren't going to change that. They were just trying --  
19 the main goal of this proposal was customary and  
20 traditional use determinations. the seasons -- I think  
21 there was two seasons that they wanted to change, I  
22 can't remember exactly which ones. I think ground  
23 squirrel and porcupine, they wanted to get those in  
24 regulation. But currently everything can be hunted  
25 year around.

26

27 I guess the main purpose to bring this  
28 in front of the Council was to get input from this  
29 region about uses outside of Unit 23. We wanted to  
30 know if people from Unit 23 went to Unit 22 to harvest  
31 any of these animals. And if they did, we wanted to  
32 get that on the record so we could get it put into the  
33 analysis for future.

34

35 ATTAMUK: Maybe we could put a proposal  
36 to defer this until after Kawerak decide which way  
37 they're going to go, you know. I would defer it.  
38 Personally, I would defer it, because that's my concern  
39 is no matter which animal they are in numbers or not, I  
40 have a problem.

41

42 MR. ARDIZZONE: I don't disagree with  
43 you, I understand.

44

45 MR. BALLOT: That was my motion, wasn't  
46 it? Move to defer. Put it back on the table, Mr.  
47 Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. A motion has  
50 been by Percy to defer proposal to Kawerak as a motion.

1 A second.

2

3

MR. KARMUN: I'll second.

4

5

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second by Victor.

6 Any further discussions on Proposals 42-52 for deferral

7 to Kawerak. Victor.

8

9

MR. KARMUN: Yeah, I have a -- Attamuk,  
10 if we're just talking about cyclic ground squirrels,  
11 you know, they kind of hibernate like little bears or  
12 whatever. They don't come out until April and May.

13 So, I don't know, maybe that was overlooked or not, but  
14 I do know around Granite Mountain and that region over  
15 there, ground squirrels used to be when I was a boy a  
16 high trade commodity from that region, because of their  
17 color. They were silver-tipped. And I know some old  
18 women that used to go up around there and get stuck on  
19 the other side of Peace River, and they had to wait  
20 until the water went down before they could get back  
21 across. And that's what they would do, they would go  
22 up there.

23

24 But I see where you're coming from, and  
25 I appreciate that. But I don't think it would hurt  
26 these animals. I don't think there's an open or closed  
27 season on them anyway near as I could find.

28

29

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Victor. As  
30 you know, these proposals will be in front of the Board  
31 of Game again probably in May. The Chair will have to  
32 report whether you support it or defer it.

33

34 We're still on discussions on these  
35 Proposals 42-52 for being deferred. Robbie.

36

37

MR. EVERETT: I think that it is an  
38 important thing that they brought up to put on in the  
39 record what is customary and traditional use items  
40 though. I have seen where I'm from where people  
41 overlook those things, and then later on it was hard to  
42 change laws to say, well, they really were traditional  
43 use or whatever. So I think that is some good  
44 foresight to consider.

45

46

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Robbie.

47

48

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I  
49 think so, that's important. But this will give our  
50 agencies time to get that determination for it.

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy.  
2  
3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question has been  
6 called for. All in favor of adopting the Proposal --  
7 correction, deferring the Proposals 42-52, signify by  
8 saying aye.  
9  
10 IN UNISON: Aye.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.  
13  
14 (No opposing votes)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Proposals 42-52 has  
17 been deferred.  
18  
19 Okay. Now we're -- I know because I  
20 can tell you, you know, the proposal -- maybe the next  
21 one will take a little longer. You guys want to take a  
22 lunch break now, or do you want to continue right on.  
23 We'll decide.  
24  
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What time is it?  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It's 11:35. Okay.  
28 Want to take a lunch?  
29  
30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We'll recess  
33 until 1:30.  
34  
35 (Off record)  
36  
37 (On record)  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Call the meeting back  
40 to order. Everybody's here, so for the record that Mr.  
41 Moto is here. All morning that we've been going  
42 through business and the proposals. We went through a  
43 few proposals this morning. Now, during the opening  
44 this morning of the meeting, we tabled the elections of  
45 officers until 1:00.  
46  
47 MS. CHIVERS: Microphone.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: 1:00 p.m. Now it's  
50 1:30. I did not have my mic on, but we tabled the

1 election of officers until 1:00 p.m. and now it's 1:30.  
2 We had lunch until 1:30. So at this time for election  
3 of officers, I'll turn it over to the coordinator to  
4 open nominations for Chair, Vice, Secretary.

5  
6 Michelle.

7  
8 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 I'm going to open the floor for the  
11 election of the Chair, if anybody would like to make a  
12 recommendation and a vote by the Council.

13  
14 MR. KARMUN: The floor is open?

15  
16 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

17  
18 MR. KARMUN: I'll nominate Raymond  
19 Stoney.

20  
21 MR. AREY: Second.

22  
23 MS. CHIVERS: Any other nominations, or  
24 is it.....

25  
26 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman, I nominate  
27 Attamuk.

28  
29 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Is there a second.  
30 Is there a second.

31  
32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second.

33  
34 MR. CLEVELAND: I move the nominations  
35 be closed.

36  
37 ATTAMUK: Second.

38  
39 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Since we have two  
40 nominations, we'll go ahead and do a ballot. Did you  
41 second, or was there a second?

42  
43 ATTAMUK: Did I? Oh, second.

44  
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think  
46 Reggie.....

47  
48 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Reggie seconded.

49  
50 ATTAMUK: No, Victor -- he nominated

1 me. Is there any chance I could decline? With my job,  
2 that will be pretty full, and I'd like to keep away  
3 from the office if I could.

4  
5 MS. CHIVERS: Okay.

6  
7 ATTAMUK: If I could? Okay. I decline  
8 for my personal reason.

9  
10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's your  
11 privilege.

12  
13 ATTAMUK: I'm in a -- yeah. I'm in  
14 about eight different other committees, and I'm getting  
15 pretty thin. So if I have to try to attend all of  
16 them, it's going to be real hard, and I don't want to  
17 thin myself out to where I won't be effective.

18  
19 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Attamuk.

20  
21 ATTAMUK: Sorry, Calvin.

22  
23 MR. MOTO: You decline?

24  
25 ATTAMUK: Yes, I do.

26  
27 MS. CHIVERS: Well, with that, if there  
28 are no other nominations, then we'll go ahead and.....

29  
30 MR. CLEVELAND: I move that we close  
31 nominations for unanimous consent.

32  
33 ATTAMUK: I'll second.

34  
35 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. All right. The  
36 Chair may take over for vice chair and secretary.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Victor,  
39 Reggie. Again, I'll try for one more year to the best  
40 of my ability to run, you know, the RAC working group.  
41 You know, it's a very good group. It's a good Council  
42 of people, and you guys understand all the agencies,  
43 now you can all know them know. And we have the  
44 ability to make our own judgement and recommendation to  
45 the Federal Board of Game. Again, I'll try the best of  
46 my ability to be a chair for one more year.

47  
48 Okay. The nominations for vice chair.

49  
50 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.  
2  
3 MR. BALLOT: I'll nominate Victor  
4 Karmun then. Victor.  
5  
6 ATTAMUK: I'll second that.  
7  
8 MR. MOTO: Move that nominations be  
9 closed.  
10  
11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'll second that.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The motion has --  
14 with no objection, he's our vice chair.  
15  
16 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Congratulations.  
19 Want to say anything?  
20  
21 MR. KARMUN: No.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.  
24  
25 MR. KARMUN: Not enough time.  
26  
27 (Laughter)  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Let's see now,  
30 secretary. Okay. We've got the Chair, vice. Now we  
31 need a secretary.  
32  
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chairman, I  
34 move to nominate Calvin.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin be nominated  
37 for secretary.  
38  
39 MR. EVERETT: I second that.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Are there any  
42 nominations.  
43  
44 ATTAMUK: Move nominations be closed  
45 for secretary.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Secretary. You  
48 have been nominated as secretary of the RAC.  
49 Congratulations.  
50

1 MR. MOTO: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. That's it.  
4 Okay. We'll go down to our schedule, and go down to  
5 proposals. We're down with 42-52. No, we're down to  
6 Proposal WP06-54. Chuck.

7

8 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Council.  
9 Chuck Ardizzone from OSM.

10

11 Proposal WP06-54 was submitted by this  
12 Council and requested the harvest of moose calves be  
13 eliminated, and a two-week seasonal closure in the  
14 Noatak River drainage be eliminated. This proposal is  
15 a result of work done by BLM, National Park Service,  
16 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff and the Council  
17 after the Federal Subsistence Board tabled Proposal  
18 WP05-18 at its May 2005 meeting.

19

20 This regulation change would help  
21 protect calves from harvest, which should help the  
22 over-all moose population in the unit. The moose  
23 population has declined, because of a variety of  
24 factors. Maximizing calf survival has a potential  
25 positive population growth effect.

26

27 Eliminating the closure in the Noatak  
28 drainage between September 15th and October 1st aligns  
29 with State open season dates and provides a consistent  
30 open season across the unit.

31

32 Since we have looked at this three or  
33 four times over the last year, year and a half, I won't  
34 go into a whole lot of detail. We're all pretty  
35 familiar with the moose issue up here.

36

37 I think I'll skip right to the  
38 preliminary conclusion and say that the Staff supports  
39 this proposal, and open the floor up for questions.

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for  
42 Chuck.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, Alaska  
47 Department of Fish and Game.

48

49 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman. The State  
50 supports this proposal.

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Jim.  
2 Other Federal agency.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: InterAgency Staff.  
7  
8 (No comments)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Fish and Game  
11 Advisory.  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Summary of public  
16 comments.  
17  
18 (No comments)  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Public. Anybody from  
21 the public.  
22  
23 (No comments)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Regional Council  
26 deliberation on Proposal WP06-54 that's introduced.  
27  
28 (No comments)  
29  
30 MR. ARDIZZONE: The Staff preliminary  
31 conclusion for this can be found on Page 53.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: 53. Okay.  
34  
35 (Pause)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We're on deliberation  
38 of Regional Council on the proposal. Any discussion.  
39  
40 (No comments)  
41  
42 MR. KARMUN: Mr. Chairman. Being I  
43 don't see any amendments or changes to this or  
44 whatever, I would move that we adopt it.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. It's been  
47 moved by Victor to adopt Proposal 54. Second?  
48  
49 ATTAMUK: I'll second.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Enoch.  
2 Any other discussions on Proposal WP06-54.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been  
9 called for. All in favor of adopting Proposal WP06-54  
10 signify by saying aye.  
11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.  
15  
16 (No opposing votes)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion carries.  
19 Thank you, gentlemen.  
20  
21 Okay. We'll go to the next proposal is  
22 WP06-55. Is that you, Chuck? Okay. Ken.  
23  
24 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
25 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, filling  
26 in again for Helen Armstrong.  
27  
28 Proposal WP06-55 can be found on Page  
29 55 of your books. It was submitted by the Seward  
30 Peninsula Muskoxen Cooperators Group, and basically  
31 requests that the use of a designated hunter permit for  
32 muskoxen in Unit 23 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of  
33 and including the Buckland River drainage, referred to  
34 generally as Unit 23 Southwest.  
35  
36 At its June 2005 meeting, the Seward  
37 Peninsula Muskoxen Cooperators Group developed a  
38 package of regulatory recommendations to go to both the  
39 Federal program and the State program. And one of  
40 these was the use of the designated hunter program for  
41 muskoxen on the Federal side.  
42  
43 And the reasoning behind that was  
44 recognizing the difficulty of accessing Federal lands,  
45 the way the individual permit systems are incompatible  
46 with traditional and customary practices of harvest and  
47 sharing, and the built-in inefficiencies of the  
48 individual permitting system. The Cooperators hope to  
49 do basically two things: come up with a regulation  
50 that was more compatible with traditional practices

1 that would result in economy and efficiency of harvest  
2 for subsistence use of muskoxen, better enabling  
3 communities, the Federally-eligible users to fill their  
4 allocated harvest levels, and at the same time be  
5 compatible with sound conservation practices and stay  
6 compatible with the Muskoxen Cooperators' management  
7 plan. And this proposal they believe does this.

8

9                   And we could go into it at length I  
10 guess. I should perhaps mention a few of the  
11 regulation packages surrounding it, or other  
12 regulations that would affect this for your  
13 consideration perhaps in looking at this proposal.

14

15                   There was a companion proposal  
16 submitted to the Alaska Board of Game to add muskoxen  
17 to their proxy hunting list. Jim Magdanz can fill you  
18 in more on that. Let me just say at this time that it  
19 was not adopted, so it failed to pass with the Board of  
20 Game.

21

22                   The only thing I would say to that is  
23 that the proxy hunting program of the State has very  
24 different requirements and works very differently than  
25 the designated hunter program. And the fact that that  
26 was not adopted by the Board really should not  
27 influence this too much on the Federal side with  
28 respect to this proposal. And Jim may have more to say  
29 about that when he provides the State comments on this  
30 proposal.

31

32                   Another significant thing that went to  
33 the State Board of Game that was adopted for 23  
34 Southwest was to raise the harvest limit from five  
35 percent to eight percent, and raise the cow harvest  
36 limit from two percent to four percent. This would put  
37 Unit 23 Southwest on a par with Unit 22(E). And while  
38 the muskoxen numbers have dropped slightly in 2005 from  
39 the previous count of 2003, the Cooperators believe  
40 that this was not a significant decrease in muskoxen,  
41 that it could be accounted for by simply one or two  
42 large groups at the count time moving back and across  
43 the boundary between Unit 23 and 22(E). And that on  
44 the whole if the muskoxen population does not show  
45 large signs of growth in 23 Southwest, it's probably  
46 time to simplify the regulation, make it more  
47 compatible with 22(E) and provide enhanced opportunity.

48

49

50                   And so that proposal actually was

1 adopted by the State Board of Game along with some  
2 other proposals which were somewhat housekeeping, that  
3 would give the State more flexibility, which the  
4 Federal program already has, in allocating harvest, and  
5 announcing harvest limits and things based on  
6 percentages rather than a fixed number that they had  
7 been saddled with. So those improvements actually were  
8 adopted.

9

10 This proposal recognizes the existing  
11 recommendations of the Cooperators. It recognizes the  
12 land status. It recognizes the dual management with  
13 the State and the Federal programs, and basically is  
14 designed to work within the framework of the -- that  
15 have been suggested by the Cooperators. So adopting  
16 this proposal will have no real impact on other users.  
17 It will simply help the Federally-eligible users in 23  
18 Southwest, give them enhanced opportunity to take the  
19 animals that have essentially been allocated to them  
20 through the recommendations of the Cooperators.

21

22 As you go into 2006, just to show you  
23 what this would look like, there were 186 animals  
24 counted at the 2005 counts. That's what we will use.  
25 For the 2006/2007 hunt year, the allowable harvest will  
26 be eight percent of that, which turns out to be about  
27 15 animals I think. Half of that then can be cows, so  
28 roughly seven or eight cows. The Cooperators  
29 recommended two-thirds of the permits go into the State  
30 program, and one-third into the Federal program, so  
31 that means we'll be issuing probably somewhere in the  
32 neighborhood of five Federal permits.

33

34 What this would do is any Federally-  
35 eligible user in 23 Southwest who has a permit, could  
36 get another Federally-eligible user to serve as a  
37 designated hunter. And that hunter would have to get a  
38 designated hunter permit and essentially report the  
39 harvest on that.

40

41 A designated hunter could hunt for any  
42 number of recipients, but have no more than two bag  
43 limits in possession at one time. So what this would  
44 mean is Percy could get a permit of his own and could  
45 act as a designated hunter for another village member.  
46 Percy could then go out and basically bring back two  
47 muskoxen. That's essentially how it could work. And  
48 Percy could take anybody with him to, you know, help  
49 process the meat and so forth.

50

1                   In 22(E), because there's a substantial  
2 difference, and if you look at some of the other reg  
3 books and things, there the bag limit is up to -- they  
4 could have -- it's still one, but a designated hunter  
5 in 22(E) could have up to four animals in possession.  
6 And there are some unique circumstances for (E) why  
7 it's different. That caused a number of questions to  
8 come up in various reviews of the proposal, and I think  
9 those have been adequately addressed, and it has to do  
10 with the differing biology, the differing growth rates  
11 of muskoxen in 22(E), the different land status, and  
12 the request of the Cooperators for permits.

13  
14                   Again, these designated hunter things  
15 on the Federal program are not going to really have any  
16 impact on anyone really hunting under the State program  
17 or any other users. And biologically it should really  
18 have no effect on the muskoxen population either.  
19 We're still talking about relatively small numbers, and  
20 we're still talking about harvest quotas that are  
21 essentially allocated out, so even though your  
22 opportunities are increased, you'll have a better  
23 chance of filling your quotas, the quota ceilings are  
24 still there. So the animal population growth, and the  
25 objectives of the Cooperators' plan for continued  
26 growth and expansion we believe are still being met and  
27 addressed through this proposal.

28  
29                   And the initial recommendation, or the  
30 draft recommendation is to adopt the proposal.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Ken, on the Federal  
33 land, the permit that the Federal issues in Unit 22 and  
34 23, are they harvested limit on the muskox? Let's say  
35 for Buckland or Kivalina or the subsections of Unit 22,  
36 did they harvest all their permits?

37  
38                   MR. ADKISSON: Since probably the first  
39 time in 1995, the harvest quotas really have never  
40 really been met. And in fact the Federal portion of  
41 the harvest is traditionally quite low. I'd say often  
42 on the neighborhood of less than a third of the permits  
43 that are issued are filled. So, you know, clearly  
44 people are not taking the animals that they could. And  
45 I think it would be a mistake to equate that with some  
46 level of need, because like I said, the Cooperators  
47 recognize that the individual permitting system has, we  
48 think, problems built into it that are incompatible  
49 with traditional practices, and use of the designated  
50 hunter would get us closer to traditional practices we

1 believe. And so we're hoping the harvest would go up,  
2 but it would still stay within the guidelines that the  
3 cooperators have recommended. So it would better  
4 enable the hunters to reach that level, but not exceed  
5 those levels. So, you know, but, no, the answer is  
6 that they've never filled the permits that they've had  
7 by and large.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: The reason why I  
10 asked that question, Ken, is just like in Teller and  
11 Shishmaref on Unit 22, on Federal lands, do you have to  
12 go a long way to hunt muskox in that area?

13  
14                   MR. ADKISSON: Shishmaref, not so much.  
15 Wales has a ways to go. Brevig Mission has a ways to  
16 go. Teller has almost entirely dropped out of the  
17 Federal program in favor of State permits. That works  
18 better for them. In fact, we're only issuing -- in  
19 22(D), we only issue six Federal permits now, and the  
20 bulk of those go to Brevig who traditionally hunts more  
21 towards the American and Ikpikpuk rivers, but by and  
22 large, the largest number of permits in the State -- or  
23 go to the State Tier II hunt in 22(D).

24  
25                   So access to Federal lands has been a  
26 problem ever since this hunt was first established in  
27 1996. And it's significant I think for the folks that  
28 we're talking about here, Buckland and Deering, because  
29 of the distribution of BLM lands and Park Service  
30 lands, that people do have to, you know, travel longer  
31 distances and often in inclement weather and stuff.

32  
33                   And it's hoped that what this will do,  
34 it will allow you to get one or two hunters, get a  
35 group of permits up within reason, pick a better time  
36 when the weather is better, go out, take your animals,  
37 bring them back, and that's essentially close to the  
38 end of the hunt, rather than have each person have to  
39 go out and hope that the weather's better, that their  
40 machine is running and that kind of thing.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions to Ken  
43 from the Council. Robbie.

44  
45                   MR. EVERETT: A question. On page 56  
46 in your discussion, it says that since 2000 the growth  
47 rate is only 5.5 percent. Is that maybe that the  
48 reason that you put eight percent harvest, because  
49 those are not being harvested?

50

1 MR. ADKISSON: No. Robbie, through the  
2 Chair. In the past, the Seward Peninsula population  
3 has grown somewhere between 11 to 14 percent average,  
4 so phenomenal growth. It's only been within the last  
5 several years that that growth has dropped off. And  
6 what they're talking about there is largely an over-all  
7 growth. So the overall growth rate for the whole  
8 Seward Peninsula has declined. Clearly not necessarily  
9 substantially at the numbers we're talking about. It  
10 varies by sub unit. The population has essentially  
11 plateaued in 22(D). It's still growing gang busters in  
12 22(E). It's showing pretty phenomenal growth over to  
13 the east and expansion in range as well into portions  
14 of 22(B). But in 23 Southwest that we're concerned  
15 with, it's kind of stayed fairly flat, but actually  
16 gone up or down a little each year depending upon the  
17 count year.

18  
19 MR. EVERETT: But the eight percent  
20 harvest in 23 Southwest wouldn't exceed the growth  
21 rate?

22  
23 MR. ADKISSON: No. Not as the over-all  
24 population goes.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

27  
28 MR. MOTO: Mr. hair, you know, one of  
29 the reasons why we agreed to go on percentage basis,  
30 that way we wouldn't have to try to -- they wouldn't  
31 have to call us into say, hey, we could get this many  
32 number. That way, when we went -- when you think about  
33 it, percentages, if we have low harvest, then that  
34 percent would protect how many they could take, you  
35 know. It wouldn't -- like if there was 500 and five  
36 percent of that, and if there was 1500, five percent of  
37 that, you know. Like if it goes down, that five  
38 percent protects how many they could take.

39  
40 But one of the things that -- you know,  
41 the State has more of the permits, because there's --  
42 we only had the Bering Land Bridge, and it's not very  
43 big, you know. So that's why we told them to give more  
44 permits to the State other than to the Federal, because  
45 it made sense, you know.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

48  
49 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, if I could  
50 just quickly come back to Robbie's question perhaps,

1 and maybe better reassure him. In 2005, for example,  
2 in 22(E), there were 863 animals counted. At the  
3 previous census of 2002, there were 632. So you can  
4 see it's phenomenal growth. And so overall that eight  
5 percent, when you look at the populationwide is not  
6 going to affect the continued growth and expansion of  
7 the herd population.

8

9

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

10

11

MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman.  
12 Buckland supports this proposal. One being because we  
13 like to share, and the other one is we haven't been  
14 getting our quota over the years. The other one is the  
15 price of gas have gotten very high, and going out with  
16 another person to get more -- I think with sleds,  
17 you'll see us getting one or two, maybe three. They're  
18 so heavy, so you never can get four. I don't think  
19 we'll see that, but it may happen. But with boats it  
20 might be easier, but then you've still got to pass the  
21 ocean side. So this is going to be a good proposal for  
22 our Federal hunters.

23

24

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy.

25

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Calvin.

MR. MOTO: I forgot to mention, Deering  
does go along with the proposal, but, you know, the  
thing about it is when the Federal permits were handed  
out, most of them were handed out to the older people,  
the elder hunters, you know, and consequently some of  
them don't have snowmachines or whatever to go to these  
bridge. This is why we like this idea of this hunting  
by proxy, because we have -- what I understand is if we  
don't get that quota, then that quota will probably be  
dropped down, so this is why we like to see a proxy,  
because we've got -- maybe out of five, we got maybe  
two elders that get a permit, and they don't have any  
way to go get that. And they would like to have it  
though. And so we do support this proxy hunt.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin, I'll ask you,  
when the Federal gets to Deering, and they're going to  
issue the permits on the Federal land, who handles them  
out there? The IRA or are Federal people themselves?

MR. MOTO: Who hands them out?

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

2

3 MR. MOTO: The person comes from the  
4 Park Service. Ken's office then issues the permits.  
5 But the State ones I think they give to the -- they get  
6 them through IRA if I understand, or something like  
7 that. But the Federal just -- we have a person come to  
8 Deering, and I understand he goes to Buckland also.

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: And then the Federal  
11 people, they select their harvested only, and the  
12 hunters get -- like if you wanted to go hunt, well,  
13 Percy, no, I won't give it to you, I'll give it  
14 somebody else. So how do they make up their mind?

15

16 MR. BALLOT: Well, they give out their  
17 permission beforehand that they're coming, and they  
18 already know. So whoever wants to go sign up, we have a  
19 hard time giving permits out. It's real hard to go.  
20 You have to go 50 miles and 60 miles or 90 miles to go  
21 get a muskox. Not very many people are willing to try,  
22 that's why -- so whoever gets there, there's more --  
23 there's usually just, you know, to go out.

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more questions  
26 for Ken

27

28 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. If I could,  
29 let me just add some things to the things that have  
30 been said. The actual permit distribution is kind of  
31 complicated in that on the State Tier II side you have  
32 to apply in advance, and then your permit application  
33 is scored, and you may or may not be successful in  
34 getting a permit. So usually what we do is we wait  
35 until the State successful applicants are announced,  
36 and we know where the State permits are going within  
37 the different villages. Then we take the remaining  
38 Federal permits and kind of with the understanding of  
39 the communities, sort of divide those up among the  
40 communities to help balance out any inequities. So if  
41 all the State permits go to Deering we'll probably  
42 shift more Federal permits that year to Buckland. And  
43 then within the communities we kind of leave it up to  
44 the communities how they want to help us select the  
45 hunters that get those Federal permits.

46

47 There have been some other changes I  
48 think that are going to improve the hunt, and Jim could  
49 correct me, I'm a little vague on this point maybe, but  
50 Magdanz could probably jump in if I'm wrong, but in the

1 past we've also limited it to one animal per household.  
2 And I think that's changing in some hunt areas, and so  
3 we'd probably be on the Federal side a little less  
4 concerned about that, too. But again the idea is to  
5 try to get the meat distributed through the communities  
6 by whatever means works.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more questions to  
9 Ken from the Council.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, thanks, Ken.

14  
15  
16 Alaska Department of Fish and Game on  
17 Proposal 54.

18  
19 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
20 Jim Magdanz. The State's comments are on Page 62.

21  
22 The State is neutral on this proposal.  
23 This is one of the situations where it's kind of two  
24 worlds. There's the urban world and the agency world  
25 on one side, and then the rural and the village world  
26 on the other side. Fortunately for you, this RAC deals  
27 almost exclusively with the rural, village world. Fish  
28 and Game, because of the McDowell decision, has to take  
29 into account the urban hunters as well as -- well, we  
30 take into account all Alaskans.

31  
32 We've had a proxy system on the State  
33 side since about 1998. It started small, but as time  
34 went on, participation in the proxy system increased  
35 rapidly among urban residents. And there were some  
36 cases where people were going into senior centers  
37 recruiting proxies so they could go out and get two  
38 moose and three moose. We had one hunter in North Pole  
39 line up eight proxies for himself. And so the Board of  
40 Game meeting here last November heard some testimony  
41 from Kim Titus, the deputy in Wildlife Conservation  
42 expressing the Department's concern about the abuses  
43 that we were seeing in the program. They're not  
44 occurring in this region, but we can't in our proxy  
45 system manage just for this region. We have to manage  
46 for everybody.

47  
48 And so in its January meeting, the  
49 Board of Game decided not simply to not add muskox, but  
50 to actually remove some other species from the proxy

1 system. So we're scaling back our proxy system at this  
2 time.

3

4 All of that said, the local staff is  
5 supportive of the designated hunter program that the  
6 Federal agencies provide. You have a totally different  
7 group of users. Specialization in harvesting is a  
8 traditional practice here, and, you know, in our work  
9 we see a minority of the households taking a majority  
10 of the food and then sharing it around the community.  
11 You know, sometimes people will take 20 or 25 caribou  
12 singlehandedly, and distribute them around the  
13 community. Biologically, that's not an issue as long  
14 as the total take is sustainable. And in traditional  
15 times, we think that harvests were patterned in the  
16 same way. And so to the extent that this Council can  
17 accommodate that, the local staff is supportive.  
18 Overall the Department is neutral. Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions to the  
21 State from the Council. Calvin.

22

23 MR. MOTO: Yeah. You know, the thing  
24 that kind of disturbed me about these permittings, if  
25 you have -- we've seen in the past where if a person  
26 had a Federal permit, and he or she didn't get a  
27 muskox, then maybe a couple years later he or she  
28 applies for State permit and they don't get it, because  
29 they said, you didn't get your muskox with your Federal  
30 permit. So what we're wondering is what happens to  
31 those permits that don't get allocated through the  
32 State because of that.

33

34 MR. MAGDANZ: The way they're supposed  
35 to do it, if you apply and are denied a permit, if you  
36 get a permit and fail to take an animal, or if you get  
37 an animal, in the eyes of the scoring system on the  
38 State side, those are all equivalent. They're all the  
39 same. You get the same points. If you applied, but  
40 didn't get a permit, you get the same points if you got  
41 a permit, but didn't get an animal, and you get the  
42 same points if you got the animal. That's the way it's  
43 supposed to work.

44

45 Now, sometimes when people fill out  
46 their application, or when those applications are  
47 scored, the scores don't reflect that. But that's the  
48 way it's supposed to work. So if someone had that  
49 experience, then they weren't properly scored.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Jim, I'll answer his  
2 question. Now we're talking about the proposal on  
3 Federal lands, and then -- well, let me put it this  
4 way. Let's say if Calvin actually really wanted to  
5 hunt muskox, and he applied for a Federal permit, and  
6 then again they say you have to go 40 miles away to get  
7 a muskox from Deering. Now, my question would be that  
8 he just won't get another permit from the State, would  
9 he? Otherwise, two tickets from the Federal -- they  
10 can't do that?

11  
12 MR. MAGDANZ: The bag limits do not  
13 combine. If the bag limit is one, you get to take one  
14 muskox. And if for some reason you wound up with two  
15 permits, you're still -- the bag limit is one, and you  
16 would have to fill one or the other. And I don't think  
17 there are any cases where one individual gets two  
18 permits. That would -- I think Ken would not give a  
19 Federal permit so someone that had a Tier II permit.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's on the State  
22 land, right?

23  
24 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken Adkisson  
25 from Park Service.

26  
27 The State permits under the Tier II  
28 system, if you're Federally eligible, are good both on  
29 State managed lands and on Federal lands. And so you  
30 can use that permit must about anywhere within the hunt  
31 area. The Federal permits, however, are only good on  
32 Federal public lands, so you're sort of handicapped.

33  
34 And like I explained earlier, there's  
35 very little control other than the scoring system over  
36 at the State system. So basically you apply to the  
37 State. If you're lucky, you get a State Tier II  
38 permit. At that point we know who in the village has  
39 got permits, and then we o issue the Federal permits to  
40 essentially other people.

41  
42 Now, what's happened is some of the  
43 better -- even the better hunters have opted to try for  
44 their State Tier II permits, because that enables them  
45 to hunt closer to home. And you can't fault them for  
46 that.

47  
48 So that means that, as it's been  
49 mentioned earlier with -- I think Calvin mentioned some  
50 of the Federal permits going to older people, then

1 those people actually, even though they get a permit,  
2 never use them. And so what this would do, would allow  
3 someone to, you know, use the designated hunter program  
4 to hunt for that older person.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

7  
8 MR. MOTO: Yeah. My question, I was  
9 wondering what happens to those permits that don't get  
10 allocated for the State. Do they go to guiding service  
11 or what?

12  
13 MR. MAGDANZ: No, they're not re-  
14 issued. So if you get a permit, it's yours. You're  
15 the only person that can use it. If you don't use it,  
16 there's no animal taken on that permit at all.

17  
18 Because we know in advance that some  
19 people probably won't use their permits, we issue I  
20 think it's 33 percent more. So for every three animals  
21 we have to harvest, we issue four permits, expecting  
22 that some people won't actually be able to fulfill  
23 their permits.

24  
25 Did you have anything to add?

26  
27 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. On the Federal  
28 side, we've got a little more flexibility in that if we  
29 know somebody can't use their permit, in the past we've  
30 asked for them to turn it back in to void it, and have  
31 issued another permit to someone else in the community.  
32 But the State system doesn't have that flexibility.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other question  
35 for the State from the Council.

36  
37 (No comments)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Jim.  
40 Other Federal agencies.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: InterAgency Staff  
45 Committee.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Fish and Game  
50 Advisory.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Written comments.  
4  
5 MS. CHIVERS: No written comments.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Public testimony on  
8 this proposal about the muskox.  
9  
10 (No comments)  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Regional Council.  
13  
14 MR. MOTO: Need a motion on this?  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, depending on  
17 how much discussion you guys want. Now it's your turn  
18 to discuss.  
19  
20 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just  
21 wanted to thank the State for being neutral. Even  
22 though they said that, there's kind of a warning to us  
23 in there on the remedy of closing the Federal season.  
24 I just wanted to remind them that they got their  
25 season. When we had all Federal hunt, we gave the  
26 State more permits, so, you know, think about that,  
27 too.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy.  
30 Any other Council discussion on Proposal 55 concerning  
31 muskox.  
32  
33 (No comments)  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It seems like be  
36 favorable to Council, there's nothing that -- the  
37 Council is very interested in.....  
38  
39 MR. MOTO: Move for adoption.  
40  
41 MR. BALLOT: Second, Mr. Chairman.  
42  
43 MR. MOTO: Most of the questions I  
44 brought up were brought up at the meeting that we had  
45 in Deering, so this is why I asked some of those  
46 questions. But a lot of them felt that this was a good  
47 proposal for trying to get, you know -- so on that, I  
48 would back this, say yes on this proposal. But they  
49 wanted me to ask the questions, so I did.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.  
2 We're still deliberating.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 MR. CLEVELAND: Call for the question.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been  
9 called for. All in favor of adopting Proposal WP06-55  
10 signify by saying aye.  
11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.  
15  
16 (No opposing votes)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion carries.  
19 Thanks, Chuck. Okay.  
20  
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Where are we at  
22 now?  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, that's the last  
25 on proposals. 11 is the call for proposals to change  
26 Federal subsistence fisheries regulations. Who's going  
27 to do that? Michelle.  
28  
29 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. That was just  
30 that purple flyer that's in your packet, and you just  
31 remind people that if they wanted to submit a proposal,  
32 we have proposal forms back in the corner.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else on this  
35 then.  
36  
37 (No comments)  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Now we go down to  
40 number 12. Fisheries Information Services program.  
41 Same thing?  
42  
43 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, we don't have  
44 any FIS folks here, so we opted earlier just to skip  
45 over that subject. We didn't have any handouts or  
46 anything. But there aren't any current -- or there  
47 aren't any new proposals in this area under the  
48 studies.  
49  
50 But I know Jim mentioned that he has

1 some information he was going to provide, but he wanted  
2 to do that under agency reports.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you.

7 Any question to Michelle.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Agency reports. The  
12 Office of Subsistence Management. One. I've got, one,  
13 two, three, four. Agency report.

14

15 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Chuck

16 Ardizzone again.

17

18 For a review of rural determination  
19 briefings, it's on Page 63. That's information only,  
20 and I will be covering draft closure review policy on  
21 Page 65.

22

23 On January 10, 2005, Governor Murkowski  
24 identified in a letter to the Secretary of Interior  
25 several issues concerning the Federal Subsistence  
26 Program. One of the Governor's issues of concern is  
27 the standards used by the Federal Subsistence Board  
28 when closing areas to non-Federally-qualified users.

29

30 The U.S. Department of Interior  
31 Secretary Lynn Scarlett, along with Under Secretary  
32 Mark Rey of the U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
33 responded to this issue by instructing the Board to  
34 review its current practices regarding closure  
35 decisions and develop a written policy clarifying the  
36 Board's approach to these decisions. The Secretaries  
37 emphasized the need for the Board to ensure that such  
38 closures are necessary for the conservation of healthy  
39 populations of fish and wildlife, or to continue  
40 subsistence uses of such populations. That's found in  
41 ANILCA Section .815(3). The new policy is also  
42 provided to the Deputy -- will be provided to the  
43 Secretary following Council reviews.

44

45 Attached to this briefing on Page 66,  
46 the next page in the book, is the draft closure review  
47 policy as prepared by the Office of Subsistence  
48 Management. This draft policy reviews the purposes for  
49 closing hunting and fishing on Federal public lands,  
50 and it discusses the types of existing closures.

1 Closures to non-Federally-qualified users and closures  
2 to Federally-qualified users. The policy also  
3 discusses the criteria for establishing future closures  
4 and it is supplemented with tables displaying existing  
5 closures.

6  
7 As you may recall, during the fall 2005  
8 Council meetings, many Councils were asked to consider  
9 OSM reviews of several existing wildlife closures, and  
10 you are invited to submit regulatory proposals -- and  
11 you were invited to submit regulatory proposals where  
12 modifications to some existing closures were  
13 recommended. That review process was consistent with  
14 this draft policy. This draft document establishes as  
15 a Board policy the review policy initiated last fall.

16  
17 Council comments on this draft policy  
18 can be developed and submitted at the conclusion of  
19 this meeting, or individual comments can be submitted  
20 to the Board through OSM by April 1st, 2006.

21  
22 And if you look at the table on Page --  
23 let me get the right page here -- 73, in this region  
24 there's only three closures. The first one is in the  
25 Baird Mountains sheep, and we reviewed that one last  
26 year, and it stayed status quo. And then there's the  
27 new closure in Cape Krusenstern for muskox, and that  
28 just happened last year. And we also have Unit 23  
29 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the  
30 Buckland River muskox, and that was also reviewed in  
31 2005.

32  
33 So the policy that starts on Page 66  
34 basically outlines how reviews will be conducted. And  
35 those closures in this region will get reviewed again  
36 eventually. I think it's every three years. So in  
37 three years we'll look at those again and see if it  
38 needs to maintain a closure, or if there's some other  
39 options we might want to pursue.

40  
41 And that's everything. If anybody has  
42 any questions, I'll try to answer them.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions on  
45 agency report.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 MR. ARDIZZONE: Carl Jack's going to  
50 cover the next report.

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Carl.

2

3 MR. JACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
4 For the record, my name is Carl Jack, Staff Committee  
5 member for the Chair.

6

7 Mr. Jim Magdanz is going to follow me  
8 up as -- oh, he's come up right now. But I'll go ahead  
9 and start.

10

11 The subject is the subsistence use  
12 amounts and the amounts necessary for subsistence.  
13 This is the introduction. You'll see it on Page 88.  
14 There is a Q and A that starts on Page 90. And there's  
15 a draft proposal for your review and comment that  
16 starts on Page 92.

17

18 Before I get into my part of the  
19 presentation, let me just start off with six points.

20

21 The first point is the Federal and  
22 State Governments have legal management authority to  
23 manage fish and wildlife. Specifically, the Federal  
24 program is geared toward subsistence management, while  
25 the State is more expansive. They have the  
26 responsibility to manage for commercial, sport,  
27 recreational use, personal use, and also for  
28 subsistence.

29

30 Both systems, dual management, they  
31 operate under a policy of maintaining the health of the  
32 species at sustainable levels. Sustainable level  
33 requirement is specific in the State constitution,  
34 while under ANILCA, Federal management is mandated to  
35 manage for subsistence, for healthy fish and wildlife  
36 stocks on Federal public lands.

37

38 The Federal and State managers manage  
39 shared population of fish and wildlife that do not  
40 recognize manmade boundaries. So we have species that  
41 wander back and forth between Federal and State managed  
42 lands.

43

44 The subsistence use amounts and amount  
45 necessary for subsistence are part of the harvestable  
46 surplus of these populations.

47

48 So for reasons cited, I just cited, it  
49 is necessary to have the protocols for SUA and ANS.  
50 And to many of the people, the protocols will ensure

1 the continuation of subsistence opportunities into the  
2 future. I think that's very important.

3

4 Now, going to the briefing, this falls  
5 under -- the protocols for SUA and ANS falls under the  
6 over-arching interim memorandum of agreement. At the  
7 outset of Federal management, the State and Federal  
8 agencies have agreed to coordinate the management of  
9 the fish and wildlife. And the subsistence use amounts  
10 protocol and ANS is part of those protocol that fall  
11 under the MOA.

12

13 There are -- both Federal and State  
14 have an obligation to provide a priority for  
15 subsistence use of fish and wildlife. And the MOA  
16 provides guidance for coordination of subsistence  
17 management between the State and Federal program.

18

19 The purpose of the protocol is to  
20 develop a process for considering what portion of the  
21 harvestable surplus is necessary for subsistence uses  
22 of fish and wildlife in the Federal Subsistence  
23 Management Program.

24

25 Now, there are terms that are important  
26 to keep mind. SUA is the Federal term, subsistence use  
27 amounts. And amount necessary for subsistence is the  
28 State term. That basically means the same thing.

29

30 There are key points to the draft  
31 protocol on Page 90. I'll just read the bullet points  
32 on Page 88.

33

34 Using the specific steps outlined in  
35 the protocol, the Federal program will recognize and  
36 use State ANS findings in the development and  
37 implementation of subsistence harvest regulations.

38

39 ANS findings will be presented and  
40 evaluated in Federal proposal analysis as applicable  
41 and appropriate.

42

43 SUA findings may be developed and used  
44 in the Federal program -- if the Federal program  
45 determines that the ANS finding is not an accurate  
46 representation of contemporary subsistence harvest.

47

48 When developing SUAs, the Federal  
49 program will consider ANS findings, recommendations of  
50 the Regional Advisory Councils and additional

1 subsistence harvest information.

2

3 The State and Federal programs should  
4 support harvest assessment research to assist the State  
5 and Federal Boards in matters relating to ANS and SUA  
6 findings.

7

8 Mr. Chairman, that concludes my part of  
9 the presentation. Jim.

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Jim.

12

13 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman, thanks.

14

15 The State has had ANS's, amounts  
16 necessary for subsistence since 1991. And I'd like to  
17 pass out now what those are. Michelle, will you give  
18 me one?

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You have to do it  
23 from memory.

24

25 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah. I don't have these  
26 memorized. And actually I don't plan to review them  
27 row by row, but I did want you to see what is in State  
28 regulation so you'd know what we were talking about.  
29 I'm not going to say very much about this, but I'll  
30 respond to questions.

31

32 I want to emphasize that these are not  
33 quotas. These are not bag limits. They're not used in  
34 setting seasons or bag limits. What this is is a  
35 benchmark, something to guide the Boards in determining  
36 whether or not subsistence uses or subsistence needs  
37 are being met.

38

39 And in a practical way, once this ANS  
40 is established, we look at the harvest over time, and  
41 as long as the harvests are higher than the amount  
42 necessary for subsistence, it gives us some comfort  
43 that subsistence needs are being met. If the harvest  
44 start to fall below the amount necessary for  
45 subsistence, we become concerned and we look at what's  
46 going on. And specifically if there are other uses  
47 competing with subsistence, if there's commercial  
48 fisheries going on, if there's sort hunting going on,  
49 and the moose harvest or the salmon harvest are falling  
50 below these benchmark levels, those other uses should

1 be reduced or eliminated. And that's when you get in  
2 and out of Tier I and Tier II on the State side.

3  
4 So they're not quotas, they're not bag  
5 limits. What they are a measurement, a guide to tell  
6 us when to allow or disallow uses that compete with  
7 subsistence.

8  
9 One final note, and I believe Carl  
10 mentioned this, too, is that as I understand this, the  
11 Federal system would be free to develop, and this is  
12 where the SUAs come in. If you disagreed with these,  
13 if you thought these were flawed, if there was a number  
14 on there that you thought was wrong, then it is your  
15 purview to make your own subsistence use amount  
16 finding. And then on the Federal side, that would be  
17 the operable number. So you're not bound to these.  
18 That's a starting point.

19  
20 Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions to Carl  
23 or Jim. Attamuk.

24  
25 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I've got a question.  
26 On the caribou take, because I thought, I'm pretty sure  
27 Susan and I when we did the surveys, just in Unit 23,  
28 we take about close to 20,000, that's with the sport  
29 hunters, of caribou. Not counting the other units as  
30 Nome and Galena area and outside, and they're  
31 expanding.

32  
33 And I think I understand you that we're  
34 not -- I know we're not bound by these numbers, but if  
35 they do start relying more on caribou, the take is  
36 going to take heavier.

37  
38 But the survey Susan and I did is not  
39 the numbers with Buckland, where they take a lot of  
40 caribou, you know, and Noatak. And these -- I want to  
41 make sure my people have enough caribou to take in the  
42 State and the Federal side. Because I don't want to  
43 put numbers and say they're going to have a limit. I  
44 want to make sure my people with the increase of gas  
45 and the prices of everything else, they're going to  
46 start depending more on caribou than anything else.

47  
48 MR. MAGDANZ: The 8,000 to 12,000  
49 number here is a range below which you don't want  
50 subsistence harvest to go. If you're taking 15,000,

1 that's telling me we're doing okay. You can take  
2 20,000, you can take 30,000. This number will have no  
3 effect on that. It doesn't restrain it. What it does  
4 do is if we did a harvest survey and we found out  
5 people were taking 7,000, we've got a big problem, and  
6 then a bunch of regulatory machinery kicks into place  
7 and starts to restrict things. Does that.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
10 of the agency reports. Carl.

11

12 MR. JACK: Just a couple of points. I  
13 just want to make it clear that it took the steering  
14 committee that worked on these a long to come up with  
15 the proposed draft. And I just want to assure you that  
16 this -- the agreement on the Federal side does not take  
17 the hinge pin off the ANILCA door. It's not going to  
18 take ANILCA down. The priorities still will be there.  
19 I mean, the Federal program will -- it's in the  
20 protocol itself that the ANS will not be put into the  
21 Federal regulation. We're talking a range here that  
22 can be used as a guide by the managers to make a  
23 guesstimate of the subsistence use amounts for a  
24 particular season. And this becomes fairly important  
25 when yo get into some big drainages like the Yukon  
26 River when you have to estimate the amount necessary  
27 for subsistence on kings or the subsistence use amounts  
28 for that area.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more questions to  
33 Carl or Jim.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Jim.

38

39 MR. MAGDANZ: To further respond to  
40 Attamuk, because I've been thinking about what he said,  
41 if the harvest survey data consistently showed harvest  
42 in the range of 15 to 20,000 or 25,000, then it would  
43 be appropriate for both the State and Federal system to  
44 revisit the amounts necessary and revise them. So you  
45 might find that 8,000 to 12,000 number, it was adopted  
46 back in 1992 or '93, and that was -- the herd was  
47 smaller then. It may be that that 12,000 number would  
48 be more appropriately expanded upward. So there  
49 definitely -- they're part of the regulatory process,  
50 but they can be changed and amended as new information

1 is available.

2

3                   ATTAMUK: Okay. Jim, I'm just trying  
4 to be careful of my people, putting -- placing in  
5 regulations of amount of how much caribou could be  
6 taken. I just want to make sure that they could take  
7 enough just for survival, because my people, that's --  
8 they live on the caribou, you know that, in my region.  
9 They do take other animals, what's needed, but their  
10 main diet is caribou in our region. You know we don't  
11 really take moose that much. It's slowly increasing.  
12 I just don't want to see my people left out if they  
13 decided to put a set amount per village, and yet the  
14 villages are increasing. Especially Kotzebue here.  
15 When you look at Kotzebue, the villages are moving to  
16 Kotzebue, and you say in Kotzebue we can't take more  
17 than 600, and all of a sudden there's increase in  
18 population, heavily, just from the villages. We have  
19 to increase the take. You know, that's why I'm asking.  
20 That's why I'm trying to be careful in understanding  
21 this.

22

23                   MR. MAGDANZ: Well, Mr. Chairman,  
24 I.....

25

26                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Jim.

27

28                   MR. MAGDANZ: Your caution's  
29 appropriate. I think that there are some weaknesses in  
30 this data. One is getting good harvest information for  
31 some of the secondary species. we have enough trouble  
32 figuring out how many caribou take, let alone how many  
33 marten, or how many whitefish. So that's a weakness of  
34 these.

35

36                   Another is the interplay between  
37 species. If caribou don't come by the village, then  
38 your moose harvest might go up. Or if caribou do go by  
39 the village, your salmon harvest might go down. Those  
40 are things that we see in real life. And that's why  
41 you see the ranges in here from 8,000 to 12,000,  
42 because things change and from season to season, the  
43 mix of species that you take changes.

44

45                   And so there -- it is really impossible  
46 to capture subsistence life in a series of numbers, and  
47 there are risks in trying to do so. And I hope that as  
48 long as we have prudent people gathered around a table  
49 to interpret what those numbers mean, we won't fall  
50 into any of those traps.

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
4 to Carl and Jim.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If no question, thank  
9 you, Carl and Jim, very much for the report.  
10  
11 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you Mr. Chair.  
12 Members of the RAC.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Do you want a break?  
15 Okay. Since we're getting -- moving rapidly, that  
16 let's take a 10-minute break and we can get done. A  
17 10-minute break.  
18  
19 (Off record)  
20  
21 (On record)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. I know  
24 everybody's getting pretty restless here to get done,  
25 so we'll continue with our reports. And we're still on  
26 Federal subsistence management reports.  
27  
28 One thing that concerns me a number of  
29 days now, you probably hear it more than I do on your  
30 television, Victor, is that flu. Flu on everything.  
31 So we would like a very brief information from somebody  
32 that knows what's this -- causes the flu from -- well,  
33 whatever you call it, you know. Anybody got  
34 information that -- what's causing the flu for some of  
35 the birds and half-way around the world. If anybody  
36 wants to do that?  
37  
38 MR. KARMUN: Mr. Chairman, there's a  
39 lot of information on the internet on the avian flu,  
40 and the last, I don't know, 10, 15 pages I read on it,  
41 in North America there is no recorded bird or animal  
42 with that particular flu yet. But with the migratory  
43 birds and the nature of the way where they fly to  
44 Europe, Africa, Asia or whatever, it possibly can and  
45 probably will at a later date be introduced to North  
46 America. As to when, nobody knows, but that's the  
47 bottom line right now of what I found on the internet.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Chuck, you've got  
50 information on it?

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah. Mr. Chair. On  
2 Page 96 and 97 of your book, there is an informational  
3 handout about the avian flu, and information for  
4 hunters. It kind of goes over a little bit, has some  
5 questions and answers on like why is there a concern,  
6 and can I catch avian influenza from wild birds.

7  
8 And I think Victor's correct. There is  
9 no cases in North America at this time, but they're  
10 gearing up pretty heavy, I know, in the regional  
11 office, trying to get people out for this spring,  
12 because they are worried that with the migration coming  
13 back from Asia, there could be cases on the wild.

14  
15 And in your book on Page 96, there's  
16 what to do to report dead birds, and there's a bunch of  
17 numbers and contact numbers, and you might want to read  
18 through this. I wasn't prepared to give a briefing.  
19 It was just supposed to be informational, but if you  
20 have specific questions and they're not answered in  
21 here, I can surely take them back to the regional  
22 office and find the right people to ask for you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The reason why I  
25 asked that question, Chuck, it's not only me, but they  
26 ask me, especially from Noorvik and Kiana, because they  
27 heard about the news on television on bird flu. Now,  
28 as you know, the migration on birds again is a couple  
29 of months away. And then how would we know that these  
30 birds that are going to come to us in the future was  
31 infected with flu business, that every hunter would  
32 have to report to somebody if they harvest the birds?  
33 I mean, how would we know that they're going to affect  
34 North America?

35  
36 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not really sure how  
37 to answer your question. I would guess that the flu  
38 will reach here eventually. I do know they have a big  
39 team put together. I think they're going to do a lot  
40 of sampling this spring to try and see if the flu does  
41 make it over here, and maybe Maureen has more answers.

42  
43 MS. CLARK: Actually, and perhaps.....  
44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You know, one thing  
46 that when they ask me this question, I just don't know  
47 how to answer it, but I told them I'd try and get the  
48 answer. But, however, like migratory birds, you know,  
49 is just coming yearly for hundreds of thousands of  
50 years. So for a situation like this, I think they

1 should get some regulations set before us, you know,  
2 like, say, if you're allowed maybe five front geese, 12  
3 Canadian geese, so we'll know at least there's  
4 something at least look at them if we harvest them.  
5 That might be helpful 20 years from now.

6  
7 MS. AYRES: Mr. Chair, my name is Lee  
8 Anne Ayres, Refuge Manager for the Selawik Refuge. And  
9 in our agency report we were going to give you a brief  
10 update and Tina Moran, our wildlife biologist, has been  
11 working really closely with Migratory Birds, so she  
12 might be able to help you out with some questions.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you.  
15 Okay. On reports.

16  
17 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Robbie.

20  
21 MR. EVERETT: Maybe I could just say  
22 something on that quickly. Monday Maniilaq did an  
23 emergency response training, the hospital, using some  
24 of my students in the emergency trauma technician class  
25 as victims. And they treated them all for avian bird  
26 flu symptoms. Did treatments with Tamaflu, the  
27 medication, and so I know that here in town they have  
28 done some practice runs in case people were to become  
29 infected with this disease.

30  
31 But I know that the big concern is just  
32 the cross species jump from them into -- I know that  
33 just this last week they reported a case in a feline, a  
34 house cat, that had avian bird flue.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. We've got  
37 a report, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Selawik  
38 Refuge. Must be a lot to report, I see we've got two  
39 officers, staff here.

40  
41 MS. AYRES: Actually we even have  
42 three. Mr. Chair. My name is Lee Anne Ayres, Refuge  
43 Manager for the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. And  
44 here with me today is Tina Moran, one of our wildlife  
45 biologists, and Patrick Snow, our assistant refuge  
46 manager. Patrick works very closely with me with the  
47 special use permits for our commercial operators on the  
48 refuge.

49  
50 And in your booklets, our staff has

1 prepared just a brief summary of the projects that  
2 we'll be working on this year, things that we're  
3 involved with. I think it's on Page -- it starts on  
4 Page 98, with a summary on Page 99 and 100. And also a  
5 summary of our 2005 commercial use activity on the  
6 refuge.

7  
8                   So we thought we would kind of give  
9 that to you in your booklets so we won't have to go  
10 over all of the projects and things we're working on  
11 here today, but instead just let Tina provide you with  
12 an update and help answer some questions on the avian  
13 flu. She's been working really closely with Migratory  
14 Birds and USGS on some of the projects, and  
15 coordinating some of the sampling on that topic up  
16 here. So I'll turn that over to her and let her fill  
17 you in.

18  
19                   MS. MORAN: Okay. The White House has  
20 asked for the Department of Interior and for the  
21 Department of Agriculture to develop a plan to sort of  
22 look for early detection of the avian flu coming into  
23 North America, so sort of on a small scale, the refuge  
24 has been asked by the regional office in Alaska to live  
25 capture some waterfowl this summer, preferably late  
26 this summer, looking at molting pintails, pintail  
27 ducks, to look for the avian flu.

28  
29                   What we'll be doing is we'll be having  
30 two camps. They've asked us to do it on the Seward  
31 Peninsula, specifically the Northern Seward Peninsula.  
32 What we'll be doing is capturing them live and banding  
33 them, just like a banding project. Then we'll be  
34 taking cloacal swabs, and we'll be sending them in to a  
35 lab, to test for avian flu. And we're hoping that the  
36 turn-around of that will be about two months, because  
37 the analysis does take time, and for the samples to get  
38 out of the field and into the lab.

39  
40                   And the refuge itself will be leading  
41 those two projects, and we'll hopefully be cooperating  
42 with the Park Service. And this is still in the  
43 preparation stage, so hopefully we can get some more  
44 information to you as things get more settled.

45  
46                   The Migratory Birds in Anchorage is  
47 also going to be looking at swans on the refuge and the  
48 adjacent areas. And they will be coming out with a  
49 crew mid summer I believe, mid July, and they'll be  
50 live capturing swans and doing the same thing. They'll

1 be banding them and taking cloacal swabs and sending  
2 them in for analysis.

3

4                   So that's what's directly going to be  
5 happening in this area. There's a number of other  
6 projects working shore birds and gyre falcons that will  
7 be done in this area as well with other agencies that  
8 will be doing similar things of looking for the flu.  
9 So that's kind of what we're trying to do for early  
10 detection.

11

12                   As many of you know, so far we haven't  
13 seen it in North America yet, but we're kind of trying  
14 to be proactive and seeing if and when it does, because  
15 they're looking at Alaska being the forefront of the  
16 birds coming over from Asia. They hit here first, so  
17 that's why we're -- they're putting so much effort into  
18 Alaska and looking at waterfowl and other species that  
19 could be carrying it.

20

21                   And I can't think of anything else that  
22 I'm missing, or if there's any questions you have on  
23 that.

24

25                   MS. AYRES: Yeah. I'll just add --  
26 this is Lee Anne Ayres.

27

28                   I'll just add one thing is one of the  
29 reasons that they've identified like swans and pintails  
30 is they looked at all of the birds that are coming up  
31 in this area and decided that those species were the  
32 ones that had the highest probability of even possibly  
33 having contact with birds to pick up the flu, so there  
34 was -- actually there was quite a bit of thought that  
35 went into which species would be sampled in area.

36

37                   MS. MORAN: Right. And it's pretty  
38 minor that they would be coming over with it, but there  
39 is still a chance, and that's why those birds have the  
40 highest chance of getting it. But that doesn't mean  
41 that, you know, it's a definite. Just a small  
42 population of the birds that come over here, at least  
43 on the pintail end and the swan end, will be coming  
44 over from Asia. Some of the shorebirds might be a  
45 little bit more prevalent, but they're looking more at  
46 waterfowl, because they do hang out in areas where the  
47 domestic waterfowl or chickens will be over in Asia.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: So on these bird,  
50 that it go to a lab and gets some positive report, they

1 report to, you know, the area immediately?

2

3 MS. MORAN: Yeah, and they're still  
4 working on that. You know, it's like I said,  
5 everything's still in the beginning stages, and they're  
6 still trying to get plans to gather, to -- I know  
7 specifically there is a couple people from Migratory  
8 Birds in Anchorage in Washington, D.C. right now  
9 working on the plan if it does -- if we do have  
10 positive results. And they're working with Public  
11 Health as well.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You will keep us  
14 informed about the results?

15

16 MS. MORAN: Oh, definitely. Yes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Victor.

19

20 MR. KARMUN: Yeah, thank you. Victor  
21 Karmun.

22

23 Like that are they going to check any  
24 birds on the Aleutian Islands? A lot of those migrate  
25 to the Aleutian Islands from Japan.

26

27 MS. MORAN: Yeah. This is going to be  
28 a statewide deal. Like I said, I'm just telling you  
29 about a couple projects that will be done here locally,  
30 but it's definitely a statewide effort. There's lots  
31 of money coming in for this, and that is definitely the  
32 priority for the Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS, and I  
33 think Park Service as well.

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

36

37 MR. MOTO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A  
38 question, is the -- we never did get an answer on that  
39 question about why the bird molted earlier and then  
40 left earlier last year, because usually they don't  
41 leave until the middle of September, but they left  
42 earlier than that this year, earlier in year. And a  
43 lot of people were wondering, was it because of the  
44 global warming or what? Because, you know, we usually  
45 go out in July and get issas (ph) you know, that  
46 wingless molts. And this year when they went they  
47 couldn't find them. So we're wondering if they get  
48 their feathers earlier or -- just because of the warm  
49 weather or what?

50

1 MS. MORAN: Yeah, I'm not sure. I  
2 can't really answer that, because we're -- I'm not  
3 really aware of that, and I don't know. It could have  
4 been they could have gotten here earlier, and it could  
5 have been that, but I can't say for sure.

6  
7 MR. MOTO: Yeah, we saw them flying  
8 earlier this last summer. Yeah.

9  
10 MS. AYRES: Calvin, did you have an  
11 early spring? Was the ground bare earlier last year,  
12 too? Okay.

13  
14 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

17  
18 MR. BALLOT: Earlier you mentioned you  
19 were doing some surveys, especially the black duck, I  
20 had a question on that. When you mentioned Selawik  
21 Refuge, does that include the Eschscholtz Bay? That's  
22 a good place for counting, you know, black duck, as  
23 good as they can count them, because they congregate,  
24 July is a lot of time you'll see them out in bunches  
25 out there.

26  
27 MS. MORAN: Yeah, the survey that we're  
28 doing, we've been doing for the past few years, and we  
29 plan to do it in the future here for a few more, is  
30 looking at breeding pairs, so that's why we do it in  
31 June. And we do it on the refuge, on the Noatak, and  
32 also the -- pretty much the entire Seward Peninsula,  
33 and then down towards the Alaska Peninsula and Yukon  
34 Delta. So it's sort of the west coast end of Alaska.  
35 but yeah, we're looking at specifically breeding pairs,  
36 so that's what that survey's for.

37  
38 I do a late summer, I have done a late  
39 summer, early fall coastal survey that's specifically  
40 Eschscholtz and Kotzebue Sound, and also the coast from  
41 Noatak River to Kivalina. So I've been documenting  
42 birds there, too.

43  
44 MS. AYRES: And, Percy, you're talking  
45 about a species near and dear to Tina's heart, sea  
46 ducks, so don't tell her too much about black ducks  
47 down your way, or I won't see her any more during the  
48 summer.

49  
50 (Laughter)

1 MS. AYRES: Mr. Chair, I guess one  
2 other thing I'd like to add is that our staff has also  
3 been talking and working with the Borough, and it  
4 sounds like in the region as a whole there will be a  
5 very good coordinated effort at keeping everybody  
6 informed and up to date on what's going on, and trying  
7 to keep the information as current and out to as many  
8 people in the region as we can. So it sounds like  
9 there are a number of organizations and partners that  
10 have stepped up to the plate to make sure that that  
11 happens with this issue.

12

13 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

16

17 MR. BALLOT: I did have one more  
18 question, I'm sorry. Is that when are we going to hear  
19 on the effort that was done about the first survey with  
20 the white fronts in Selawik and Noatak?

21

22 MS. MORAN: Is that the molting survey,  
23 is that what you're.....

24

25 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

26

27 MS. MORAN: We do have some reports,  
28 some general reports that I can get to you. We also  
29 have for the first about five years ago, they started  
30 putting satellite transmitters on. And I can check,  
31 but I think they're still on the web. It follows the  
32 paths of those molting birds that were placed with  
33 satellite transmitters. And I can get you that website  
34 if you would like to see them tracked. There were  
35 about five or six from this region for about three  
36 years that were placed with satellite transmitters, and  
37 we followed their path from Alaska down to eastern  
38 Mexico and back up through Canada and back up here. I  
39 can get you that website if you'd like.

40

41 MR. BALLOT: Is that all of them? All  
42 of them made it up and back?

43

44 MS. MORAN: Most of them did. There's  
45 a few that got harvested in Canada, but, yeah, we  
46 actually had pretty good success with that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
49 to the Selawik Wildlife Refuge from the Council.  
50 Ralph.

1 MR. RAMOTH: Mr. Chairman. I  
2 understand that while banding, you will be collecting  
3 samples from the migrating birds?

4  
5 MS. MORAN: When we're -- you mean when  
6 we're doing the pintail banding? Yeah. Basically  
7 we'll be specifically targeting northern pintail ducks,  
8 but whatever we catch, we will sample, and that  
9 includes widgeon or mallards or anything else that we  
10 catch. And we won't be actually the birds. We'll just  
11 be taking a sample out of their cloacal end, just like  
12 a feces sample, and sending that in. So, yeah,  
13 everything we catch, we will get samples from, no  
14 matter what species we capture. Does that answer your  
15 question, Ralph?

16  
17 MR. RAMOTH: Yeah. And getting samples  
18 like that while they're molting in mid summer, you  
19 know, when you're banding, that is after they molt,  
20 right? And then I would think that it would be a good  
21 idea to get some samples when they first start arriving  
22 in springtime, you know. We don't know what the  
23 migration patterns are for where they're migrating, you  
24 know, like -- especially those pintails. Those are the  
25 ones that we mostly get in springtime, you know, when  
26 you're out duck hunting, and you don't know what kind  
27 of a condition they have, what they carry. I think it  
28 would be a good idea to get samples from the hunters  
29 like that and find out what kind of a disease they  
30 carry. I'm kind of concerned about that when I heard  
31 about that bird flu all over now, and that, you know,  
32 instead of waiting until they molt, and, you know, it  
33 will be kind of a little bit late.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I've got a question,  
38 like back up on Ralph's. So Ralph wanted to go duck  
39 hunting just a month away, say he got a bird, a duck or  
40 geese, so if he wanted -- we'll take it -- probably  
41 will get two of them, come right, and you'll take the  
42 example. How long will it take to get those results?

43  
44 MS. MORAN: Well, I'd actually asked  
45 that direct question to the avian flu coordinator in  
46 the regional office, and that's where the two months  
47 came about. Yeah, I asked her that directly to see  
48 what the turn-around was going to be.

49  
50 And to answer your question on the

1 spring birds, you know, we were debating. There's lots  
2 of debate on that. It's hard to capture those birds in  
3 the spring, and I know in Bethel and St. Lawrence  
4 Island and Barrow, I think they are going to be taking  
5 samples from harvested birds from subsistence users.  
6 They're working with the Public Health Department for  
7 that. So far I don't know of anything that will be  
8 done up here specifically for sampling like that. It's  
9 sort of been mentioned, but no details have been given.  
10 So that's all I can -- that's all I know.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So you'll get your  
13 two ducks on April 8th, so you have to get the results  
14 June 1. So you have to freeze it.

15

16 I think we've got a question from Mr.  
17 Stein.

18

19 MR. STEIN: If I may. Thank you, Mr.  
20 Chairman. The question I have basically is in  
21 reference to bird flu and do we have any data that this  
22 flu had spread throughout the western region, and does  
23 it have any connection to what they refer to as the  
24 influenza flu between say 1916 to 1918. And if you do  
25 have the data, could you share it with the others.

26

27 MS. MORAN: Yeah, I'm not sure if we  
28 have data from back then. I know that many of the  
29 banding operations that have been going on, I know  
30 specifically at Yukon Delta they have taken samples  
31 from birds already. This isn't something new, they're  
32 just doing it in a bigger effort this year. But  
33 cloacal samples have been taken before, and there has  
34 been some evidence of influenza, but not the deadly  
35 strain of H5N1. It much more subtle and doesn't seem  
36 to affect other folks. But I don't know of anything  
37 that far back.

38

39 But I know recently there have been --  
40 they've been doing some sampling, and so far they've  
41 not seen it in North America. The H5N1 strain that  
42 they've been worried about.

43

44 MR. STEIN: Mr. Chairman, can I ask one  
45 more.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Stein.

48

49 MR. STEIN: Are you aware of the  
50 findings of the Wales flu diagnosis that took place

1 around that age or year? And what is the official  
2 findings, because it puts us in kind of a fear mode  
3 when we hear something referred to as influenza flu,  
4 and a lot of people died, a lot of our people died  
5 during that time. And my grandparents were part of  
6 that group. And then we find that they call it a  
7 different name. They finally found out that there was  
8 the bird flu strain in the Wales deaths.

9

10 MS. MORAN: Yeah, personally I don't  
11 know that information, but I can look into that for you  
12 if you'd like.

13

14 MR. STEIN: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
17 to the Selawik Wildlife Refuge. Percy.

18

19 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do  
20 have a concern on the bird flu. A lot of us -- we keep  
21 saying migratory birds, but usually it just actually  
22 started from poultry, chickens and domestic ducks and  
23 all that kind of stuff. We never talk about those  
24 things. We always say migratory birds. So where does  
25 that all fit in?

26

27 MS. MORAN: Well, like I said, our  
28 agency's with the Department of Interior, so we're  
29 specifically looking at migratory birds. Like I said  
30 at the beginning, that, you know, the Department of  
31 Agriculture is also part of this, so I'm sure they'll  
32 be looking into that aspect of it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Now this flu is just  
35 for the birds only, or just for any species? I mean,  
36 this flu is just for birds only?

37

38 MS. MORAN: Is the.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You know, that we  
41 hear in the news, it's always on the birds, like even  
42 in chickens. It won't affect any other species like  
43 fish or any other animal?

44

45 MS. MORAN: I'm not a complete expert  
46 on this, but, you know, there is the possibility that  
47 it could go to humans, or it could go to other mammals.  
48 I'm not sure about fish or anything like that, but like  
49 I said, I'm not an expert on every aspect of this, so I  
50 can look into that. And there are other websites as

1 well that I can let you in on that have a lot of  
2 information. But still there's lots to be learned  
3 about this H5N1 strain. So I didn't quite answer your  
4 question, but I don't know everything.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, actually that I  
7 see myself in person last spring, and some other people  
8 seen it, up along Noorvik, there was other species were  
9 dying like those muskrats and nobody seemed to know  
10 why. It was hundreds of them. So we don't know what's  
11 happening.

12  
13 MS. MORAN: Yeah, that was actually --  
14 I went to Noorvik a few months ago and they did mention  
15 that, so we're looking into that.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
18 to Selawik Wildlife Refuge.

19  
20 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I just  
21 wanted to commend them in Selawik for the program. I  
22 was just wondering if there's a chance somehow that we  
23 could get some of our own, a couple of our kids on it  
24 with the culture camp we have there, the science  
25 culture camp. I wish we could see more of that in like  
26 Buckland and Noatak or wherever. Things like that  
27 happening.

28  
29 MS. AYRES: Mr. Chair. Lee Anne Ayres.

30  
31 Thank you, Percy, I wish we had more  
32 staff and could come down there, too. But we certainly  
33 can share with the IRA council and the school there  
34 some of the way we structured that program, and help do  
35 what we can to promote that down there as well.

36  
37 MR. BALLOT: That's good, because we  
38 just started our first camp earlier last fall, so we  
39 had a lot of volunteers, but just all local -- most of  
40 it was local funded.

41  
42 MS. AYRES: I guess one last thing I'd  
43 like to add, just to follow up, Ralph, your question  
44 about hunters participation in monitoring the avian flu  
45 virus in the region. Actually in the next week or so,  
46 two of our Staff will be going down to receive training  
47 on just the safe handling practices for doing the  
48 sampling. And I know they're approaching this in some  
49 areas where they feel hunters will have more contact  
50 with species that may be carrying it. They are

1 involving local hunters in collecting samples. I think  
2 up in our region, I think this year our tact is for the  
3 agencies and the people on the project to kind of go  
4 through the process of safe handling and sampling and  
5 taking care of the samples. But we will have people  
6 who are interested and trained, and your son will be  
7 one of them, on how to actually take samples from  
8 hunter-harvested birds, and some of the requirements  
9 there, so I think we kind of felt that it would be good  
10 for us to go through the procedure and practice first,  
11 before we asked other hunters to become involved in it.  
12 so possibly next year we might be looking at kind of an  
13 expanded program with people in the communities being  
14 involved in it as well.

15

16 MR. RAMOTH: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
19 to the Selawik Wildlife Refuge.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from  
24 the audience of the wildlife refuge.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, thank you  
29 very much. A good report.

30

31 MS. MORAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: National Park  
34 Service.

35

36 MR. HELFRICH: I guess that's us.

37

38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anybody from the  
39 National Park.

40

41 (Whispered conversation)

42

43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So I think we'll have  
44 the superintendent of the Northwest Northland. Here he  
45 is. I guess you guys all know George is the  
46 superintendent for SRF (ph) or a year now or less?

47

48 MR. HELFRICH: Just shy of a year, yes,  
49 sir.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We've got another  
2 assistant superintendent in Nome.

3  
4 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. My name  
5 is George Helfrich, and I'm the superintendent of  
6 Western Arctic National Parklands. I've been here just  
7 shy of a year. Eight months now. And again let me  
8 thank all of you for the very hospitable welcome you've  
9 given me to the region.

10  
11 I'd like to start off with just a few  
12 general comments, and then Ken, our subsistence  
13 manager, is going to go into some detail about our  
14 subsistence program.

15  
16 If any of you had a chance to be up by  
17 the airport in the last couple days, you will have  
18 noticed that we've started the construction of the  
19 Heritage Center. This is a major step forward for us,  
20 and we're looking forward to its completion. We are  
21 putting in the pilings this year, and then we hope to  
22 actually begin construction next year, 2007, finish in  
23 2008, and have the grand opening in 2008. I hope all  
24 of you will come.

25  
26 This summer we've got a couple programs  
27 going on. For example, we're going to have some  
28 biologists up in Cape Krusenstern looking at lead and  
29 zinc levels along the haul road, that portion of the  
30 road that goes through the monument. That's a  
31 continuation of some work that was begun five or six  
32 year ago.

33  
34 We have two large archaeology programs  
35 beginning, one in Cape Krusenstern, one in Noatak.  
36 Those are both multi-year programs, and I think they're  
37 going to bring forth a lot of interesting data about  
38 the historical use of the lands here.

39  
40 And then also we're going to have a  
41 very active education program again this summer.  
42 Education and interpretation both in the schools and  
43 out in the villages, and then up at the education and  
44 interpretation center that we use now just shy of the  
45 green house. So a very active program that we take a  
46 lot of pride in, and that we hope serves the region and  
47 other members of the public well.

48  
49 I would like to talk just a couple  
50 minutes about our protection program, our law

1 enforcement program. This winter we have had fixed  
2 wing aircraft and snowmachine patrols of Cape  
3 Krusenstern, Kobuk and Noatak National Preserves. So  
4 we do have rangers out in the field this time of year.  
5

6  
7 Park Ranger Dan Stevenson presented  
8 hunter education classes, GPS classes, firearms safety,  
9 and Federal regulation classes for the students in  
10 Kiana in January of this past -- 2006. And then Ranger  
11 Stevenson also presented hunter education, GPS,  
12 firearms safety and Federal regulation classes in  
13 Kotzebue.  
14

15 Park Ranger Galen Howe will be  
16 instructing a GPS class in Buckland in March, which  
17 we're looking forward to. The people of Buckland have  
18 expressed a lot of interest in that class, so we're  
19 very pleased that we're going to be able to do it.  
20

21 And to focus for one minute on sheep,  
22 the park has issued 40 Federal subsistence sheep  
23 permits for the 2005/2006 season. As of March 1st,  
24 nine rams and one ewe had been harvested in the Baird  
25 Mountains, but no sheep had been harvested in the  
26 DeLong Mountains. Harvest quota for the hunt is 15  
27 rams and 6 ewes in the Bairds, and five rams and three  
28 ewes in the DeLongs.  
29

30 If I may, before I ask Ken to take  
31 over, I'd like to say just a couple words about what  
32 Mr. Schaeffer spoke to earlier today during his  
33 comments. Like all the other Federal agencies up here,  
34 like the State, like the members of the general public,  
35 we also are very concerned about any wasted meat, and  
36 the conflict between subsistence users, sports hunters  
37 and other users. I would just like to say that in  
38 general we at the National Park Service want to be part  
39 of a fair and successful solution to these ongoing  
40 problems.  
41

42 As part of that solution, we are  
43 focusing on two things this year. First of all, on  
44 education. We're requiring that six to eight companies  
45 that have permits to provide transportation inside the  
46 Noatak for sports hunters to attend a brief orientation  
47 to what it -- to operating inside Noatak National  
48 Preserve.  
49

50 And we are also producing a short

1 brochure for the sorts hunters who come up here on  
2 hunting inside the preserve. And it will have some  
3 information about, well, for example, the traditional  
4 practice of letting the first caribou go through any  
5 migration area. Some other information about handling  
6 meat, some other information about respecting other  
7 users, particularly subsistence users who might be in  
8 the area. Some other information about keeping a clean  
9 camp, some other information about keeping a safe camp.

10

11

12 So as I said, we are taking an approach  
13 of education and orientation that we hope will be very  
14 successful.

15

16 On the other hand, we're also going to  
17 have an active law enforcement program. This year we  
18 will have rangers out in the field again inside Noatak  
19 National Preserve talking to hunters, checking on  
20 licenses, making sure that they are adhering to the  
21 laws about handling meat.

22

23 So again thank you all very much for  
24 this opportunity to speak. And with that, thank you,  
25 Ken.

26

27 Ken reminded me of one specific that I  
28 was to bring up about our enforcement program. Exusia  
29 (ph) Incorporated, which up here does business as  
30 Maverick Air, was found guilty in Federal court last  
31 November of violating one of the stipulations of its  
32 permit. That is, dropping hunters off in the Noatak  
33 Controlled Use Area. The court fined Maverick Air \$500  
34 and we are currently looking at taking some  
35 administrative action against the company, too.  
36 Maverick Air is appealing that Federal court decision.  
37 We'll see where that goes. But in any case, I want to  
38 emphasize that we are intent upon commercial users and  
39 actually all users of the park, you know, working  
40 within the regulations.

41

42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, George.  
43 That's a good report, you know, for Maverick Air. And  
44 that's something -- at least something -- somebody  
45 doing something good about it.

46

47 MR. HELFRICH: Right.

48

49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: One thing that  
50 concerns me quite a bit in the last year about your

1 rangers, especially this time of the year. As you  
2 know, the weather this year is not very sensible at all  
3 to everybody that travels everywhere.

4

5 MR. HELFRICH: Right.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So I know that your  
8 rangers are pretty well equipped with cell phones just  
9 in case they got disoriented or out in the field. You  
10 know, like you said, if they're going to Cape  
11 Krusenstern and they hit a storm wind, and all of a  
12 sudden it's doing about like 50 knots northwest, in  
13 that you get disoriented in just a few seconds.

14

15 MR. HELFRICH: Right.

16

17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: However, that maybe  
18 all our recommendations that if one of your rangers has  
19 got lost or radioed in, or call in, don't be afraid to  
20 call us. We'll go to that area right now voluntarily,  
21 just to go help your rangers.

22

23 MR. HELFRICH: Right.

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You know, that -- I  
26 know you won't go where that's 50-mile and hour with no  
27 visibility. And these guys have got good experience to  
28 go find them right now. Voluntarily. We'll go do it.

29

30 MR. HELFRICH: Right. Sure.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Because they're doing  
33 a good job, you know, doing the patrol on Cape  
34 Krusenstern and you said also Kobuk River, is that  
35 correct?

36

37 MR. HELFRICH: Yes, that is correct.  
38 Mr. Stoney, if there were the occasion, we wouldn't  
39 hesitate to ask your help.

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any question to the  
42 superintendent from the Council.

43

44 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

47

48 MR. BALLOT: When you say we're willing  
49 to help, a reasonable thing. What's the feelings on  
50 the controlled use area Mr. Schaeffer talked about a

1 regionwide as an alternative or solution or whatever.

2

3 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Ballot, from talking  
4 to Jim Dau, I understand that the Noatak Controlled Use  
5 Area has been very successful. There are too many  
6 unknowns about this possible proposed controlled use  
7 area for me really to speak to it. Already Kobuk  
8 Valley National Park where this controlled use area  
9 might be, somewhere in that vicinity, is already closed  
10 to sport hunting. That's only opened to subsistence  
11 hunting. So we have an interest in it, but we think  
12 that the national park designation provides enough  
13 protection already for subsistence users to use that  
14 area.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
17 to the superintendent before I go to Ken. Reggie.

18

19 MR. CLEVELAND: I understand there was  
20 some GPS classes put out in some villages?

21

22 MR. HELFRICH: That's correct, Mr.  
23 Cleveland.

24

25 MR. CLEVELAND: I'm just wondering how  
26 come the upper Kobuk didn't get such classes? Was it  
27 because of airfare or.....

28

29 MR. HELFRICH: No. I don't know.

30

31 MR. BALLOT: (Indiscernible, away from  
32 microphone)

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. HELFRICH: Yeah. Thank you, that  
37 was perfect, Mr. Ballot. That was excellent. No, Mr.  
38 Cleveland, we would be happy to put on a class out  
39 there.

40

41 ATTAMUK: Give him some coordinates.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. CLEVELAND: I said airfare, because  
46 a lot of times Shungnak is \$320 round for an adult  
47 fare. And a lot of times from the hub, people  
48 concentrate on the inner villages, and not going out  
49 there where it's needed.

50

1 MR. HELFRICH: Right.  
2  
3 MR. CLEVELAND: The other thing is your  
4 visits that occur, I would encourage that you visit  
5 those three villages sometimes in early fall right  
6 before the caribou migration to teach students, to  
7 teach adults, have a question and answer.  
8  
9 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. We would like to  
10 do that.  
11  
12 MR. CLEVELAND: Now you will.  
13  
14 MR. HELFRICH: Okay.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, George.  
17 Ken.  
18  
19 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
20 members. Ken Adkisson, ark Service.  
21  
22 This will be a quick just overview of  
23 our status of some of our wildlife work.  
24 Unfortunately, the weather really got in the way and  
25 prevented our winter muskoxen count in Krusenstern, so  
26 we weren't able to do that. That was scheduled for  
27 late February.  
28  
29 It also prevented us from cooperating  
30 with the Department of Fish and Game on a moose census  
31 for Unit 22(E) on the northern Seward Peninsula.  
32 However, we still plan to cooperate with ADF&G and the  
33 Selawik Wildlife Refuge and others for the moose to be  
34 done coming up shortly in the Kobuk River area. And if  
35 time permits, we'll probably try to go back after that  
36 to pick up the Krusenstern muskoxen information.  
37  
38 We're still also planning a bear census  
39 for later this year in 22(E) or the northern part of  
40 the Seward Peninsula. We're going to continue work  
41 with sheep as well.  
42  
43 And in the subsistence area, we've  
44 gotten funding for a major baseline harvest study  
45 similar to the one we did a few years ago in Buckland  
46 and that we've already done like in Shungnak. And  
47 tentative plans are to try to work with the Village of  
48 Kiana and do that work in Kiana. It may take us a year  
49 or two to actually work out the cooperative agreements  
50 and get all the stuff in place, but we've got the

1 funding, and are moving towards actually being able to,  
2 you know, undertake the project.

3  
4 That's basically it.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions to Ken  
7 from the council.

8  
9 (No comments)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from  
12 the audience to the National Park.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, thank you  
17 very much, gentlemen.

18  
19 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you.

20  
21 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Park land. Next  
24 we'll go down to Bureau of Land Management, Staff.  
25 Have we got anybody?

26  
27 MR. JOLY: That's me.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

30  
31 MR. JOLY: Good afternoon, Mr.  
32 Chairman. Council members. I'm Kyle Joly. I'm a  
33 wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Land Management.

34  
35 First of all I'm going to talk -- well,  
36 let me start with saying that Randi apologizes for not  
37 being able to come. She had a family emergency and  
38 she'll be gone for a week or two.

39  
40 I first want to start my presentation  
41 with talking about some work that we've been doing out  
42 in the Buckland area. We've been doing range surveys  
43 for the Western Arctic Herd. Originally the transects  
44 were put in in 1981, and we've been going back out  
45 there. we were out there in '95, and just out there  
46 last summer. Just working on some of the preliminary  
47 findings right now.

48  
49 As you can see from the graphs that, on  
50 the handouts that I've provide, the lichen cover in our

1 study area, which is in and around the Buckland River  
2 drainage, lichen cover has declined throughout our  
3 transects, and continue to decline the last ten years.  
4 The drop off was not as steep. The right-hand graph  
5 shows that there's been a significant decline in the  
6 primary forest lichens, so this is the lichens that the  
7 caribou really prefer for their winter forage. So  
8 that's something that we're keeping an eye on, and  
9 we'll be writing up some documents to get published in  
10 some journals, and we'll also be presenting them at a  
11 caribou conference in Canada later this spring.

12  
13                   Along with those range transects, we  
14 have been following a tundra fire that happened on  
15 Ulukluk Creek, also in 1981. And what we did there is  
16 had transects inside the burn and outside the burn, and  
17 we've just been comparing the two, to see how the range  
18 comes back after fire. And what we've seen is that the  
19 lichens are very slow in recovering after a tundra  
20 fire, which is what we've seen arboreal forest habitats  
21 as well.

22  
23                   Also, outside the burned area, we noted  
24 that the lichens have declined as well, which is we  
25 think from caribou grazing which we saw in the previous  
26 study at our 25 transects throughout the Buckland. So  
27 that's a similar finding.

28  
29                   In both those studies, we've seen an  
30 increase in cottongrass area from species. So we're  
31 not exactly sure if that's due to fire or global  
32 climate change or some other factor, but that is  
33 something that we've seen throughout the winter range  
34 of the Western Arctic Herd, is an increase of grass  
35 species.

36  
37                   I'm also working on a third winter  
38 range project that I'm doing in cooperation with Fish  
39 and Game, Jim Dau and Peter Bente specifically. And  
40 what we're doing there is looking at where the caribou  
41 have wintered over the last five or six years, using  
42 points from the satellite collars that have been  
43 deployed, and then looking at those positions in  
44 relations to known burns that are out there.

45  
46                   The next thing that I'm going to do is  
47 try to handle Randi's portion of the presentation. She  
48 was going to report on use of our SRP holders, sport  
49 hunters that are carried out in the Squirrel River. We  
50 had 10 SRPs out there. I think seven of them were

1 active this year. If you look at the number of user  
2 days, it's gone up. There's a minimum of 478. We  
3 still had a couple people who had not reported at this  
4 time. So if you look at the numbers, it was 314 user  
5 days in 2003, 399 in 2004 and as I said, a minimum  
6 count of 478 for this year.

7  
8                   So numbers have been increasing, which  
9 is something that you all know. It's something that  
10 we've talked about today. The BLM is in support of a  
11 controlled use area. That is a proposal that was  
12 talked about earlier. I've talked to Bob Schneider,  
13 who's the district manager for the Fairbanks area, the  
14 northern portion of the BLM lands.

15  
16                   We had some problems with the specific  
17 language of the proposal as is, but Bob's going to go  
18 to the Board of Game meetings and give a presentation  
19 in support of a controlled use area that would  
20 hopefully reduce user conflicts in the region.

21  
22                   In addition to that, we are also  
23 working on the Kobuk, Seward management plan. And  
24 within that, the draft plan is being submitted this  
25 week, and should be available by the middle of April  
26 for a 90-day comment period. Within that plan, the  
27 draft plan, we are calling for a Squirrel River Special  
28 Management Area. It will be a recreation management  
29 area, so there will be an activity level plan in which  
30 we would address user conflicts, and this hopefully  
31 will deal with both transporters and guides in relation  
32 to subsistence users.

33  
34                   And the last thing that I wanted to  
35 mention, it is outside the region, but it has potential  
36 to have impact within the Northwest Arctic is we have  
37 begun planning for the southern portion of the National  
38 Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. this plan is going to be on  
39 a much slower track than the previous plans, the  
40 northeast and northwest plans that moved along on a  
41 quick pace. The plan is for the southern portion to be  
42 much slower. We're not expecting a draft EIS out until  
43 2008, the summer of 2008, so it's going to be a much  
44 slower process. We hope this will get more people to  
45 comment, especially people who have an interest in it.  
46 And the reason that you guys should be interested in it  
47 is because the NPR-A south contains most of the calving  
48 grounds for the Western Arctic Herd, and there's  
49 mineral potential in the reserve as well as oil and  
50 gas. And the big issue, of course, up there will be

1 the coal deposits as well.

2

3 So that's all I have for you guys.  
4 I'll happy to try and answer any questions you have.

5

6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes, I've got a  
7 question for you, to BLM. We all know that like the  
8 Squirrel River and the Buckland area is managed by the  
9 BLM for quite some time now. Yo know and I know that  
10 the Squirrel River has been pretty popular by the sport  
11 hunters and the transporters every year. Also the  
12 Buckland. So evidently that in the last two and a half  
13 years there's very little law enforcement for Squirrel  
14 and Buckland. I wonder now if BLM is planning to put  
15 any law enforcement at the Squirrel and the Buckland  
16 for this coming hunting season. Any idea what will  
17 happen?

18

19 MR. JOLY: Yeah. I've talked to some  
20 of the law enforcement rangers. One of the problems  
21 that we had is we had a retirement, which made us  
22 really short staffed. We only had one ranger for the  
23 entire 55 million acres that we manage out of the  
24 Fairbanks District Office. We've since replaced and  
25 trained up a new ranger, and the plan is to have both  
26 of the rangers out at some portion during the time of  
27 the crunch time during the hunting season, mid  
28 September. And we're also looking to coordinate with  
29 the Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service rangers  
30 to kind of present more of a blanket coverage for the  
31 area. It has been such a volatile issue in the region.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
34 for BLM from Council.

35

36 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I know Buckland  
39 would.

40

41 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. I'm just wondering  
42 about the lichen coverage. Is this something we need  
43 to be worried about on the percent of recovery, or --  
44 in the coast region stuff versus the population.

45

46 MR. JOLY: That's a really good  
47 question, Mr. Ballot. If you place this graph, the  
48 left-hand graph, graph A, in relations to the size of  
49 the herd, you'll see that they're directly  
50 corresponding in an antithetical or opposite manner.

1 You know, the herd has greatly increased over this  
2 period, especially from '81 to '95, and you can see  
3 that there has been a corresponding rapid decline in  
4 the lichen coverage. And the herd has slowed in growth  
5 from '95 to 2005, and so has the decline in lichen  
6 coverage. It is a straight forward assumption to think  
7 that there's a link there.

8

9 The way the study is designed, we can't  
10 specifically say that, you know, the herd is the sole  
11 cause for the decline. There's other factors that  
12 could be implicated such as global climate change, the  
13 grass is out competing the lichens.

14

15 I do think that the data suggests that  
16 one of three outcomes is likely. Is that the herd has  
17 been increasing for 30 years, and now the range is  
18 starting to show signs of deterioration, so the classic  
19 response would be either that the herd would start  
20 declining, or the herd will start expanding to new  
21 ranges, which we've seen. The herd has moved out to  
22 further west in the Seward Peninsula and is actually --  
23 portions of the herd has spent more time up in the Cape  
24 Krusenstern area. And we have seen some very abnormal  
25 movements east, all the way east of the Haul Road. And  
26 then the third option besides population decline and  
27 range expansion would be some combination of the two.

28

29 So you can't -- I don't think you can  
30 look at this data and say that, yes, the herd's going  
31 to crash, but I think looking at the data that it is an  
32 indicator that it's something that we should be  
33 thinking about.

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
36 for BLM. Robbie.

37

38 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman. A question  
39 on predators. How are the wolf populations doing  
40 outside of maybe what we would see in just our  
41 snowmobile travels as far as interacting with that  
42 increased caribou population? Are we seeing an  
43 increase in predators, or is there a lag phase we  
44 haven't seen yet?

45

46 MR. JOLY: The BLM doesn't or hasn't  
47 conducted any predator surveys. We leave that up to  
48 Fish and Game to do, and I'd leave that up to Jim Dau.  
49 Most of the guys around the table probably have a  
50 better feel for wolf numbers out there. Certainly wolf

1 numbers will track caribou numbers, but the nature of  
2 caribou, they're migratory behaviors and their ability  
3 jut to overwhelm a single area, wolf densities usually  
4 don't track caribou densities directly. It's usually  
5 they track moose densities a little more closely, but  
6 there's an interaction affect there, but the bottom  
7 line is the BLM doesn't have the information on wolf  
8 densities, and we leave that up to the State, and there  
9 hasn't been any major wolf population estimates since  
10 Ballard did one back in I think 1990.

11

12 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

15

16 MR. BALLOT: I could add a little bit  
17 to that. The caribou like to stay by Buckland, because  
18 they know there's -- wolves are staying away from us.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions  
23 for the BLM.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from  
28 the audience for the BLM.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I think that's it.  
33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good report. Okay.  
38 We're getting close to the bottom, so we still have the  
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I feel like we're  
40 10 pounds heavier now with the book. The Alaska  
41 Department of Fish and Game.

42

43 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 Jim Magdanz.

45

46 I think this will be my last  
47 opportunity. I'm not going to read this whole book,  
48 but I did want to.....

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. MAGDANZ: I'll let you take it  
2 home. If you have an opportunity to read it at home.

3  
4 First of all, Jim Dau is in the office  
5 today busily preparing for the Board of Game meeting.  
6 He was in there this weekend, he's been in there a lot  
7 of nights. And he's leaving Thursday to go to  
8 Fairbanks for that Board of Game meeting. Otherwise I  
9 think Jim would like to be here.

10  
11 As Pete Schaeffer mentioned this  
12 morning, our focus recently has been on that Board of  
13 Game meeting and the two proposals that have been  
14 generated to deal with user conflicts in this region.

15  
16 One of the things Charlie Greg has been  
17 doing over the last two weeks is organizing a series of  
18 advisory committee meetings. I think he's gotten every  
19 advisory committee meeting in this region to meet in  
20 the last two or three weeks, which doesn't happen very  
21 often. There's a contingent of people going to  
22 Fairbanks for that meeting. I believe we've got one  
23 from each advisory committee meeting, plus some  
24 representation from the Borough, other organizations.

25  
26 So there seems to be some momentum now  
27 that there hasn't perhaps ever been to deal with the  
28 user conflicts in the region. And I think that  
29 momentum sprang in particular from the hearing here in  
30 November where the community spoke very eloquently  
31 about the problem.

32  
33 Just briefly, the proposals that would  
34 made some changes. Proposal 142 would establish a non-  
35 resident -- would reduce the non-resident caribou bag  
36 limit from five to two. It would also require meat on  
37 the bones for the rib cages and the backbone.  
38 Currently we require meat on the bone for the legs, but  
39 you can bone out the ribs and the back. Well, this  
40 would not allow you to do that any more. We don't  
41 think this would have much impact on local people, if  
42 any, that you bring the meat and the bones back with  
43 you anyway. But we think it would make enforcement  
44 easier of the wanton waste regulations on the non-local  
45 hunters who bone out their meat.

46  
47 And finally, 142 has a controlled use  
48 area proposal. The advisory committees for the most  
49 part, I think every advisory committee, amended the  
50 controlled use area portion of this Proposal 142. And

1 Jim has prepared a map showing the rivers that the  
2 advisory committees recommended be included. They're  
3 most of the major rivers north -- the Kobuk main stem  
4 and the tributaries on the north side of the Kobuk, as  
5 well as some tributaries in the Noatak, the Aggie and  
6 the Ely, and the Wulik River.

7  
8 The other proposal is the hunter  
9 education proposal, Proposal 150. And that would  
10 require hunters to go through a hunter orientation  
11 process before they could hunt up here. It would  
12 exclude hunters who are involved in customary and  
13 traditional subsistence hunt. So we will not be giving  
14 orientation classes to any of you. Assuming this  
15 passes.

16  
17 So that meeting's coming up this  
18 weekend, and I expect we'll know the results by mid  
19 week.

20  
21 The Board of Fish will be meeting in  
22 January for the Arctic/ Yukon/Kuskokwim issues on fin  
23 fish. Kawerak is planning to submit a proposal that  
24 would allow customary trade in fish. And when I say  
25 customary trade, and I think you guys have been through  
26 this already on the Federal side, I mean the sale for  
27 cash of subsistence-caught fish as opposed to  
28 commercially-caught fish. ANILCA and the State law  
29 both provide for customary trade in law. But the  
30 State's regulations do not allow the sale of  
31 subsistence-caught fish. And with one exception, it's  
32 completely illegal on the State side to sell  
33 subsistence-caught fish.

34  
35 There has long been low levels of  
36 customary trade in fish. It's why Congress recognized  
37 it in the first place. You can listen to KOTZ radio,  
38 you hear Noatak trout for sale, Kivalina trout for  
39 sale, you know, dried whitefish for sale. If those  
40 fish came from State waters, that's not legal under  
41 current regulations.

42  
43 So we have asked the advisory  
44 committees whether they wanted to be included in the  
45 Kawerak proposal, whether they wanted Kotzebue to be  
46 included in the Kawerak proposal for Norton Sound and  
47 Port Clarence. And the advisory committees either  
48 recommended that this region be included, or they took  
49 no action on that matter.

50

1                   So I expect that next January the Board  
2 of Game (sic) will be making some decisions on a  
3 customary trade proposal for this region. You'll have  
4 an opportunity in your fall meeting to make comments on  
5 that proposal.

6  
7                   I'm working on an FIS project that the  
8 Department began about a year with Attamuk at Maniilaq  
9 on exploring approaches to harvest assessment. We'll  
10 be having some village meetings, some yet this spring  
11 and some next winter, talking to villages about how or  
12 whether they want harvest assessment survey research  
13 done, and how they want it done, and what species are  
14 important. So we'll be doing some of that work in the  
15 future.

16  
17                   Finally, I handed out a report that we  
18 finished this fall in cooperation with Kawerak. and  
19 you'll notice this is Norton Sound, this is not even  
20 your region. But I passed this out for two reasons.  
21 One, I found it was an interesting study, one of the  
22 more interesting ones that we've done.

23  
24                   The change of subsistence harvest over  
25 time is an interesting question. Why does subsistence  
26 harvests change. Do they change for reasons other than  
27 just abundance, as wildlife and fish populations go up  
28 and down.

29  
30                   Can we predict what subsistence harvest  
31 might be if we know changes in population. As  
32 community populations increase, do subsistence harvest  
33 in fact go up. I hear that claim made often. I'm not  
34 so sure that it's true. In fact, there's some evidence  
35 that subsistence harvest and populations are inversely  
36 related. And the result of that is that the total  
37 harvest by communities is stable and sustainable.

38  
39                   The salmon surveys that the Department  
40 and Maniilaq and Kawerak conducted in this region over  
41 the last 10 years have given us a unique data base  
42 where we know what households, individual households  
43 have harvested now over 11 years of time. We can look  
44 at how harvests have changed at the household level.  
45 We don't very often have an opportunity to do that with  
46 harvest information. This report looks at those kinds  
47 of questions in Norton Sound. What does affect salmon  
48 harvest, how have they changed, and a little bit about  
49 why.

50

1                   We are proposing to the Fisheries  
2 Information Services a project in this region that  
3 would do for the Kotzebue district what we did last  
4 year for Norton Sound. It is to go back through those  
5 11 years of data and look at how harvest have changed,  
6 salmon harvest. And in addition to what we did in  
7 Norton Sound, we're proposing that we take those data  
8 back into two communities and share them with the  
9 households that we collected the data from originally,  
10 and say, okay, here are your harvests over the last 10  
11 years. Can you tell us about how your harvest changed,  
12 and why did it go up here and down there, and what  
13 happened here, in an attempt to better understand the  
14 factors that influence subsistence harvests. What is  
15 it that causes subsistence harvests to change and  
16 evolve, and what can people tell us about that.

17  
18                   At your next meeting again I suspect  
19 this proposal makes it through the preproposal review  
20 by the Technical Committee, we'll have an investigation  
21 plan for you to look at next fall at your fall meeting,  
22 and we can talk more about it then.

23  
24                   So, Mr. Chair, I'll stop there and if  
25 there are any questions, attempt to answer them.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from  
28 the Council for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

29  
30                   (No comments)

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from  
33 the audience to the Department.

34  
35                   (No comments)

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: I guess that's a good  
38 report, Jim.

39  
40                   MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair, I think it's  
41 4:00 o'clock. Thank you.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Other business.  
44 14.A. New Council charter, informational only.  
45 Michelle.

46  
47                   MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In  
48 your book on Page 103 is a copy of.....

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: 103? Okay.

1 MS. CHIVERS: 103. Is a copy of the  
2 newest charter that was just signed back in October.  
3 Every year the charter has to be renewed -- every two  
4 years, and so this Council did not make any changes to  
5 the charter, so there's no new information. But this  
6 is just the latest signed version, which will keep the  
7 Council in operation until October of 2007. So it's  
8 just an informational item, but I just wanted to kind  
9 of give the Council an update as to why it's in the  
10 book. But this does get updated ever two years. So  
11 this is the newest, latest copy.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for  
16 Michelle.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I guess there's no  
21 questions. Is that it?

22  
23 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Victor, you got  
26 anything.

27  
28 MR. KARMUN: Yeah, I'd like to ask the  
29 audience, see if they have any comments or  
30 recommendations, suggestions if possible. Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Sure.

33  
34 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Stein.

37  
38 MR. STEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
39 Just observations I guess. And listening to your  
40 meeting, I enjoyed it.

41  
42 There's a couple of things that really  
43 jump out at me, and it has to do with regulations.  
44 Conflict users, and you have several agencies that  
45 actually report to you, and you just got through  
46 listening to about four or five of them. At some point  
47 we have to start looking at enforcement. We have the  
48 Borough, it has no enforcement policies. It has no  
49 police powers. We only have a few agencies. The Fish  
50 and Wildlife, I know they have enforcement powers. The

1 Park Service, I don't know if they do. We need to ask  
2 to see if they do. The other is Bureau of Land  
3 Management, I don't really know if they do, too. I  
4 know they can use a Federal agent.

5  
6 What we need to start to look at I  
7 think is taking a look at all of these agents. They  
8 have their own little jurisdictions. They have in a  
9 lot of ways tried to work together to make a lot of the  
10 regulations and everything, to try to work together.  
11 And somehow that we end up with some kind of  
12 subsistence user regulation as a whole. But what  
13 really protects us? I don't know. We say the Federal  
14 Government.

15  
16 I think the thing that we need to look  
17 at is how do we enforce these regulations that are  
18 already in place. Title VIII gives us all of that  
19 authority to do so. I would suggest that either some  
20 agency, maybe the local IRAs, start looking at  
21 compacting a lot of the stuff that other people are  
22 doing for you.

23  
24 The individual IRAs actually have  
25 police powers if they enforce them and put them in  
26 place. The Department of Justice and BIA, Bureau of  
27 Indian Affairs, can take any group of these tribes and  
28 train them to police, State police status. They do  
29 have the funding, and it can be done.

30  
31 I commend NANA for using their  
32 protection service there. They have the same powers as  
33 you and I. No other powers.

34  
35 The other thing is that -- that really  
36 needs to be addressed I guess is user conflict, and  
37 you're working on it, but it's always next year.  
38 Somehow. The system really, really works slow. Too  
39 slow. Already something is happening. These people  
40 are not -- they're no dummies. The users found a  
41 loophole and they're going to use it to the fullest.  
42 By the time we get enforcement in place, I'm assuming  
43 there's a lot of damage that's going to be done.

44  
45 We need to look at all of the options  
46 that we have, not just a narrow little avenue that we  
47 need to look at. We need to look at all of the options  
48 that we have to help ourselves.

49  
50 I think you very much for allowing me

1 to comment. Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Frank.  
4 Anything else, Michelle.

5

6 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, before we move  
7 on to the time and place of the next meeting. Calvin  
8 was not here this morning, so he'd like to give his  
9 report.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

14

15 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman. Thank you.  
16 One of the things that I want to bring out is that, you  
17 know, every spring our people hunt. We talk about all  
18 land mammals, but we were really talk about the marine  
19 mammals, because the coast people live primarily on  
20 marine mammal stuff.

21

22 The last two or three years we've seen  
23 dramatic changes in how many oogruks we could get, and  
24 the pattern of ice conditions. Last year we only had  
25 two or three days where we could go out and hunt  
26 oogruks because of the way the ice was keeping our  
27 people from going out to hunt for the oogruk. So  
28 anyway, they were fortunate to get the amount of  
29 oogruks they got in those two or three days they had.  
30 Last summer was one of the first times I ever see ice  
31 leave our village before July. It used to leave around  
32 July 12, 11. It would give our people a lot of time to  
33 go out hunt oogruks.

34

35 This is why I asked one time if we  
36 could have anybody from the Marine Mammals come in tell  
37 us the status of our marine mammals, not just the  
38 oogruk, but the spotted seal, the ribbon seal, and for  
39 the Buckland area the belugas. We used to get these  
40 all the time, you know.

41

42 And now it's getting to the point where  
43 what are we going to do if, you know, we don't get an  
44 oogruk? A lot of us, like myself, we need to eat that,  
45 because if we don't eat that, then we always have a  
46 hunter in here, you know. And we can eat beef, pork or  
47 stuff, but, you know, it don't satisfy us. We've got  
48 to have that seal oil, you know. This seal oil stuff  
49 sustained our people for thousands of years, you know.  
50 They used it for a lot of things that you know,

1 preserving the food and stuff like that. But we are  
2 starting to get concerned, because this year, this past  
3 three weeks, the ice blew out a half mile out of our  
4 village. It blew out. And about maybe a week or so  
5 later some ice came from somewhere. We don't know  
6 where it came from. But it's not as thick as it used  
7 to be, because if that -- because, you know, the  
8 oogruks when they -- they like to lay to on that ice,  
9 and if it's not thick enough, then what are we going to  
10 do, you know.

11

12 That's why I'd to hear a little bit  
13 about our marine mammals once in a while, because I see  
14 where we have to have, in the fall time where we have  
15 these different types of -- and there's a big concern  
16 about that in our village, because coastal, this is  
17 coastal, you know, and that's I've been -- we had  
18 several meetings about different things like that, and,  
19 sure, we get more caribou and muskox, but we've still  
20 got to have our seal oil.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin has a pretty  
23 good point. As you know for the last, well, 20 years  
24 now all we do is talk about caribou and moose and  
25 muskox and stuff. That's a good point, and I can bring  
26 that to probably the State agencies or Federal.  
27 Probably John Trent, he's involved with the Walrus  
28 Commission. We might just be able to come up with  
29 something like that, and invite him to our meeting like  
30 this to talk about the sea mammals. Like you said, you  
31 know, I give you credit for that, you know, just have  
32 to talk about the ocean sometimes.

33

34 MR. MOTO: Yeah, you know, one time we  
35 should, not just our area, but the people from upriver  
36 and stuff that we sell them, and then they sell us  
37 maybe whitefish or sheefish or something. You know,  
38 exchange seal oil for stuff like that. If we don't  
39 have that source, we won't have any to trade with them,  
40 you know. So it's something that we look at, not just  
41 for ourself, but, you know, you've got to see the whole  
42 picture about who are we serving, you know. We've got  
43 to think about that once in a while.

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Carl, you've got  
46 something?

47

48 MR. MOTO: Thanks for giving that to  
49 me.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You're welcome,  
2 Calvin.

3  
4 MR. JACK: Yeah. Let me talk about the  
5 bureaucrat. The responsibility of managing marine  
6 mammals, with the exception of sea otter, walrus and  
7 polar bear, those are under Fish and Wildlife Service.  
8 All of the ice seals, all of the cetaceans are under  
9 the National Marine Fisheries Service. I can certainly  
10 take this information back and pass it on to them.

11  
12 Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act,  
13 while these Federal agencies have the management  
14 authority, the only time that they will get into  
15 management is at the time when it's determined that the  
16 species are depleted. That's the only time that  
17 they'll come in. Before that, the natives regulate  
18 themselves in the taking of the marine mammals, so we  
19 don't have seasons and bag limits for the take of these  
20 marine mammals.

21  
22 And under Section .119 of the Marine  
23 Mammal Protection Act, there's a provision for co-  
24 management of these marine mammals. So in a way the  
25 natives are also involved in the management of, for  
26 example, walrus under the agreement between the Walrus  
27 Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Polar  
28 bear, there's the Nanook Commission that works with  
29 again Fish and Wildlife Service in the management of  
30 the shared population between the Russians and the  
31 United States. And for sea otters we also have a  
32 commission that works with Fish and Wildlife Service in  
33 the management of the sea otters. So I'll take that  
34 information back to pass it on to them.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Carl. You  
39 know, that's good information from Calvin, you know.  
40 That's something we should look into one way or  
41 sometimes. And then, you know, that's one thing we  
42 should look into, you know, for the future.

43  
44 Do you have anything else before I turn  
45 to Willie?

46  
47 MR. MOTO: He mentioned something about  
48 harvest. We're not concerned about harvest, we're  
49 concerned about the health of the species, you know.  
50 We're not really concerned of how many we can get and

1 how many we can't get, it's how are they surviving.  
2 Because the last two or three years we got oogruks that  
3 were not as fat as they used to be, the blubber is not  
4 as thick as it used to be, you know. We said, why, you  
5 know. A lot of people -- we had to throw away some of  
6 the -- about three or four oogruks last year, because  
7 they didn't look good. And so it's just something that  
8 we're concerned with, the health of the oogruk, and not  
9 so much the harvest. It's just the health of them.

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.  
12 Willie.

13

14 MR. GOODWIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I  
15 just want to point something out. Perhaps another  
16 forum can be used to talk about sea mammals. Your  
17 charge here is to help make recommendations on Federal  
18 lands, and not oceans. So I would suggest another  
19 forum. Perhaps Mr. Moto can figure out some other way  
20 to get that information through Maniilaq or some place  
21 else, but your responsibility's on public lands.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Willie.

24

25 Michelle, do you have any more on your  
26 presentation on the charter.

27

28 MS. CHIVERS: The only thing we have  
29 left is just the time and place of the next meeting.  
30 Do you want me to go ahead with that?

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

33

34 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. On Page 106 in  
35 your Council book. The last two pages actually are a  
36 couple of calendars. On Page 106 is the fall 2006  
37 Council meeting window. And the Council at the last  
38 meeting had selected October 13th in Shungnak. So the  
39 only thing we're asking you to do is confirm that date  
40 and that location at this time, and then we'll select a  
41 meeting date for the winter meeting. But I'm just  
42 checking to confirm that that date is still going to  
43 work with everybody, and that location.

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: What's the wish of  
46 the Council. The time and place for the next meeting  
47 is what she's talking about. Anyway, to plan it for  
48 Shungnak this coming October, is it possible?

49

50 MS. CHIVERS: Well, at this point the

1 Council can make a recommendation on that, and I guess  
2 it depends on the determination from the office. We're  
3 undergoing quite a budget cut, and I'm not sure exactly  
4 how that's going to affect travel. So at that point,  
5 you know, when it comes time, getting closer to that  
6 meeting, we'll work closely with Raymond, the Chair, to  
7 make sure that, you know, we have a meeting location  
8 selected that will work in terms of budget. But I  
9 think at the last meeting you stated that there is  
10 plenty of lodging and places to eat and that type of  
11 thing in Shungnak, is that correct?

12

13 MR. CLEVELAND: Well, I'm expecting  
14 more than 1,000 people next week. I don't see why.....

15

16 MS. CHIVERS: I'm sorry, could you  
17 repeat that?

18

19 MR. CLEVELAND: I said, I'm expecting  
20 over 1,000 people next week. I don't see why I can't  
21 take care of this group right here next fall.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: As you know, we heard  
24 that six to eight months ago, they'd made up their mind  
25 to go to Shungnak, you know, it was that we would go  
26 along the last 15 years now, that we tried it once  
27 before somewhere else. And we did it once. And I  
28 don't see why we can't just go to the villages, because  
29 these villages are very concerned of how we do business  
30 here in Kotzebue with the Federal fish and Wildlife.  
31 They want to know. They want to see the Staff. They  
32 want the information, ask you that directly, face-to-  
33 face questions about the regulations and hunting  
34 proposals in Game Unit 23. I don't see there's no  
35 reason why we can't go to Shungnak if the wish of the  
36 Council. You make recommendations and the Federal Fish  
37 and Wildlife take those recommendations, sure.

38

39 But, however, you know, I know it would  
40 be a lot difficult for the Staff, you know. We'd need  
41 at least -- well, probably three or four aircraft  
42 charter.

43

44 MS. CHIVERS: Well, at this point what  
45 we'll be doing is I'll be working closely with Reggie  
46 and looking at lodging, places to eat, and that type of  
47 thing, so we can get the meeting location set up and  
48 that type of thing for the Fall. And we also need to  
49 make sure that wherever we lodge the Council, we need  
50 to make sure that the location is registered in a

1 Government registry, and so we'll find out -- well,  
2 I'll work with them. Don't go like this. I'll work  
3 with them to make sure that they are registered, and so  
4 that way we can get everybody housed there, because  
5 it's required that they have to be registered in order  
6 for us to pay for your lodging with a Government  
7 purchase order. So I'll work with you on that.

8

9 MR. CLEVELAND: (Indiscernible, mic not  
10 on.)

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. And, Mr. Chair, in  
15 the packets there's also a handout that -- or it should  
16 be right on top. I passed out a new calendar. It's a  
17 new winter -- it's a loose calendar. On that calendar  
18 it shows the meetings that just occurred that just  
19 occurred and the meeting dates that they selected for  
20 their winter 2007 meetings. and so what we need to do  
21 is have the Council select a date and a location, and  
22 we're going to ask that it not overlap in the week of  
23 February 20 -- or the dates February 20th and 21st or  
24 March 1st and March 2nd, because we have staff that  
25 overlap between those regions. For instance, Chuck --  
26 yeah, Chuck. Yeah, there's a couple of agency staff  
27 that will be attending those meetings as well, so we  
28 try to make sure that we're not overlapping, so it's  
29 possible for them to attend both meetings. So I think  
30 the dates that we would be looking at, is possibly the  
31 week of March 5th through the 9th, or March 12th  
32 through the 16th, or even March 19th through the 23rd,  
33 excuse me. But one of those three weeks, a meeting  
34 date within those three weeks.

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's 2007?

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

39

40 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Las Vegas or.....

43

44 MS. CHIVERS: You need to turn on your  
45 microphone.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Las Vegas or Hawaii  
48 or Denver.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Okay. Can

1 we have that coincide -- how soon do you really know  
2 when you need to have a window open, because I know  
3 regional starts in March sometime, Thursday, Friday and  
4 Saturday, and so I think 8, 9, 10 or wherever, it's on  
5 a weekend, 15th, 16th, 17th. There's two tentative  
6 dates here in Kotzebue for next year. That's my  
7 suggestion.

8

9 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Robbie.

12

13 MR. EVERETT: I'd also like to point  
14 out that the school's spring break is not accurate as  
15 the school calendar has not yet been determined by the  
16 regional school board. So just keep that in mind that,  
17 like Percy said, we don't know when those regional  
18 tournaments and things will be, which do affect all of  
19 our villages. I know we have the region 1A tournament  
20 this weekend this year, but I don't know what it's  
21 scheduled for next year.

22

23 MR. BALLOT: I think we usually can get  
24 that information by October if I'm correct.

25

26 MR. EVERETT: Yeah.

27

28 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

29

30 MR. EVERETT: It's a new calendar.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Want to do that? Do  
33 you want to get the information for it being next  
34 October meeting. What's the wish of the rest, do you  
35 want to do that. Pinpoint a day for 2007 meeting.  
36 Kotzebue I imagine.

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: Well, Mr. Chair, I'm  
39 sorry. Can we possibly set a tentative date to put on  
40 the calendar so that -- I mean, like if you have an  
41 idea that it might actually work March 7th or 8th.

42

43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You mean with the  
44 dates.

45

46 MS. CHIVERS: Because the other  
47 Councils that have not met yet, they're going to be  
48 filling this calendar up fast. It will be good to have  
49 a tentative date. It's just tentative. We can always  
50 change it.

1 MR. BALLOT: Let's go March 8 and 9.  
2  
3 MS. CHIVERS: March 8th and 9th.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: 8 and 9?  
6  
7 MR. EVERETT: Is that -- my fear is  
8 that's a little close to when they will be doing region  
9 basketball again next year, even though.....  
10  
11 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, that's what I'm  
12 trying to get it at. So we have a nighttime activity  
13 plus a daytime responsibility.  
14  
15 ATTAMUK: How about we have it like  
16 Tuesday and Wednesday instead of weekend, because that  
17 way Staff here could travel, they don't have to travel  
18 on the weekend. Whoever want to stay, could stay for  
19 the weekend.  
20  
21 MS. CHIVERS: It's the wish of the  
22 Council. It's not up to when the Staff want to travel.  
23 It's up to you guys. Totally up to you guys. If we  
24 have to travel on a weekend or a holiday.....  
25  
26 ATTAMUK: I mean, I know you guys are  
27 just human beings that want to be home for the weekend,  
28 too. I like to be home for the weekend, because I tell  
29 you one right now, if it's March 9, I'll ask to be  
30 excused, because I've got date on March 9 to go to  
31 another meeting next year.  
32  
33 MS. CHIVERS: Well, we've always left  
34 it at the wish of the Council. If the Council wants to  
35 have it towards the weekend, and agency staff have to  
36 travel on Saturday or a holiday, so be it. We've done  
37 it in the past.  
38  
39 ATTAMUK: Mr. Chairman, didn't she say  
40 just now we just need some date, that could be changed?  
41  
42 MS. CHIVERS: Yes, correct. Right now  
43 I'd just like to have a tentative date set in the  
44 calendar so that we can put it on the calendar for the  
45 other meetings to see. And we can change it if we have  
46 to.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. If that's okay  
49 with Attamuk, otherwise we could arm wrestle in  
50 October.

1 MS. CHIVERS: So you might want to.....  
2  
3 ATTAMUK: I'll live with whatever's  
4 thrown out out there.  
5  
6 MS. CHIVERS: You might want to change  
7 the meeting in October, is that what you're saying.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We will change it --  
10 if the meeting got changing in October, yes. At that  
11 point I think we'll find out when the games will be.  
12 Who knows, it might be March 15th and 16th on next  
13 year.  
14  
15 MR. EVERETT: Or host it in Buckland.  
16  
17 MR. BALLOT: Oh, no, got to be here for  
18 the regional. It's the village thing. Everybody likes  
19 to come here.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, that's what you  
22 guys want, to decide our winter meeting in October. Is  
23 that what you guys want?  
24  
25 (Council nods affirmatively)  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We'll decide  
28 that.  
29  
30 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Anything else.  
33 Got any comments from the Council members before we go.  
34  
35 (No comments)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Have we got any  
38 comments from the audience about what we've done today.  
39  
40 (No comments)  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: And our scheduling  
43 it's going -- return home tomorrow, is that correct?  
44 Most of us on schedules?  
45  
46 MS. CHIVERS: We were scheduled for  
47 today and tomorrow, but tomorrow with the understanding  
48 that if we needed the extra day, but if we adjourn  
49 today, then we won't need tomorrow.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. No comments  
2 from the Council. So I'll say this, I want to thank  
3 all of you that showed up on this RAC meeting. It's  
4 very important to all of us. And it's what we  
5 represent at home. And as you know, you guys from the  
6 villages, especially from Buckland and Kobuk and  
7 Shungnak. And Reggie is going to be pretty busy in the  
8 next several weeks during that Council meeting at  
9 Shungnak. And I thank you guys here, because -- I want  
10 to thank all of you for being with us today. And all  
11 the Staff from the Fish and Wildlife and the State Fish  
12 and Game, Park Service, BLM, I want to thank all of you  
13 who participated in our RAC meeting in Kotzebue.  
14 Again, thank you very much.

15

16 IN UNISON: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: And like the park  
19 land, I want to thank you, you're doing a job well  
20 done. Do I hear the last word.

21

22 MR. CLEVELAND: So moved.

23

24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Moved it. Moved by  
25 Reggie.

26

27 MR. MOTO: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: A second. Okay.  
30 The meeting is adjourned exactly at 4:30

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (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, Joseph P. Kolasinski, 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 02 through 140 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 7th day of March 2006, beginning at the hour of 8:30 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 14th day of March 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08