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NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING
ALASKA TECHNICAL CENTER
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA

OCTOBER 12, 1995
9:00 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Mr. Walter Sampson
- Mr. Bert Griest
- Mr. Raymond Stoney
- Mr. Percy Ballot
- Mr. Stanley Custer
- Mr. Peter Schaeffer

COORDINATOR:

- Ms. Barbara Armstrong

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:

- Mr. Bill Knauer
- Mr. Steve Kovach
- Ms. Helen Armstrong

REPORTED BY:

- Ms. Deirdre Radcliffe
Verbatim Shorthand Reporter

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 MR. SAMPSON: The Northwest Arctic Subsistence
4 Regional Advisory Council will now come to order. It is now
5 9:14, and roll call, please.
6

7 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Pete Schaeffer?
8

9 MR. SCHAEFFER: Here.
10

11 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Raymond Stoney?
12

13 MR. STONEY: Here.
14

15 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Bill Bailey?
16

17 (No response.)
18

19 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Percy Ballot?
20

21 MR. BALLOT: Here.
22

23 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Stanley Custer?
24

25 MR. CUSTER: Here.
26

27 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Walter Sampson?
28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Here.
30

31 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Bert Griest?
32

33 MR. GRIEST: Here.
34

35 MR. SAMPSON: We do have a quorum to conduct
36 business this morning so we will proceed with our agenda.
37 Before we proceed with our agenda, we will have a moment of
38 silence, please. Thank you.
39

40 I want to welcome all of you to the Northwest
41 Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. For those of
42 you that have never come to our meetings and this is your
43 first trip into Kotzebue, we want to welcome you, and you're
44 just hitting the right time of the year, I guess. Fall is
45 usually nice, but at the same time, we also get some storms,
46 so if you're lucky, tonight maybe you will leave with the
47 jet. No.
48

49 Before we start, let's go through an introduction
50 process. We'll start with her and go around the table here.

1 MS. RADCLIFFE: My name is Deirdre Radcliffe from
2 Midnight Sun Court Reporters.
3
4 MR. CUSTER: Stanley Custer from Shungnak.
5
6 MR. BALLOT: Good morning. Percy Ballot from
7 Buckland.
8
9 MR. STONEY: My name is Stoney, Kiana.
10
11 MR. SCHAEFFER: Pete Schaeffer from Kotzebue.
12
13 MR. SAMPSON: Walter Sampson, Kotzebue.
14
15 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Barb Armstrong,
16 Coordinator for Northwest Arctic, Seward Peninsula, and North
17 Slope.
18
19 MR. GRIEST: Bert Griest, Selawik.
20
21 MR. KOVACH: Steve Kovach, Fish and Wildlife
22 Subsistence office. I am the biologist assigned to support
23 this council. I'm also the acting Resource Division Chief in
24 the office.
25
26 MR. KNAUER: Bill Knauer, Fish and Wildlife
27 Service Subsistence Management. I am a regulation specialist
28 for the office.
29
30 MR. DAN: Jim Dan, Fish and Game, Kotzebue.
31
32 MR. PAULIN: Jim Paulin, KUTZ Radio, Kotzebue.
33
34 MR. GERHARD: Bob Gerhard with National Park
35 Service.
36
37 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers, National Park
38 Service, Anchorage.
39
40 MS. DALLEMOLLE: Lois Dallemolle, Park Service,
41 Kotzebue.
42
43 MR. BOYD: Tom Boyd, Bureau of Land Management
44 from Anchorage.
45
46 MS. MORKILL: Anne Morkill, Bureau of Land
47 Management in Fairbanks.
48
49 BRAD SHULTS: Brad Shults, National Park Service,
50 Kotzebue.

1 MR. PELTOLA: Gene Peltola, Jr., Selawik National
2 Wildlife Refuge, Kotzebue.

3
4 MR. SCHNORR: Mike Schnorr, Park Service,
5 Kotzebue.

6
7 MS. AYRES: LeeAnne Ayres, Fish and Game,
8 Kotzebue.

9
10 MS. MEYERS: Randy Meyers, Bureau of Land
11 Management, Kotzebue.

12
13 MR. KARMUN: Victor Karmun, Kotzebue IRA.

14
15 MR. KOEPESEL: Mark Koepsel, Selawik Wildlife
16 Refuge, Kotzebue.

17
18 MR. IVANOFF: Art Ivanoff from the Maniilaq
19 Association.

20
21 MR. MORRISON: John Morrison, State/Federal
22 Subsistence Regulation Coordinator for the Department of Fish
23 and Game in Anchorage.

24
25 MR. LONEWOLF: Pierre Lonewolf, a concerned
26 citizen, Mr. Chairman.

27
28 MR. SAMPSON: My interpreter. We've got two
29 additional folks that just walked in.

30
31 MS. HUNT: Diane Hunt, National Park Service.

32
33 MR. WHALON: Larry Whalon, National Park Service.

34
35 MR. SAMPSON: Again, I want to welcome all of you
36 to Kotzebue and to this meeting, and additional materials are
37 over to our left if any of you need some materials. The
38 agendas and stuff are on the table.

39
40 According to our agenda, our schedule, I guess
41 we're scheduled for a couple of days, but I think we'll get
42 this done today. So I guess at this time what we'll do is
43 listen to a letter from Mitch. Mitch has a letter that he
44 sent. Mitch is the Chairman for the Federal Board, Game
45 Board, and Bill has a letter that he would like to read to
46 the Advisory Council.

47
48 MR. KNAUER: This is the Mitch Demientieff,
49 Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board, and this was sent
50 to the staff here to read at each of the regional council

1 meetings.

2
3 From Mitch: "I'd like to welcome you to the fall
4 1995 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meetings.
5 These fall meetings mark the beginning of a new cycle of
6 decision-making for the next set of annual subsistence
7 regulations. These meetings are symbolic of the role of the
8 regional councils in federal subsistence management. They
9 are the starting point from which the next year's subsistence
10 regulations are produced, and they are intended to ensure
11 that subsistence users' needs are well-accommodated in
12 subsistence regulations. Just as the fall set of regional
13 council meetings is meant to serve as the kickoff of the
14 annual regulatory process, the regional councils themselves
15 are meant to serve as the foundation for subsistence users'
16 involvement in subsistence management.

17
18 The regional councils are the crucial link between
19 subsistence users and the Federal Subsistence Board. The
20 members of the councils all have direct, firsthand experience
21 with subsistence, and they are leaders in their communities.
22 Collectively, they provide the Board with unparalleled
23 insight into the needs of subsistence users statewide and, by
24 statute, their recommendations carry a great deal of weight
25 in subsistence decision-making.

26
27 This begins the third full year that the regional
28 councils have been in operation. During the evolution of
29 subsistence management during these three years, we've made
30 great strides in structuring subsistence management to
31 accommodate subsistence users' customary and traditional
32 practices in a manner consistent with maintaining healthy
33 wildlife and fish populations. We could not have made such
34 progress without the involvement of the regional councils.
35 Without a doubt, such progress has not been without its share
36 of frustration, both in the federal and regional council
37 arenas. However, change is sometimes difficult, particularly
38 when it involves such a complex issue with so many players,
39 and I believe it is to the credit of all involved that the
40 program we now have has so many new, and often quite
41 substantial, innovations to accommodate subsistence uses.
42 For example, largely as a result of regional council
43 initiative and willingness to work cooperatively with federal
44 staff, subsistence users now have available to them
45 designated hunter harvest permitting, community harvest
46 limits, and seasons, harvest limits, methods and means that
47 better accommodate customary and traditional practices, to
48 name a few.

49

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1 our laurels. We are still faced with issues to be resolved,
2 and more issues will undoubtedly arise in the future. In
3 fact, some of these issues are on your agenda for this
4 meeting. The federal subsistence management program is on
5 the leading edge of resource management that is cooperative
6 and responsive, and with the continued high quality of
7 involvement of the regional councils, will continue to be
8 so.

9

10 I wish you the best of luck at this meeting, and I
11 and the other Board members look forward to seeing your
12 proposals and recommendations."

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Bill. Please send our
15 thanks to Mitch for that letter. And I think that from the
16 letter that Mitch has written, you understand clearly your
17 role as a representative. Before I proceed with my
18 statements, I want to welcome the two new representatives:
19 Stanley Custer representing the Upper Kobuk; Percy Ballot
20 representing the Buckland, Deering side.

21

22 And as Mitch indicated in this letter in regards
23 to the new cycle, it is indeed a system that's in place that
24 provides for a process for us to use to get into the system.
25 By this, I mean you as a representative for this region and
26 for your areas, it is important that you communicate with
27 your constituencies in your areas. If there is any concern
28 in regards to issues related to subsistence, bring those to
29 the meeting. We want to hear about those things. Any little
30 issue, any questions that they may have.

31

32 Some folks will say, oh, that's a dumb question.
33 There is no such thing as a dumb question. It always leads
34 to a good discussion. In fact, those dumb questions are even
35 more worthwhile to discuss than questions that people think
36 should be raised, and I think the process that we or the
37 federal system has in place is a process that gives us our
38 voice through this, and not only ours, but also the people
39 that you represent in your areas, and it's important that as
40 a committee that we continue to use this process. If we're
41 going to put together proposals, then let's work together to
42 put those proposals together so that way that representation
43 to all those folks that we represent is done with that
44 effort.

45

46 Definitely cooperation is one. In order to have
47 an effect, an impact on how we do things, then we need to
48 cooperate with those folks at the community level, with the
agencies, as well as cooperating amongst ourselves.

49
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In order to have an equality in what we do, we

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1 need to look at ourselves as representatives and represent
2 our people in such a manner that they would like to be
3 represented, and that is to be vocal, to be open, to be
4 willing to discuss issues. Sometimes issues get a little on
5 one side, but as a representative, that is part of your
6 responsibility to make sure the other side is addressed as
7 well. So we want to listen to both sides.

8
9 So with that, I want to encourage the
10 representatives here that, let's make a difference as a
11 committee, but we do have a role and a process in place that
12 we can be effective in what we do for this region. Enough
13 said on that.

14
15 All of you should have a copy of an agenda. Is
16 there any changes or corrections, additions or deletions to
17 the agenda that you have in front of you?

18
19 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve
20 the agenda.

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: There's a motion on the floor to
23 approve the agenda. Is there a second?

24
25 MR. GRIEST: Second.

26
27 MR. SAMPSON: Discussion?

28
29 MR. STONEY: Question.

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31 MR. SAMPSON: Question has been called for. All
32 those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

33
34 (Unanimous response.)

35
36 MR. SAMPSON: All opposed, same sign.

37
38 (No response.)

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Motion carries.

41
42 You should also have received a copy of the
43 minutes of the February and July meetings. I will open the
44 floor at this time for comments. Is that part of comments
45 for the minutes, or is that just open comments for different
46 issues?

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MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Different issues.

MR. SAMPSON: Okay. So we will act on the issues

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1 of the minutes from February and July 1995.

2

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MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman?

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MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

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MR. GRIEST: I move we approve the minutes of the February 1995 meeting.

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MR. SAMPSON: There's a motion on the floor to approve the February minutes, 1995. Is there a second?

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MR. SCHAEFFER: Second.

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MR. SAMPSON: There's a second. Discussion?

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MR. SCHAEFFER: Question.

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MR. SAMPSON: Question has been called for. All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

21

22

(Unanimous response.)

23

24

MR. SAMPSON: All opposed, same sign.

25

26

(No response.)

27

28

MR. SAMPSON: Motion carries.

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31

July minutes. Is there a motion on the floor for adoption?

32

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34

MR. SCHAEFFER: I move to approve the minutes for July.

35

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MR. SAMPSON: Motion on the floor to approve the July 1995 minutes. Is there a second?

38

39

MR. STONEY: I second it.

40

41

42

MR. SAMPSON: There's a second. Discussion? All those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

43

44

(Unanimous response.)

45

46

MR. SAMPSON: All those nay.

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(No response.)

MR. SAMPSON: Motion approved. So the minutes for

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1 February and July 1995 have been adopted.

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I will now open the floor to public comments on Federal Subsistence Program. Is there any comments from the public in regards to the Federal Subsistence Program at this time?

MR. LONEWOLF: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. If we could get the information out to the public a little bit better on the subsistence regulations. A lot of times when I read them they're kind of confusing. I think maybe even if we put the changes or the updates in the local paper that might even help. Thank you.

MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. Is there any others? That's a good point, I think, that Pierre has brought out. You know, we do have the stuff in place at these meetings. We also have the materials. If there's any questions from the public at the Fish and Wildlife office or at the Park Service office, if anyone has any questions in regards to the issues.

But I think what's been said is that if there's a way we can put the information out publicly somewhere, either by radio or by media of some sort, maybe we can take a look at what we can do from that side of the picture. I don't know what -- what does the agency do out of Anchorage and Fairbanks in regards to publishing information of this sort to the public?

MR. KNAUER: We publish the salmon-colored book every year, which changes in color, to try and let people know, and then if there are changes that occur during the year, a season is going to be open or closed, some differences, we do put out a news releases and send it to newspapers and radio stations in the affected area as well as sending it to all the council members in each of the agencies.

One of the things that has been contemplated, and we have not accomplished it yet, is possibly trying to make a poster-sized sheet for regulations that affect that particular unit. That is still on the drawing board. We're still trying to figure out what might be the best ways, but we welcome any suggestions that a council might have.

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MR. SAMPSON: You do have media staff at your regional office levels, right?

MR. KNAUER: Yes. They're the ones that produce

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1 these books that you have and many of the handouts.

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MR. SAMPSON: Is there any way for your media department to, on a monthly basis maybe, have some sort of a radio talk show, just for people to -- so people will learn what's happening and give the opportunity for folks to call in with their concerns and their issues, so in that way they would have an opportunity to -- you know, sometimes you and I can produce stacks of paper and leave it at certain places, and a lot of times people won't even look at it, and the problem with that is that we expect people to know all that stuff when you and I are the entities that are part of a process to put that stuff together and yet expect the public to know everything that's been put in place. If we can get some sort of a blurb here and there through a media process, maybe that would be the way to look at it. It may be something that the agency can look at.

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MR. KNAUER: That's a real good idea. Our regional coordinators, such a Barbara Armstrong here in Kotzebue and John Andrew down in Bethel, I know have -- they are local individuals, they do speak Yup'ik, or Inupiaq, as the case may be, and both of them are more than willing to appear on local radio stations to be interviewed or on a talk show, either on a regular basis or on an as-needed basis to help spread the word or answer questions.

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MR. SAMPSON: Well, because the agency has a department, a media department, what I'm saying is that your department take that responsibility in order to get that stuff out and not only depend on Barb and the other individuals. You can work with them to come out with something that people can get information on.

35
36

MR. KNAUER: We'll work on that.

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MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. Any other comments from the public?

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For the record, Helen Armstrong is now here from Fish and Wildlife.

43
44

Any other comments?

45 With that, I'll shush, and we're going to
46 nominations at this time. We've got elections of officers
47 for Stan and Percy. It's just like any other organization
48 that is run throughout the region. We go through a yearly
49 process so that hopefully we'll rotate the position. We go
50 through the chairman, the vice chair, secretary, and then

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1 we'll go through council orientation a little bit after.
2

3 Because I am -- I don't know how we want to work
4 this. What's the process if we're going to go through an
5 election as a chair? Do I go through a process to elect the
6 first anyway, and then after that the new chair takes over?
7

8 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chairman, I nominate Walter
9 Sampson for chairman.
10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. I guess nominations are
12 open. Walter's name is nominated. There's nomination on the
13 floor. Is there any other nominations for chairman? Any
14 other nominations?
15

16 MR. CUSTER: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that
17 nominations be closed.
18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Stan. Well, I guess we
20 have no choice. There's a motion on the floor to close
21 nominations, and I will ask for a unanimous consent at this
22 time. Do you agree? Okay. I guess I will sit as the chair
23 for another year, and first of all, I will go through a
24 process where I can say my little speech. We will now go
25 through the process. Nominations are now open for vice chair
26 person.
27

28 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, I nominate for vice
29 chairman Pete Schaeffer.
30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Motion on the floor to nominate Pete
32 Schaeffer. Any other nominations? Any other nominations?
33

34 MR. CUSTER: Mr. Chairman?
35

36 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.
37

38 MR. CUSTER: I nominate Bert Griest.
39

40 MR. SAMPSON: There's a motion on the floor to
41 nominate Bert Griest.
42

43 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I move we close the

44 nominations.

45

46 MR. SAMPSON: There's a motion on the floor to
47 close nominations. Is there a second?

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49 MR. CUSTER: Second.

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1 MR. SAMPSON: All those in favor of the motion,
2 signify by saying aye.

3

4 (Unanimous response.)

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6 MR. SAMPSON: All those opposed?

7

8 (No response.)

9

10 MR. SAMPSON: You should have a pink -- there's
11 two nominations for vice president, Pete Schaeffer and Bert
12 Griest. Vote for one. Maybe Bill, you can probably just
13 help so the public will know that we did have somebody there
14 watching. That's part of a public process.

15

16 (Votes counted by Bill Knauer and Barbara
17 Armstrong.)

18

19 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman, we have
20 three and three. So you will have to do another vote.

21

22 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chairman, I request a
23 five-minute recess.

24

25 MR. SAMPSON: There's a motion on the floor for a
26 five-minutes recess.

27

28 (Recess taken.)

29

30 (Mr. Schaeffer no longer present.)

31

32 MR. SAMPSON: We'll start.

33

34 So based on what's been done, I guess Bert now is
35 the vice chair for the council. We will now open the floor
36 for nominations for secretary.

37

38 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, I nominate Percy
39 Ballot.

40

41 MR. SAMPSON: Percy Ballot has been nominated for
42 secretary. Any other nominations? Any other nominations?

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Hearing none, since Percy is the only nominee for secretary, I ask for a unanimous consent at this time. Is there any objections? Hearing none, Percy, you are now the secretary for the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

New council orientation. Barb?

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MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Prior to this meeting, I mailed a lot of information to both you and Stanley, Stanley and Percy, and the only thing that wasn't mailed to you was the meeting of February for the Northwest Arctic, and I think you guys are pretty much up to speed on what goes on with the Federal Program with other involvement you've had in the past, so any information or questions that you guys have, you guys have my 800 number and you can call me at any time.

MR. BALLOT: Thanks.

MR. SAMPSON: I guess, first of all, I want to say thank you for not getting me in the position, but having faith and trust in electing me to a chairmanship position, and I guess I'm going to have to go through another year of this, and in regards to representation of this advisory council, on any meetings that I go to, unless otherwise directed by the council, I do not speak for council on certain issues. If there's issues that are critical, then that direction comes from this council, and if the council says I'll present that to the Board or whatever, then I present that to the Board.

So I want to -- what I'm trying to say is that I do not present anything that this council does not pass through its process. If it's just information, I make that information available to the other organizations or to the Board that's been asked, and I will continue to go through that process.

Bert, do you have anything you want to say?

MR. GRIEST: I don't have anything.

MR. SAMPSON: Percy?

MR. BALLOT: No.

MR. SAMPSON: Under old business, the Federal Subsistence Board meeting is coming up, and usually -- I guess maybe we'll leave that to Bill. Bill, why don't you

42 update us on when the Federal Board's meeting is and what the
43 plans might be.

44

45 MR. KNAUER: The Federal Subsistence Board will be
46 meeting November 17th. They will meet and there will be a
47 special session to meet with the chairs of the regional
48 councils and also to bring you up to date on some past
49 occurrences. Of course, you remember back in April, the
50 first week in April, the Federal Subsistence Board met and

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1 reviewed all the proposals that had been submitted. I
2 believe there were -- I want to say 71.

3

4 MR. KOVACH: Sixty-one.

5

6 MR. KNAUER: Seventy-one. Seventy-one proposals
7 around the state. Of those 71 proposals, I believe there
8 were three that the Federal Subsistence Board did not agree
9 with the recommendation of the regional councils, only
10 three. Those were based on -- those differences were based
11 on biological considerations. There were five that the
12 Regional Councils had recommended referral, but because of
13 the Board process, the Board passed a denial which amounted
14 to the same thing, so their wording was a little different.

15

16 There were a number of requests for
17 reconsiderations of Board actions. Since that time, there
18 have been 14 requests for reconsideration on Board actions.
19 For the most part, we'll talk about that in a little while,
20 but since then, there was a Federal Subsistence Board meeting
21 in July to consider the moose season and the customary and
22 traditional use determinations on the Kenai Peninsula.

23

24 The Board had conducted, I believe, seven meetings
25 around the Kenai Peninsula. They were all well attended.
26 Mitch chaired six of the seven meetings. It was his first
27 opportunity to visit some of the communities down on the
28 Kenai Peninsula. There was an extreme amount of controversy
29 about the issue down there, and as a result of those
30 meetings, and regional council recommendation also, the Board
31 did adopt customary and traditional use determination for the
32 communities, some of the communities, down on the Peninsula
33 and instituted a moose season which started ten days prior to
34 the sport season, and the dates agreed with the regional
35 council recommendation. The regional council had recommended
36 any bull harvest; however, based on the biology and concern
37 for the health of the herd, the Board did institute a
38 spike-fork 50-inch limitation on the harvest.

39

40 There was a suit filed by the Ninilchik Tribal

41 Council, and in negotiations with the council, the Board did
42 provide for ten permits for cows and ten permits for
43 spike-fork bulls to be taken the first two weeks in September
44 in an area called the Skilak Loop Management Area. It is
45 primarily a viewing area.

46
47 The Board also met in September to review some
48 requests for reconsiderations, and those will also be
49 addressed in a little while. The Board meeting to discuss
50 the 1996-97 regulations will be held the first week in April,

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1 next year, in Anchorage.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Is that it?

4

5 MR. KNAUER: That's all.

6

7 MR. SAMPSON: Any questions or comments on Bill's
8 presentation? Yes, Bert.

9

10 MR. GRIEST: They did consider changing the daily
11 take of caribou for our area. Remember? When was it? Last
12 year or sometime? Introduced a proposal to increase our
13 daily take from five to fifteen. They approved it before
14 introduction at the April Board meeting.

15

16 I attended the Federal Subsistence Board meeting
17 on behalf of our council and represented our area when they
18 did consider it. They also -- in fact, we were talking about
19 the musk-ox for Deering and Buckland was introduced and that
20 passed as well. All the proposals that were introduced for
21 our area, as far as the subsistence programs go, went very
22 smoothly, were not controversial. They were discussed at the
23 local level to some extent by the agencies as well as some of
24 our communities, and basically, I guess, staff needs to
25 provide written information about this Federal Subsistence
26 Board meeting.

27

28 The next time we have our meeting or Federal
29 Subsistence Board meeting happens, I suggest that,
30 Mr. Chairman, the staff provide written material to us, a
31 written report regarding the Federal Subsistence Board
32 meeting, and after the Federal Subsistence Board meeting has
33 happened, that they also provide a little public media or
34 public information service like they should be.

35

36 They are basically supposed to be providing us
37 with administrative support and carrying out the subsistence
38 policies that we have on our federal lands and as Title VIII
39 is concerned as well as some of the laws that we have on the
federal lands in this area. That's basically what I wanted

40 to bring out.

41

42 MR. SAMPSON: I guess in regards to the report
43 that you're dealing on this is the Game Board maybe what
44 needs to occur is, I know it comes out in a thick document,
45 maybe do a summary and highlights of what those might be,
46 rather than looking at reading a thick document and tell us
47 or note and highlight what goes on at those meetings. Okay?

48

49 Is there any other comments or questions for
50 Bill?

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1 MR. BALLOT: If we could be connected like through
2 our villages by phone or something if people have comments or
3 want to make comments on the proposals. It's hard for us and
4 some of us can't all afford to come back down to where the
5 meetings are and make our comments, but by phone or
6 correspondence would be helpful.

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: I guess your concern there is during
9 the Game Board -- during the Federal Board meeting, or are
10 you referring to the proposals that will be sent in from
11 there to the Federal Board?

12

13 MR. BALLOT: Probably not the proposals but the
14 meetings, when they're going to make decisions on the
15 proposals.

16

17 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Usually we have
18 representatives from our region at those meetings and going
19 through a process. I don't know what the Board's thinking is
20 as far as doing that type of work outside, what occurs
21 through the meeting process. I know the media puts out a lot
22 of information as far as what goes on at the Board meeting.

23

24 MR. KNAUER: Right. I appreciate the suggestion
25 of putting out a written report on the results of each Board
26 meeting to the councils. I think that's a very good idea,
27 and I'll take that back, and we will go ahead and work on
28 that.

29

30 And as far as the telephone hookups, when there
31 has been a particularly controversial issue in an area and we
32 have known ahead of time that a community was interested, we
33 have arranged to have a telephone hookup to the community.

34

35 Like your chair mentioned, at each of the council
36 meetings, the chairs of the councils are invited to represent
37 the councils. In some cases where the chairs have not been
38 available, they have indicated that someone else would

39 represent the council. Frequently that will be the vice
40 chair or the secretary, but in other cases, particularly if
41 it's an issue that deals with one particular area where
42 another member of the council might be more knowledgeable
43 about the situation, they'll ask that individual to represent
44 the council.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: Any other comments or questions?

47
48 Hearing none, we'll go to the Park Service, Lois
49 DM. Well, that's what it says.
50

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1 MS. DALLEMOLLE: We have sort of a two-part piece
2 of information here for the board. I hate to be doing it.
3 That's not very satisfactory. Barb was feeling unwell and
4 needed to visit the hospital. So Mr. Chairman and Board, the
5 Park Service has some plans that they would like to share
6 with you for just their programs during the wintertime, and
7 Brad Shults would like to share those plans with you. He's
8 our biologist for the Park Service. Then there's also a
9 hunting plan that you have before you, and we'll discuss that
10 after Brad has briefed you on the Park Service plans.

11
12 MR. SHULTS: I'm Brad Shults, wildlife monitor for
13 the Park Service. I just want to give you kind of an update
14 and a chance to ask questions of any of us here about what
15 we've been doing and what we have planned for the winter.

16
17 MR. SAMPSON: Do you want to come up here?

18
19 MR. SHULTS: Basically, just a rundown by species,
20 I think, might be easiest, and Jim, you can jump in or
21 LeeAnne or anybody else who has worked with the information,
22 too. But for the winter, we've basically got plans to do a
23 moose survey in the Noatak in the western half again and
24 continue to collect abundant information there.

25
26 We're also planning this year for the first time
27 to get some information in the Kobuk between about Kiana and
28 Ambler and do the same type of survey there, and Fish and
29 Game and then the Park Service from Gates of the Arctic is
30 going to do a moose survey above Kobuk and Shungnak up to
31 Walker Lake basically.

32
33 So we have got three surveys planned and we'll see
34 how the snow conditions go to get those done. Right now
35 we've got 94 -- we've got 96 moose collared, roughly
36 somewhere in that neighborhood, and we're monitoring about 92
37 of those, I believe, just on the recent flights. Half are

38 males collared and half are females. No new big surprises
39 with the moose population in the Noatak. It's probably still
40 declining. The calf production has been pretty poor.
41 Interest in hunting is still high. So we can probably expect
42 that population to continue its slow decline until we get
43 better calf production.

44
45 Sheep surveys were done again in July. We're
46 encouraged by what we saw in terms of land production. We
47 had the highest land production we've seen since we've been
48 doing these types of surveys since 1986. They have been
49 hovering around 20 lambs per 100 ewes, and this year we have
50 over 50 in both the survey areas, so it was encouraging.

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1 However, the adult numbers continue to decline,
2 and that's been a concern for us, and so we'll just have to
3 continue monitoring that. That season has been closed again
4 this year, and probably will continue to be closed until the
5 production picks up there.

6
7 Other than that, if you want specific information,
8 you can always see me at the Park Service and I can provide
9 it for you or anyone else in the agencies. Fish and Game is
10 planning to do their Western Arctic caribou herd census this
11 year to get an abundance estimate for caribou. And I think
12 that's about it unless you have questions.

13
14 MR. SAMPSON: Any questions for comments for
15 Brad?

16
17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where are you monitoring
18 the moose at?

19
20 MR. SHULTS: There's 92 moose radio collared or 96
21 moose radio collared in the Noatak.

22
23 MR. SAMPSON: Bert.

24
25 MR. GRIEST: On the Noatak moose, is it primarily
26 the calf problem that's causing the decline or are there also
27 hunting pressures?

28
29 MR. SHULTS: I think that the thing is that
30 they've had pretty poor calf production for several years,
31 and I think -- I wasn't here, but in 1990-91 they had some
32 pretty severe winters and they took a pretty good digger
33 there with high mortality basically, and there's just not
34 enough calves being produced to replace the ones that are
35 dieing. It's that simple.

36

37 Hunting is certainly exacerbating or certainly has
38 an effect on the total number of moose standing out there,
39 but you've got to remember, and everybody in the region
40 knows, there's pretty high predator numbers, too. So it's a
41 combination of winter predation and hunting, and eliminating
42 hunting probably wouldn't change the fact that that herd is
43 declining because the calf production is so low. We're
44 looking at 16 calves per 100 cows, and that's not very many.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: Do you have any numbers as to what,
47 just from the hunting side, what is being taken, what's been
48 taken this year?

49
50 MR. SHULTS: I don't know about this year. It

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1 takes awhile for that to filter in from the harvest ticket
2 reports, but basically harvest ticket reports is the only
3 information --

4
5 MR. SAMPSON: What was it last year?

6
7 MR. SHULTS: I don't know. I don't have it with
8 me. Jim might be able to answer how many, an estimate.

9
10 MR. DAN: It's gone down for the last two or three
11 years harvest in the Noatak. Last year it was, I think,
12 right around 100, give or take a few, but total harvest has
13 been going down for three or four years. Numbers of hunters
14 have still been going up even with the controlled use area.
15 Success rates are going down. For the last two years they've
16 been less than 50-percent success rates.

17
18 MR. SAMPSON: What type of monitoring is there
19 being done in regards to the moose just within the Noatak
20 area?

21
22 MR. SHULTS: We're basically doing the fall
23 surveys, and that gives us an abundance estimate of how many
24 moose are standing out there, and it also gives us the
25 composition data, how many calves, how many small bulls,
26 medium bulls, large bulls in terms of antler-size classes,
27 and it gives us an estimate of how many females are standing
28 out there, too. So we're just basically doing that every
29 fall.

30
31 We did a major census in '93 and basically we did
32 the Kelly and Kugururok drainages, about a 1,600 square-mile
33 area. We can't afford to do that in terms of personnel and
34 money every year, and we just don't get the weather for it,
35 so we cut that area in half, and we're trying to do some of

36 the higher density moose habitat, which is basically the
37 Kelly and the Lower Noatak above the Noatak village. We're
38 going to try to do that every year, and that gives us an
39 estimate of what some of the best habitat is doing in the
40 Noatak, and that's what we're trying to do up there, and
41 we're using the radio collars to determine distribution of
42 moose and that helps us to find census areas.

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Bert.

45

46 MR. GRIEST: Are we even on a sustained yield type
47 of harvesting then of this moose in Noatak, or are we
48 allowing them to decline to a point where we might have to
49 cut off hunting, guiding, and then subsistence?

50

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20

1 MR. SHULTS: I think as I mentioned and Jim
2 mentioned, the harvest has been declining and hovering around
3 100 moose, but you've got to remember that the season was
4 closed for two weeks, and it's still pretty high, which
5 speaks to the issue of increased hunter interest. There's
6 just plenty of people out there who keep the numbers
7 harvested up.

8

9 It's certainly, in my opinion, declining, and not
10 at a fast rate, and like I said, I'm not sure if you
11 eliminated hunting at this point whether that would allow it
12 to begin a slow increase or not. Because of the high numbers
13 of predators and the poor calf production, I'd say if you had
14 high calf production and low numbers of predators, you would
15 be okay right now. I can't give you a yes or no answer on
16 whether it's being harvested would sustain a yield.

17

18 MR. GRIEST: So you're saying you're not sure
19 whether we have a sustained yield harvesting system in place
20 now?

21

22 MR. SHULTS: What I'm saying is under the current
23 harvest pressure, that population is going to decline, and
24 that eliminating hunting may or may not turn that around. I
25 don't know.

26

27 MR. GRIEST: I am kind of concerned about that
28 primarily for the local subsistence users, and I'd hate to
29 get to a point where we would start kind of getting a public
30 debate between subsistence users and guides and sport hunters
31 and things like that. I think we need to try to institute
32 some kind of a sustained yield harvest with subsistence or
33 local use having the priority and to keep a close eye on that
34 before it gets to a point where it's controversial.

35

36

MR. SHULTS: I think the one thing to comment there on is that what's really important right now is having the number of reproducing females standing out there. We have an either-sex hunt that goes from basically November 1st through the end of March, and the hunters are selecting very large bulls. Those large bulls are older age bulls that have a higher likelihood of being killed by predators which are out there.

44

45

What we need to protect are the reproducing females, and if you want to ensure that that calf production is high, the thing -- the most prudent thing to do would be to protect those females, and we would have to look at that, which would mean going to a bull hunt in the winter, which people don't want to do.

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I don't think it's that critical at this point. I think we've got two years of really good information coupled with five or six years of composition data that said it had been declining. Compared statewide, we've got one of the healthier moose populations around.

MR. SAMPSON: What's being done in regards to, I guess, you have the big game hunters that have some permits to go into parks or to the preserves. You also have air carriers dropping hunters out. Is there any type of monitoring that's going for this active use?

MR. SHULTS: We have the whole permitting process, which I'm not overly familiar with because we have different kinds of permits, and maybe Lois will speak to how those are given out. But we did this year, which I should report on, is we put two people up at the Kelly Station for two weeks and they monitored aircraft and use on the river for 12 hours a day during those two weeks, and that's kind of our first step at getting some baseline information on how much activity is going on.

There's a lot of ifs, ands, or buts about what they're seeing up there, and not every plane goes by the Kelly Station, but it is a beginning to monitor that kind of activity. With one period of information, we can't say whether that's a lot or a little, but over the years we can. So we are trying to gather that information.

MR. GRIEST: Is the information between the federal and state fairly identical then in terms of the survey of moose in the Noatak area?

34 MR. SHULTS: Yeah. We're working together in
35 terms of funding, people, and everything, coordinating all
36 these activities. We may differ a little bit on our
37 interpretations, but everyone does. I think in general, when
38 it comes to regulatory issues, we sit down and discuss all
39 the regulatory issue. These closures aren't going through
40 without us discussing them.

41
42 I think the moose situation in general is
43 something to keep an eye on at this point, and some initial
44 work was done with the two-week closure in September. That's
45 an initial stab at trying to slow things down a little bit,
46 but there's other things to look at, and I think we're ahead
47 here by monitoring what's going on in a bunch of different
48 areas for comparison.

49
50 MR. BALLOT: Is there any way -- are they having

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1 malnutrition or are they competing for food or things like
2 that?

3
4 MR. SHULTS: I think it's a lot of things. One
5 thing is that we get our calf estimates in the fall, and we
6 don't have real good estimates of how many calves are
7 actually born and hit the ground, and what the twinning rate
8 is, and so we're getting what's survived through pretty heavy
9 predation in the summer. Calves are really vulnerable early
10 on. So the condition of the animals, they may be twinning
11 like crazy out there, although we don't think they are.
12 There's calves hitting the ground, but the predation is
13 probably pretty high on those calves. We don't have an
14 estimate of what that is.

15
16 So there may be a lot of calves hitting the
17 ground, but they're just not being recruited into the
18 population each year. We're not seeing many yearlings
19 basically, and that could be from predation, it could be
20 nutritionally, but they're not even hitting the ground, but
21 we think they are.

22
23 MR. SAMPSON: Any other comments, questions? Now,
24 is there any plans on addressing that this year or are you
25 going to continue to gather information for the year?

26
27 MR. SHULTS: I think we're going to continue to
28 gather information to see how it goes.

29
30 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman?

31
32 MR. SAMPSON: Raymond.

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MR. STONEY: When were you planning to do your surveys this fall? Right after freeze-up?

MR. SHULTS: Any time from here out. We're waiting for snow. You need a good snow cover for good sight ability to see the moose, and last year we did the surveys about the 20th of October. We had early snow, and it worked great. The previous year to that we didn't do them until November.

MR. STONEY: So that will be the Park and State together?

MR. SHULTS: Right.

MR. SAMPSON: Thanks, Brad.

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Hunting plan.

MS. DALLEMOLLE: Board members, you have before you a packet that says, "A Draft Hunting Plan Recommendation, Number 11," and that's the topic right now. This is the recommendation that came from the Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic National Park, and I'm not sure if you've had a chance to read it or not, but what it recommends, again, that National Parks and Monuments have an advisory board specific to the park and monument in the same way that you're the advisory board to the federal system.

So Gates of the Arctic National Park, their advisory board specific to that park area has recommended there be a change in determining customary and traditional use for Gates of the Arctic National Park, and what they would like to see in this hunting plan recommendation is that all of their identified resident villages have a determination for customary and traditional use within Gates of the Arctic National Park. That's basically what it says.

I guess it's not my position to comment or advocate one way or the other on that because it comes from the Resource Commission. There are a couple points you might want to be aware of. In recommending this determination, it would mean that Ambler and Shungnak and Kobuk would be the three villages that would be considered to have customary and traditional use for subsistence purposes in Gates of the Arctic National Park. Part of that is in Unit 23 which is why they are asking for your comment on this.

32 A couple things that that would do is that also in
33 the resident zone for Gates of the Arctic National Park, our
34 villages like Alatna, Allakaket, Anaktuvuk Pass, Hughes,
35 Wiseman, those folks also under this recommendation would
36 have customary and traditional use of that portion of Gates
37 of the Arctic National Park. That's in Unit 23. That is not
38 how it is now, so that would be a difference. There would be
39 people from as far away as Wiseman that would be able to come
40 into Unit 23 and hunt in that real far Upper Kobuk area above
41 Ambler that's in Gates of the Arctic National Park. That
42 would be a change.

43
44 The Resource Commission for Kobuk Valley National
45 Park and for Krusenstern National Park, we have those also,
46 has recommended that within the NANA Region, everybody in the
47 NANA Region be treated the same and everybody be allowed to
48 hunt everywhere within the Region to keep this sort of
49 unitary because we all have sort of the same background and
50 customs in this Region. This proposal from Gates of the

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1 Arctic would be a little different than that recommendation
2 because it would have people coming into an area that is a
3 little different than the way it is now, so that would be one
4 change.

5
6 The other change would be that folks that are not
7 living in Ambler, Kobuk, or Shungnak would need to have a
8 permit, as we read it and understand it, and again, I'm not
9 speaking for the council. I'm just presenting this, but as
10 we understand it, people not in Ambler, Shungnak, or Kobuk,
11 but in the NANA Region would need a permit to hunt in the
12 Gates of the Arctic National Park, that part that's in the
13 NANA Region, the Unit 23, and that's not how it is now
14 either.

15
16 So those would be two changes associated with this
17 that I wanted you to be aware of, but they're asking for your
18 input on that change, and they would like to recommend this
19 to the Secretary of the Interior as a change, and they're
20 asking your input because it affects Unit 23, which is your
21 region.

22
23 MR. SAMPSON: Any comments? Bert.

24
25 MR. GRIEST: I only -- my father was born in Kogru
26 River and grew up around that area. His relatives, brothers
27 and a lot of his relatives in Kiana as well grew up around
28 there, and in fact, they used to go from Selawik to Barter
29 Island and Barrow and then back here. They need a permit
30 now, is that the way I understand it, to go back to their

31 traditional hunting ground?

32

33 MS. DALLEMOLLE: Again, I can't speak for this
34 council's recommendation specifically because they don't have
35 a person here, and I'm not familiar with what they talked
36 about, but our reading of it, and Clarence, maybe you can
37 help me out on this, is that the people listed in this first
38 paragraph here would have the right to hunt in Gates of the
39 Arctic National Park, some of which is in Unit 23 here, that
40 part that's above the Ambler River, and we can point it out
41 on the map, I think, too, but if you're not part of these
42 villages listed here, then it would be by permit, and we're
43 talking about this area that's right up in here.

44

45 It's still part of Unit 23, and as it is now, the
46 people that live in the NANA Region have the customary and
47 traditional use in that region. This would be some other
48 people in addition to what there is now. That's our
49 understanding of it. Clarence, is that fair?

50

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25

1 MR. SUMMERS: Yeah.

2

3 MS. DALLEMOLLE: Again, we can't speak for the
4 council. They just asked us to present it to you.

5

6 MR. GRIEST: I'm not sure. Most of the
7 townspeople are around from around this area, but there are
8 some people in, I know, Selawik, Noorvik, Kiana that used to
9 go up there, just by being around my relatives, you know.
10 I'm not sure how to respond to this. It's just kind of like
11 why are we allowing them to have permits to go to their
12 traditional hunting grounds?

13

14 I mean, you know, I could see a need if there are
15 restrictions that you need to put and if there's a shortage
16 of resources and that there would be priorities, and this, I
17 guess, the information I'm presenting to you is stuff that
18 happened quite awhile back, but most of them are probably not
19 running around up there any more, but there are some people
20 that have families and some people that do hunt and used to
21 hunt up there.

22

23 My concern is that we would kind of maybe a
24 lifetime permit be given to them or -- so see the thing
25 that -- I also got relatives over there on Anaktuvuk Pass
26 and all the way up Barter Island, Barrow, and even as a
27 relative if I go visit, I can get a permit probably, but kind
28 of stopping our family traditional use of the areas and then
29 bringing down the family so pretty soon only family allowed

30 to hunt would be the ones that are just in that area and
31 everybody else kind of have to get a permit, but all the
32 other family members won't be able to if they live in another
33 area. I got mixed emotions.

34
35 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe what can be done here, Bert,
36 is one of two things: One is make a recommendation to the
37 Gates of the Arctic Resource Commission to include those
38 folks with custom and traditional use of those areas with a
39 lifetime permit, or to include Selawik in that matter to use
40 the portions of Unit 23 within the Gates. So one of those
41 two options probably can be recommended, and I think maybe
42 one of those two can be recommended from this commission.

43
44 MS. DALLEMOLLE: Would it be useful to ask that
45 there be some more dialogue between their Resource Commission
46 and you folks, since again, I wasn't there when they
47 developed this, none of us were, and we're not really quite
48 sure what the intent was?

49
50 MR. GRIEST: The thing that concerned me,

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1 Mr. Chairman, is that as time goes by, the amount of people
2 that could use it just shrinks. It's starting with this
3 right now.

4
5 MS. DALLEMOLLE: Except in this case, it's also
6 allowing a number of other villages to come into that area
7 that don't exist right now, which is different than the way
8 we've looked at the NANA Region as being sort of unitary and
9 everybody being treated the same for all portions of the
10 region. That's one of the big differences that it has.

11
12 MR. GRIEST: What we have is by communities, by
13 and large, that would be allowed, and not everybody goes up
14 there, but certain families do, used to, but that's part of
15 the problem here. Same thing with Kiana and people at
16 Noorvik that used to do that when they were young.

17
18 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe what you ought to do then is
19 make a recommendation to include Selawik on the list there,
20 see if they will buy that off, and we can make that
21 recommendation from this commission to the Gates.

22
23 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, these letters state
24 that Shungnak and the other two villages are not in favor of
25 these proposals of the boundary.

26
27 MS. DALLEMOLLE: That's a different issue. Those
28 letters are coming down to the boundary down under 6.

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MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman?

MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

MR. STONEY: Does the boundary -- it's the first time I've ever seen the written. I think that's pretty confused. However, for your information, there was a call from the real old members of Kobuk and Shungnak that they met with the people in Hughes, Wiseman 50 years ago, and they made an agreement between the two parts of this state, so we all hunt in your area and my area and work as a team. So that's been going on ever since I don't know, but I know it was agreed 50 years ago. Otherwise, I see people as far as Wiseman go hunt.

MR. SAMPSON: So the boundary that they're dealing with now is a completely different issue?

MS. DALLEMOLLE: Yes. Those are two separate things.

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MR. SAMPSON: I guess going back to -- and I'm not trying to turn anybody down. I'm just trying to address Bert's concern here in regards to the communities that's been identified as traditional users, and maybe, Bert, during a short break you can put together a quick recommendation for us to recommend to the Gates Resource Commission to include Selawik or residents or some of the residents of Selawik for a lifetime permit.

MR. GRIEST: So Kiana and Noorvik maybe. Kiana, I know.

MS. DALLEMOLLE: Well, now the customary and traditional use determination for the area is all of the NANA Region, so you could even recommend that.

MR. SAMPSON: So at this time, let's take a quick break and we can go back to finishing this.

(Recess taken.)

MR. SAMPSON: We will reconvene at this time.

Bert, you have a recommendation that we would like to make in regards to the hunting plan recommendation for Gates of the Arctic.

28 MR. GRIEST: Yes, Mr. Chairman. A couple things:
29 One is that we got relatives in traditional use of these
30 resources between almost all the villages from way back, and
31 I'd hate to start using time as the tool to start restricting
32 the amount of -- between the big family, Inupiaq family,
33 between Potter Island and the whole area. We predominately
34 share the resources, and it goes from way back when, and when
35 we start using time, and just because some of us kind of quit
36 using that area, I'd hate to give the managers, be it federal
37 or state, the authority to divide us, especially if we had
38 traditional and customary use of the resources.
39

40 In fact, some people used to go from all the
41 villages in our area up that way, way, way, way back, and I
42 think I would encourage council to maybe we include all of
43 the villages, the whole Unit 23, to also be included in that
44 area would be my recommendation because I don't think we
45 should start shrinking policies of between the whole big
46 family in some areas. It's a shrinking. It starts shrinking
47 the number of users by just considering the recommendation
48 like that. We've got to expand it to include our whole
49 area.
50

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1 MR. SAMPSON: So your recommendation would be to
2 include the NANA Region --
3

4 MR. GRIEST: Unit 23.
5

6 MR. SAMPSON: -- as part of the C&T within the
7 Gates of the Arctic within the NANA Region?
8

9 MR. GRIEST: Using the time to go back all the way
10 to whatever, 1700s, 1600s, whatever it takes.
11

12 MR. SAMPSON: Would you put that in a formal
13 motion and direct staff to correspond with the Gates to make
14 sure to include that within their plan?
15

16 MR. GRIEST: I make the motion then to include the
17 whole Unit 23 and to have staff come up with -- there should
18 be some information available. If not, you can probably find
19 it from someplace by asking the local people, too, on whether
20 they like this idea or not as well, even during public
21 hearings. So I make that motion to include Unit 23 as
22 customary and traditional users of Gates of the Arctic.
23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. There's a motion on the floor
25 to include Unit 23. Is there a second?
26

27 MR. CUSTER: Second.
28
29 MR. SAMPSON: Second. Discussion? Bert, I guess
30 under the plan that the Kobuk Valley or in the Cape
31 Krusenstern is that we included the NANA Region villages as
32 C&T, and what you're saying on this other is Unit 23, so
33 there's a difference between Unit 23 and the NANA Region
34 villages because I think Unit 23 includes Arctic Slope?
35
36 MR. GRIEST: I see what you're saying.
37
38 MS. DALLEMOLLE: Unit 23 is going up in here.
39
40 MR. GRIEST: I wouldn't have information on the
41 Point Hope area. I know we have some relatives over there,
42 too. Maybe I ought to just not resume my motion, but amend
43 my motion to say NANA Region villages right now.
44
45 MR. SAMPSON: There's a motion to amend the
46 original motion. Is there a second?
47
48 MR. BALLOT: Second.
49
50 MR. SAMPSON: There's a second. Discussion?

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1 MR. CUSTER: Question.
2
3 MR. SAMPSON: Question has been called for. All
4 those in favor of the motion on the amendment to include the
5 NANA Region villages and not Unit 23, signify by saying aye.
6
7 (Unanimous response.)
8
9 MR. SAMPSON: All opposed.
10
11 (No response.)
12
13 MR. SAMPSON: Motion carries.
14
15 The motion, original motion, is that under the
16 customary and traditional use recommendation to the Gates of
17 the Arctic would be to include the NANA Region villages
18 within their hunting plan. Am I correct on that?
19
20 MR. GRIEST: (Nodding.)
21
22 MR. SAMPSON: So that's the original motion. All
23 those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.
24
25 (Unanimous response.)

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MR. SAMPSON: All opposed?

(No response.)

MR. SAMPSON: Motion carries.

So that's done then. We will continue and go into the BLM report at this time. Before we go into the BLM report -- go ahead. We've got a sign-in sheet over there. We've got only a few bodies that's signed up with a lot of people in the audience, so sign in as you have time. Why don't you just pass that around, Lois?

MS. MORKILL: Mr. Chairman, I'm Anne Morkill, biologist with the Bureau of Land Management out of the Fairbanks office, and I'll just give a brief rundown of some of our wildlife projects, and Randy will go into some other details.

Just real briefly, the BLM and National Park Service participated in the musk-ox permit distribution process in August, and I prepared a summary report of that, and a copy was sent to Chairman Sampson, and we'll probably talk a little bit more in detail about that further in the

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agenda. Steve is on the agenda to talk about the musk-ox. There is a musk-ox census planned for the spring of '96, and that will include that portion of 23 in the Buckland and Deering area and the Buckland River drainage to get an updated status on the musk-ox herd.

This last summer the BLM relocated a number of vegetation transects in the Buckland Valley that were monitored in the early 1980s to look at caribou use during the winter, and those transects were again studied this summer, and we're in the process of coming up with a long-term monitoring program to look at effects of caribou wintering use of that particular area, and we'll probably expand that effort out of the Buckland Valley into some other wintering areas, and Randy was a co-investigator on that project, so if you have any specific questions, she can answer them.

In terms of any moose projects, we've been looking at peripherally what's going on in the Squirrel River area with hunting pressure, and we are on a five-year rotation in 1992. We did a moose census in cooperation with Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service, and we've got that planned for 1997, probably no sooner, so we'll be doing

25 another census in there and have someone to look at hunting
26 and some of these other factors they've found in the other
27 drainages what effect it is having on the moose population in
28 the Squirrel River. And other than that, we've assisted to
29 some extent with the Tag River moose study with Fish and
30 Wildlife Service.

31
32 MR. SAMPSON: You said that there is a
33 five-year -- five-year --

34
35 MS. MORKILL: Five-year rotation on doing moose
36 surveys in particular areas, and that's basically in line
37 with what Fish and Games tries to do.

38
39 MR. SAMPSON: So every five years you would get
40 the Squirrel?

41
42 MS. MORKILL: That's correct.

43
44 MR. SAMPSON: What would happen in between because
45 of the abundance of hunter use and the hunting pressure into
46 that area within a five-year period? You have problems with
47 moose, how are you going to address that?

48
49 MS. MORKILL: We won't be able to address it from
50 the perspective of what's happening to the moose unless we

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1 felt there was a great concern that something has happened
2 significantly within that five-year period.

3
4 MR. SAMPSON: What's significant?

5
6 MR. MORKILL: That's a good question. We don't
7 have any measure of that. We're monitoring hunter use in the
8 area and assuming we've got that information in '97 and can
9 make changes if we need to. We had a pretty healthy moose
10 population in there in 1992.

11
12 MR. SAMPSON: That was what? Three years ago.

13
14 MS. MORKILL: Three years ago. It's just been
15 within the last couple of years, every year we seem to have a
16 lot of comments from local people that the use is
17 increasing.

18
19 MR. SAMPSON: That's why I'm making the comment or
20 questioning you because of the public that's, you know,
21 raising concerns in regards to the pressure on the Squirrel,
22 and if resources is being diminished by the public for
23 hunting, you know, we've got a problem. I think that's why I

24 question you in regards to the five-year location.

25

26 MS. MEYERS: Walter?

27

28 MR. SAMPSON: I wanted to ask Anne. I wonder what
29 the potential if we wanted to shorten up that period and make
30 it two or three years.

31

32 MS. MORKILL: It's not carved in concrete that we
33 can only do it every five years, so that's something we would
34 discuss, particularly with Fish and Game and the other
35 agencies with the resources. BLM probably does not have the
36 resources to do a full-blown census on our own, so we really
37 rely on the cooperation of the other agencies. So if we had
38 some other concerns, we would enter into discussions with the
39 other agencies and see if we could pull it off sooner than
40 that.

41

42 MR. SAMPSON: BLM does not have resources?

43

44 MS. MORKILL: Not for that particular -- in terms
45 of fiscal resources and personnel, we couldn't do it alone.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe you ought to hear something
48 that Raymond could probably update you on because he does do
49 a lot of flying within those areas through the course of this
50 hunting season and gives you a little bit of a picture as to

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1 what he sees and the type of activity that goes on within
2 those areas.

3

4 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My recent
5 flight patrols in the last two months, like I said, the
6 Squirrel River has a lot of -- well, maybe I should say
7 pressure hunters because I see in that one week approximately
8 eight camps. Were these hunters or just the people that
9 wanted to hunt? Did BLM issue the permits? Were they
10 hunters?

11

12 MS. MEYERS: We have approximately six special
13 recreation permit holders in the Squirrel River at this
14 point, and we have one person who is potentially up for
15 renewal who hasn't turned in the paperwork yet, and another
16 person who would be a new person who also hasn't turned in
17 the paperwork. So there's potentially eight, but right now
18 there are six.

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman? Do you give
21 information out on what you're going to be doing in these
22 villages or public service announcements or something about

23 what you're going to be doing and all that?

24

25 MS. MEYERS: We haven't really done much of that
26 in the past. I was going to talk a little bit about the
27 Environmental Impact Statement process for the Squirrel River
28 proposal for wild and scenic, and so with respect to that
29 project, we have put out some public notices and letters to
30 people, but in the general every day and every month work of
31 BLM in the Squirrel and on the Seward Peninsula, we haven't,
32 and if that turns out to be a concern that people would like
33 some sort of idea or update seasonally, that's something we
34 could certainly --

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: If you're going to address that
37 later in your presentation, that's good. Maybe we ought to
38 continue with discussion in regards to Stoney's report here.
39 Go ahead.

40

41 MR. STONEY: Evidently, what I've seen I was very
42 concerned about this number of camps I've seen. Like you
43 say, six permits were issued, and I'd seen eight, and will
44 there be any resource protection officer from BLM in that
45 area this season?

46

47 MS. MEYERS: Unfortunately, Mike Bilbrey who is
48 our ranger and works in this area, he works also in other
49 areas in northern Alaska, but he tried three different times
50 to get to Kotzebue, and unfortunately, was unsuccessful each

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1 time. So I did make one night on the 20th of September
2 specifically with the idea to travel each of the drainages
3 and to mark on a map where the camps were to land at a few
4 places and talk to some of the hunters, and I should have
5 gotten out a few more times than just one, but I have talked
6 with Bill Pagel who is the Fish and Wildlife protection
7 officer with the state.

8

9 I've gotten some information from when he flew in
10 the Squirrel, and then I have a phone call in to
11 Benningfield, Curt Benningfield, who is also a Fish and
12 Wildlife protection officer from Kodiak. He was here and
13 spent a fair amount of time on the Squirrel, and he's a very
14 busy person. So I saw him twice to talk with him
15 specifically and tried to visit with him while he was here,
16 but was unable, but he is a very important person to get more
17 information about specifically what he saw, how many people,
18 where, and when.

19

20 I drew up a report last year, just a very brief
21 summary, of the various transporters based in Kotzebue who

22 were flying people into the Squirrel and then talked to other
23 people who had used the Squirrel recreationally to try to get
24 an idea of how many people were there last year, and I'm
25 doing the same thing this year, so I can see that that
26 particular report would be an excellent one to share with the
27 Board members to let you know what BLM has gathered for 1994
28 and 1995, so I'll be glad to do that.

29
30 And we are concerned with the increasing level of
31 use. We do have the integrated activity plan which has been
32 drawn up.

33
34 Anne, do you know, has that been finalized?

35
36 MS. MORKILL: No.

37
38 MS. MEYERS: We have a draft that's been sent out
39 for comment and review, and the person who put it together is
40 no longer with BLM in the state of Alaska, but he set up some
41 very good guidelines in terms of monitoring, how many times
42 we should float the Squirrel River as BLM people to take a
43 look at campsites and to talk to people.

44
45 So we do plan to put that into action and that
46 will get us out there a little bit more, and there were
47 specific guidelines to follow. If you are on the river as a
48 BLM person and you encounter two different camps that both
49 say to you there's been too much activity, our wilderness
50 experience was not what we expected, then BLM has to take

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1 action. So there are certain guidelines.

2
3 MR. STONEY: My appearance of this summer was not
4 effecting any subject at all for the hunt. They were
5 approximately 20 miles from Kiana. They were all on head of
6 the Squirrel to the North Fork and Omar, and few were on the
7 river, but I was concerned by it because I tried to call but
8 I wasn't successful. Do you have an office here in Kotzebue
9 that issues these permits if they ask for them?

10
11 MS. MEYERS: Right. Usually the request might
12 come into me directly in Kotzebue and I would process it, and
13 what I do is to write an environmental assessment which would
14 say, among other things, how many other permittees do we have
15 now currently, and then try to look at the impact a little
16 bit on wildlife and other resources, and it goes to the
17 Fairbanks office in a draft form, and then various people who
18 have expertise in the area of wildlife and fisheries and
19 recreation take a look at it and make their comments. In the
20 past, we have not turned down anyone who has requested, but

21 things change, and if it looks like we have too many, we can
22 start to set some guidelines about --

23
24 MR. STONEY: My last question is, how many permits
25 can you issue? Do you have a limit to it?

26
27 MS. MEYERS: At this point, we have no limit.

28
29 MR. STONEY: Okay. That's all I have,
30 Mr. Chairman.

31
32 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Raymond. I think you
33 mentioned some good points in regards to some of the ways
34 that BLM does things. One is the integrated plan that you
35 talked about. Now, if that integrated plan is going through
36 its process, is that just written at the Fairbanks or
37 Kotzebue level or what?

38
39 MS. MEYERS: It was written at the Fairbanks level
40 by Dave Fletch, and he was a graduate student at the
41 University in Fairbanks, and he was also working for BLM at
42 the same time, and his area of study was generally recreation
43 and recreation management. So he was working on his
44 master's, and that integrated activity plan which was several
45 hundred pages long, was basically his master thesis. So that
46 was the process there, but he interacted widely with people
47 in Anchorage, BLM, and also down in the Lower 48.

48
49 MR. SAMPSON: I guess maybe what I'm leading to
50 there is that if any plans are being written at that level,

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1 we need to relook at the way and the process we do things,
2 because if those plans are going to work, both for BLM and
3 for the public, then the way it's done now is never going to
4 work.

5
6 MS. MEYERS: There was --

7
8 MR. SAMPSON: The reason I say that is that any
9 time you and I put together a plan for someone else and say,
10 here is a plan, you got two weeks to review it, people will
11 say, plan? With no input from them. They will give us the
12 input, and too often we will ignore those inputs and finish
13 the product that we started. If that plan is going to work,
14 then the way we do things is going to have to change.

15
16 If that plan has been passed the way it was
17 written, we definitely create some problems for ourselves as
18 well as for the agency because of several reasons. One is
19 that because of lack of understanding of those folks that are

20 putting the plan together for those areas that is going to
21 have an impact on, any time you don't involve folks into a
22 process, it has a big impact on them. And a lot of folks
23 will say, well, that's BLM plan, not our plan, so they have a
24 tendency to ignore that plan.

25
26 Now, if we can reverse that to where people, a
27 public, would become part of a process to where an agency
28 goes into certain areas and asks, what would you like to see
29 on this plan? How would you like to do this plan? As long
30 as you ask people or public to be part of a process, people
31 will have a tendency to respect that plan and will have
32 ownership of the plan, and in a sense then, that plan will
33 work a lot better than having somebody hand you down a plan.

34
35 I guess what I'm leading to is any time we go
36 through a plan process, we need to start at those levels
37 where people would be impacted by any plan, and like I said,
38 you and I can get someone to write a plan first that's going
39 through college. Number one, the college individual does not
40 know maybe what the impacts might have at the local level in
41 Kiana, as an example. The use of those areas he might not
42 understand, and what impacts it would have at the community
43 level, and there's a lot of other areas that that individual
44 might not know, so what I'm trying to say is that any time
45 we're going to do a plan, we need to reverse that to where we
46 involve folks to put together that plan.

47
48 I say that because of the fact that the plans that
49 have been previously written usually they're written by
50 planners and college students like you've mentioned at their

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1 level with no involvement. And by doing that, it creates two
2 things: One, it creates a hard feeling between the agency
3 and the different user groups; and two, it creates a hardship
4 for those folks who try to find out what's happening within
5 those lands.

6
7 Unless we reverse that process to where we include
8 those folks, then any plan, I don't care what kind, whether
9 it might be a state plan or federal plan, we need to reverse
10 it to where we start at the local level to involve folks
11 through that process. That way management from that side of
12 the picture will be happy with what's been done. People who
13 are being impacted by the plan will be happy saying that they
14 were part of a process and will have ownership of the plan,
15 and they will have a respect for the plan, and I think we
16 need to start looking at how we do a plan process. So with
17 that, I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

18

19 MS. MEYERS: No, and I understand your point, and
20 it is a good one, and I neglected to say, unfortunately, that
21 for this integrated activity plan we did have a local
22 planning group, a local focus group that met several times in
23 person in Fairbanks and had a number of teleconferences. So
24 there were people from Kiana that were involved in that group
25 and people from Kotzebue, local people, private citizens, a
26 few agency people, and there were big lists of their concerns
27 that were integrated into the activity plan, so that
28 definitely happened.

29
30 MR. SAMPSON: Good to hear that. I understood it
31 the other way.

32
33 MS. MEYERS: And you were asking some leading
34 questions, and that focus group just had slipped out of my
35 mind, but obviously now it's right front and center.

36
37 MR. SAMPSON: That's good. Do you have anything
38 else?

39
40 MS. MEYERS: Yeah. I did want to say that BLM in
41 Fairbanks has undergone and is still going through a
42 reorganization process, so I won't bore you with the details
43 of that, but what has happened is that instead of having a
44 Kobuk District as we had in the past that had about 18
45 people, we now have a Northwest Team, and there are seven of
46 us, and we have our team leader right here, Anne Morkill.

47
48 So we hope to have a meeting sometime this winter
49 with myself and Anne as our team leader, and then we have an
50 external manager and an internal manager for the Northern

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37

1 District office as a whole, so that would take in what used
2 to be the whole third of northern Alaska BLM, so all under
3 one umbrella, but we want to have a meeting with the new
4 district managers and the Northwest Team and then with
5 interested people in Fairbanks so -- or in Kotzebue, so we
6 are going to do that, and you will be hearing more about
7 that.

8
9 And one last thing on the Squirrel River EIS, it
10 has gone through a transition period because the person who
11 had the lead responsibility for it, Susan Will, now has
12 another job within the Northern District office, so Lon Kelly
13 is going to be taking over.

14
15 During our reorganization, the Squirrel River EIS
16 was kind of quiet, but we are close to producing the first
17 draft, and so that will come out. There will be lots of time

18 for public comment and public meetings. So that's still
19 waiting in the wings so that should happen this winter and
20 spring.

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: One other question I omitted earlier
23 was you indicated that as far as permits are issued from the
24 agency for those lands, those BLM lands, through a review
25 process. Do you involve any organizations to get comments
26 from before permits are issued through concession?

27
28 MS. MEYERS: In the past we really haven't
29 involved too many of the local organizations, like NANA or
30 the borough. It's mainly been going to perhaps Fish and Game
31 in Kotzebue and in Anchorage. Maybe the Coastal Zone
32 Management people, Department of Environmental Conservation,
33 that kind of thing, but with use in the Squirrel increasing
34 very quickly as it has in recent days, it might be good to
35 try to throw the net a little wider in the local area and get
36 some more comment.

37
38 MR. SAMPSON: I think that might be an ideal thing
39 because when we're talking about public lands and we're
40 talking public, that's everybody, so there should be an input
41 from public, I guess is what I'm trying to say.

42
43 Do you have any other reports that you would like
44 to? I guess before you are excused, then, in regards to
45 musk-ox. You know, most of us know that musk-ox permits were
46 issued last year, and I think musk-ox are starting to migrate
47 into Native-selected lands now knowing that they've
48 been -- there's permits out there to get them into federal
49 lands. The reason I say that is there's been one that's been
50 hanging around right in the airport in Selawik, so I guess

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1 they're starting to go out into Native-selected lands. No,
2 that's not. Any others? Any questions?

3
4 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, I got one question
5 concerning musk-ox in the Buckland. Now of course the
6 allotment for musk-ox is there. What can you do?

7
8 MS. MEYERS: Well, if it's a certified Native
9 allotment, my understanding is it doesn't fall under the
10 Federal Subsistence Program.

11
12 MR. SAMPSON: That's private property.

13
14 MS. MEYERS: That's private property so it doesn't
15 count.

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MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman?

You mentioned radio collared in the Buckland and Deering area for caribou. How many years has --

MS. MORKILL: Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. BALLOT: -- the radio collared for caribou in the Buckland and Deering been going on?

MS. MORKILL: Department of Fish and Game has a number of radio collars on the Western Arctic caribou herd, and I don't believe I mentioned our involvement. One thing, the Tag River moose study at the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, they have some radioed moose, and BLM has participated to some extent in helping radio collar.

MR. BALLOT: Do you know who I might be able to talk with about this?

MR. SAMPSON: That will be presented at the -- the State can present that during their presentation, so it's their process in regards to radio collared caribou and moose. So State Fish and Wildlife can give you that information as they give presentation. Any other questions for the two young ladies there?

MR. SHULTS: I just have a comment since you were asking. It seems like five years is long time not to do a big census, but the geographic scales of our censuses are about 1,600 square miles, and in this unit you've got 23,000 square miles, and these things take about \$30,000, six to eight people, and four to five planes, and identifying the areas based on Jim's knowledge of harvest and what have you.

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We've been focusing a lot on the Noatak and trying to spread that out and identify these four or five areas, and it's pretty plastic about how we get them done, but we're trying to get them done in some rotation. For instance, they tried to do the Upper Kobuk last year and the weather was bad, so they're going to try to do that this year. And for those you can do two at the same time. That \$30,000 can take up to 50 to 60 percent of each individual agency's budget just to do one of those every year.

And I wasn't real clear, but we did one of those in the Noatak in '93 and we're trying to do one sometime here in the future, and we're supplementing that with a smaller scale, two or three or four-day censuses that cost half or less and take half as many people. So there are things that

16 we do in between those large-scale five-year to collect
17 composition --

18
19 MR. SAMPSON: But I think one of the areas where
20 you're lacking through that process is utilizing the local
21 folks in those areas. By this, I mean going in and talking
22 to them. A lot of folks go out to the country and they know
23 where some of these animals are, and you know, if you can get
24 an idea from those folks where there might be some moose,
25 maybe in areas where you haven't seen, they might have seen
26 these things. So if there's a way to incorporate it into
27 your plans to get some input from the local folks, then that
28 would be one of the ways of maybe cutting down some of your
29 time. Thank you. And thanks to the two, please.

30
31 We will go to the State Fish and Game staff at
32 this time. I'm sorry. I marked Selawik. Selawik National
33 Wildlife Region.

34
35 MR. KOEPESEL: I'll just make a quick mention that
36 the new refuge manager is Leslie Kerr. Unfortunately, she is
37 out of town. Mike Ruden (ph) has moved on and he's the
38 refuge manager at Yukon-Delta stationed in Bethel, and Leslie
39 Kerr comes from Anchorage where she spent 12, 13 years in
40 resource support, and she was involved a lot in writing the
41 master plans for a lot of the refuges in Alaska.

42
43 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mark.

44
45 MR. PELTOLA: Gene Peltola, Selawik National
46 Wildlife Refuge. The majority of what I have is talking
47 about the Tag moose project which BLM mentioned earlier, and
48 in April of '94 the refuge in conjunction with Alaska
49 Department of Fish and Game and Bureau of Land Management and
50 National Park Service northwest areas went up to the Tag

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40

1 River drainage and we embarked upon a collaring project up
2 there, and the reason we initiated the project was to obtain
3 population parameters and including status of moose
4 populations, the main movement pattern, and distribution of
5 moose along the river corridor.

6
7 There's some questions that were asked that we
8 couldn't answer whether a moose is harvested up river if that
9 tends to take that moose away from harvest by subsistence
10 users down river, so we're trying to get some movement and
11 distributions of moose along the corridor and also evaluate
12 the rates and sources of mortality including hunter harvest.

13
14 And during April '94 a total a 72 moose were

15 darted of which we put radio collars on 25 bulls and
16 25 cows. An additional 19 bulls were fitted with plastic ear
17 tags, and three of them were removed because we thought they
18 were too small for collar placement. In late April and early
19 May of '94 in subsequent tracking runs is we pulled out the
20 capture with no mortalities relative to collar placement, so
21 we were really pleased with that. We're about a year and a
22 half into this study right now.

23
24 Then in June of '94 and '95 we go out to assist
25 the number of calves which are born during that spring, and
26 then this year in June of '95 cows which survive through the
27 first year of the study, we had three or 15.8 percent of
28 those cows accompanied by calves, and that compares to 44
29 percent or 11 of those cows had calves last year, so we're
30 seeing a decline in number of calves. Of these three cows we
31 found this year, only one had given birth to twins, where
32 last year we had three of our cows accompanied by calves with
33 twins.

34
35 In a total observation from outfitters and local
36 individuals of the region we have talked to parallels and
37 cosigns with what we've seen in our collared population.
38 However, we feel that the actual percentage of calving and
39 the population as a whole may not be as low as a radio
40 collared data suggests. And to date we've encountered ten
41 mortalities in the collared population, or 20 percent.

42
43 And the sources can be contributed to probable
44 predator kills, two of which we feel were taken by bears, and
45 those are two cows. One bull, one cow were lost to wolves
46 during the winter, and also we had one confirmed hunt harvest
47 which involved a bull taken in the fall, and then one
48 probable hunter harvest of another bull, and we had four that
49 we contribute to natural causes, meaning it passed on. We're
50 sure it was not a hunter-related mortality. It could have

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41

1 been a predator, but we weren't really sure. So that's the
2 category it falls into.

3
4 In addition, a total of three ear tags to date of
5 the bulls have been returned by hunters in the fall. And to
6 date, if you combine the number of ear tags and collars, we
7 had 44 marked bulls, and four of these have been harvested by
8 hunters in the last two hunting seasons, or 9.1 percent, and
9 if you look at it on an annual basis, this hunting season
10 there's 36 marked animals which includes radio collars and
11 estimated number of ear tags that remained in the field prior
12 to this hunting -- this fall's hunting season. So far we've
13 had only one ear tagged bull returned to us, so this reflects

14 a 2.7 percent harvest rate, and this compares to three marked
15 animals last year or 7 percent harvest rate for the same
16 period, and one thing is, the differences in between the two
17 harvest rates I feel may be reflective of our inability to
18 maintain a sample in the upper third of drainage.

19
20 When we went in and collared the animals, we broke
21 the drainages into three segments: Upper section, middle
22 section, and the lower section. Each section we divided out
23 radio collars and ear tags, and in the upper third of the
24 drainage we had a total of ten radio collars out in this
25 segment of the river, and we lost six of those, and overall,
26 60 percent of them overall mortality which is due to loss of
27 either hunt harvest or population -- or predation, excuse
28 me. We tried to pull off or recapture them or bring together
29 radio collared samples, but due to mechanical difficulties,
30 we were unable to do that. So I think the hunter harvest
31 rate may have been slightly higher this year, if we were able
32 to maintain a higher sample size of the river drainage.

33
34 This also coincides with what we have on the
35 refuge last year. We had three air taxi operators and one
36 guide which were permitted to take hunters out on the refuge,
37 and this year we had four air taxi operators. Last year, as
38 far as we could tell, they harvested 26 bulls on the river
39 that we know of, and that mainly represents nonresident and
40 resident sport hunters. This year I think there's been about
41 19 so far. The majority of the air taxi and guide harvest is
42 within the same upper third segment of the drainage.

43
44 So that's one thing we're trying to keep a handle
45 on in addition to monitoring our collared animals and trying
46 to keep track of the use along the river corridor, and that's
47 what I had for the tagged moose. And Jim or Dan, do you have
48 any comments?

49
50 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman?

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42

1 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

2
3 MR. STONEY: I got one question for you: How many
4 permits do you have this year, this fall season for sport
5 hunters?

6
7 MR. PELTOLA: Mark, correct me if I'm wrong, but
8 we had three air taxis were carried over from last year and
9 one additional this year for a total of four. The guide that
10 hunted on the refuge last year, he has a permit to guide on
11 there which the Regency did not guide this year. So as for
12 guides, the way the refuge is broken up into east and west

13 halves, and I believe there's one guide per half of the
14 refuge, east and west.

15
16 MR. KOEPESEL: Yeah, and the guide on the eastern
17 part of the refuge was not allowed to guide this year because
18 he was -- he had his guiding license suspended for one year
19 by the Alaska state courts, so there was only one guide
20 legally to operate on the refuge this year, and as far as I
21 know, he did not operate on the refuge.

22
23 MR. SAMPSON: Now, in regards to the guide that
24 had his license suspended, what happens from here? Do you
25 have any regulations for disqualification of folks that's
26 been gone through the court system for violations?

27
28 MR. KOEPESEL: Yeah. There are conditions that we
29 put on our special uses. One of the conditions is that if
30 you're caught in violation of state and federal laws, you
31 could have your permit revoked, and the refuge manager at
32 this time is in the process of making that decision on
33 whether that permit should be revoked or not, and then
34 there's an appeal process if the refuge manager revokes a
35 permit, he gets the appeal to the refuge manager and then the
36 regional director.

37
38 MR. GRIEST: What time of year do you do your
39 moose surveys?

40
41 MR. PELTOLA: What we've done in the past is fixed
42 boundary work where we go in and get composition numbers, and
43 there's actually areas started by the State that we help them
44 with, and one of the things we've done in the past and we're
45 going to try to do this year is basically the same thing Brad
46 was talking, once you get good snow cover. So we're looking
47 at from October to November.

48
49 I think in the past they've been done from like
50 November 2nd up until late December 2nd, and then later on

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43

1 you start running into problems with daylight and everything
2 else, and where the refuge is going to feature, originally we
3 intended to pull off a moose census like BLM and Brad and
4 Park Services talked about, but due to different budget
5 constraints, we decided to put that off until next year, and
6 then we're also thinking about going with a large-scale --
7 relatively large-scale area and in between supplement with
8 something smaller.

9
10 MR. GRIEST: They congregate around January,
11 February. They tend to get in bunches.

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MR. PELTOLA: When I first transferred up here from the Bethel area in '91, my first duty was to try to pull off a census like this, and then we were planning a spring survey, and we couldn't pull one off in the fall, but the advantage to doing a spring survey is you could get sex and age composition, more or less. Bulls still have their antlers and they are easier to tell, and during the spring you get adult-to-young ratios. So we've attempted them at both times of the year.

The last time a moose census was conducted on the refuge, I think it was, winter 1984-85, and at that time, they had 1,811 plus or minus 1,911, so they had some bad weather days, so it wasn't a very good estimate. So everything we're trying census wise we're trying to improve upon that.

As for like public use on the Tag, we get a very small chunk of money to monitor public use on the Tag, and years past we've tried to have a stationary camp along the river to talk to rafters and floaters that go by. At times they didn't stop, at times they did, and so we tried rafting the river with the hunters. The problem is if a rafter dropped off just before us and we get dropped off right after or before, we never catch up to them if we're going at the same pace.

This year I chartered an individual here in town and went out and landed on gravel bars and talked to people. As for law enforcement people on the Tag River, we have one law enforcement officer on staff and he was assigned different refuges to help them out, and the State Fish and Wildlife protection officer was up here for awhile and he was stopping and talking to hunters along the Tag, and so we did have someone up there, although it wasn't from our office.

MR. SAMPSON: Any other questions or comments?

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MR. CUSTER: One question. Does anyone apply from Shungnak for a guide permit? I'm wondering, a guide permit from Shungnak?

MR. KOEPEL: No, not to our knowledge.

MR. PELTOLA: There's one other thing I'd like to mention. This spring we embarked upon a developmental stage of a survey and tried to conduct on an annual basis we're selecting the Selawik Hills and the northern Nogahabara (ph)

11 Hills that goes on the east side of the Tag River. In those
12 areas I came up with a technique for if we go out and find
13 den locations, what I try to do is try to stratify by time
14 wise all the young to sows (indiscernible) to get an idea of
15 finding damage to dens if they collapse or too much snow
16 melt, and with those fixed points with these dens we can do
17 some ugly statistics and come up with a density estimate of
18 bear dens.

19

20 I feel if we -- if it's successful, I could do
21 this on an annual basis for a relatively low cost to come up
22 with a better indicator for bear population in this refuge.
23 So that's something we're trying, too.

24

25 MR. SAMPSON: Any other questions for Gene?

26

27 Hearing none, we'll break for lunch and resume at
28 1:15. So let's break for lunch and come back at 1:15.

29

30 (Lunch recess taken.)

31

32 MR. SAMPSON: We will reconvene at this time.

33

34 At this time we will listen to the State
35 Department, Alaska State Departments's report. Jim.

36

37 MR. DAN: I don't really have a report. Either
38 myself or LeeAnne will be glad to answer any questions at
39 this point. LeeAnne Ayres is my assistant. And then I'd
40 just like to reiterate that John Morrison, the State liaison
41 on the Federal Board, is here. If you have questions about
42 bigger issues on the State, you can ask John. He swims in a
43 bigger pond that I do. John.

44

45 MR. MORRISON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was
46 going to defer to Jim and have him take over since he's
47 located here. If any of you do have more specific questions
48 about local things, I'm sure Jim and LeeAnne will be more
49 than happy to answer them. I just had a couple things I
50 thought I might mention and then try to answer any other

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1 questions on a broader sense.

2

3 One point that I had hoped to go into detail about
4 here is the Lieutenant Governor's program that's being called
5 Quiet Diplomacy where she and some helpers have been working
6 with the representative of the Secretary of Interior to try
7 to figure out some better ways of conducting this so-called
8 dual management of fish and wildlife in the state, and
9 roughly speaking, it had somewhat focused on the idea of

10 trying to get the state legislature to change the
11 constitution and at the same time work on the congressional
12 delegation to perhaps induce some changes to Title VIII of
13 the ANILCA.

14
15 There was to be a report available of their work
16 which has been going on all summer, but at the last minute I
17 guess there were some changes to be made in it or something,
18 so I'm unable to provide any details on it at this point, but
19 I'm sure fairly soon we'll be hearing what they're going to
20 recommend.

21
22 Secondly, with the advent of the new
23 administration in Juneau, we've had some changes of faces in
24 our Wildlife Conservation Division, and Mr. Reglen is now the
25 director and the former management coordinator in Fairbanks
26 for the division. Ken Taylor has been made his deputy.
27 Wayne Reglen has stated a couple of points that he wants to
28 push for the division and possibly for the rest of the
29 department eventually, and that is to find more cooperative
30 ways of working locally with people.

31
32 We've had real good luck in some of the
33 subsistence management questions by working through local
34 cooperative groups such as the Lower Yukon Moose Management
35 Committee and Plan. We're finishing up the 40-mile Caribou
36 Management Plan. All of these have involved both the local
37 folks and the federal agencies in that area plus the
38 department. And they've been producing pretty good results.

39
40 The recommendations they've come up with for
41 regulations or management programs have been getting fairly
42 good acceptance, and we would like to feel that this might be
43 a better way for not only these particular cooperative groups
44 to approach these problems but also with their interactions
45 with the councils and other committees that at the Board
46 level might be more sympathetic, if you will, treatment of
47 some of the proposals that come from the local areas.

48
49 Another thing that Reglen has been pushing is to
50 amplify the wildlife division's information management

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46

1 services. We've had a section for some time, the statistic
2 section that all of the harvest reports go to. I forget how
3 many thousands of those things come in any every year, but
4 that crew has to get everything entered into the computer so
5 biologists can withdraw that information or whatever specific
6 analysis is needed in some management plan, and that
7 information is made available to some of the federal agencies
8 and especially the Fish and Wildlife Service's Subsistence

9 Management office for their use in doing their analyses
10 also.

11
12 So with the amplification of that information, the
13 management group will be taking on more statisticians, more
14 information transfer specialists. We hope to be able to
15 provide better information, not only to the biologists and
16 anthropologists and whoever else working in this area will be
17 able to do a better job of analyzing and recommending things,
18 but that information will also be more available to the
19 public so they have a better perception of what we're trying
20 to do and how we're trying to do it. That's it.

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: Any questions or comments?
23

24 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, I don't have a
25 question, but I got a comment that I've noted. This year
26 there was two state Fish and Game officers for about two
27 weeks, and I was certainly hoping they would be around for
28 two more weeks when they were needed. It's a good job they
29 did this season, and I'd like to see them in a longer period
30 of time for approximately four weeks.

31
32 MR. MORRISON: Are these law enforcement
33 officers?
34

35 MR. STONEY: Yes.
36

37 MR. MORRISON: They're not in the Fish and Game
38 Department. The enforcement people are from the Department
39 of Law like the State Troopers. They train together, and
40 when one group goes into the Highway Patrol, they wear the
41 blue uniforms, and when the ones go into the Fish and
42 Wildlife wear the brown uniforms, but they're strictly
43 supervised and administered in the Department of Law.
44

45 Now, they work closely with the Fish and Game
46 Department on a lot of the issues, but when it comes down to
47 the actual law enforcement work, that's their area. They
48 used to be part of the Fish and Game Department, but some
49 years ago the legislature changed that and moved them to the
50 Department of Law.

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47

1 MR. STONEY: So are you planning to have the same
2 procedure for next year for hunting season for two weeks or
3 longer?
4

5 MR. MORRISON: That would be up to them to answer
6 because we have no control or say-so about what they do.
7 That would have to be the Department of Law to explain and

8 make any promises about.

9

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Raymond, the Kotzebue post
11 was advertised last month. It's been closed. We're going to
12 have a permanent protection officer here by next summer, so I
13 don't know if it will be this year, but we should have
14 somebody here year-round.

15

16 MR. STONEY: Thank you.

17

18 MR. SAMPSON: Any other comments or questions?
19 Thanks.

20

21 MR. GRIEST: Basically -- perhaps a comment. I'd
22 like to see the State more involved in counting of the
23 caribou in the Noatak River area. The information we got
24 this morning from the federal folks is fairly -- it's not --
25 they don't have probably as good information as they need,
26 but I'm kind of concerned about that because I don't want to
27 get in an adversarial relationship with the commercial
28 guiding and sports interests when we get into management of
29 resources, and I think that a good tool that I know we have
30 is when the state and federal people work together is to make
31 sure that we got the proper information and that we make some
32 of our resource decisions based on the information we
33 obtain.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: Any other comments or questions?

36

37 Hearing none, thanks. We'll have Jim -- oh, Fred
38 DeCicco give a quick report from the fishery side.

39

40 MR. DeCICCO: Mr. Chairman, Council, Fish and Game
41 for the first time in a number of years did some work on she
42 fish in your area this year, and I wanted to give you a brief
43 rundown on what we found out. Even though we haven't
44 analyzed these results, we've got some ballpark estimates as
45 to what we found out.

46

47 At the same time the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
48 Service was doing some work on she fish over in the Selawik,
49 and those are the two major components or spawning population
50 of she fish for the whole region. The idea initially was to

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48

1 mount a coordinated effort, try to estimate abundance of
2 spawning she fish in the Selawik and in the Kobuk River for
3 two years in a row. Last year we began work. We were all
4 wiped out by high water, and we did it again this year, and
5 we were a bit more successful.

6

7 In the Selawik River, the Fish and Wildlife
8 Service marked 549 fish and then examined fish for marks to
9 get a tagged/untagged ratio, and from that we estimate the
10 abundance, and their ballpark estimate of abundance for the
11 Selawik was around 6,400 spawning she fish which is more than
12 we thought were there based on some of the early aerial
13 surveys during the late '60s and early '70s. We thought
14 there might be two to three thousand up there if the
15 populations were similar, and this is based on some work that
16 Ken Alt did out there in the mid '60s.

17
18 Then up in the Kobuk we marked 923 fish in the
19 first part of the mark recapture, and we examined 1,015 for a
20 recapture event. Many of those were from subsistence fishers
21 that were up river, either that they caught seining or gill
22 netting, and then we did some beach seining ourselves, and
23 based on that, we came up with a ballpark abundance of around
24 30,000, which is again more than we thought having talked to
25 the folks that were up there all summer or all fall. They
26 went up in about mid-August and stayed until just a week or
27 so ago.

28
29 I went up initially and ran into the chairman here
30 on the way up river, but he thought that that was a
31 believable number. It's a big river and there were fish
32 spread out for over a 60-mile area spawning.

33
34 So our intent is to go back in again next year and
35 try to repeat this, because at this time, we're not certain
36 of how many repeat spawning there is in consecutive years by
37 she fish. We think that the females at least are not able to
38 spawn in consecutive years, but we don't know that for
39 certain. We have -- we did get a few tags back from fish
40 that we marked last year, both in Selawik and Kobuk, so there
41 is some indication that some of the fish are spawning in
42 consecutive years.

43
44 I also did my general -- I did some surveys on the
45 char populations annually out here, both spawning surveys
46 that the Park Service funds up in the Noatak by fly-in count
47 spawners in the three main spawning streams up there, and
48 then usually over in the Kivalina and Wulik River as well,
49 and then I usually fly in for overwintering survey on the
50 Wulik River, and in general, the numbers of fish

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1 overwintering up there seem to be holding up well. The
2 population seems to be doing well, and I look at the number
3 in the Wulik as an overall index of health because the fish
4 that overwinter there are from all over.

5

6 They're not just Wulik River or Kivalina or
7 Noatak. We've got tag recoveries that indicate they're Asian
8 fish there, as well as fish from down south of the Bering
9 Strait, but it's a general indicator of overall health of the
10 population, and it looks good this year. It's right in the
11 same range of numbers we've seen for the last three years up
12 there, and they're in the higher range of what we've seen
13 over the last 20 years.

14
15 As far as spawners, there was really quite a low
16 number of spawners up in the Noatak. I don't think it's a
17 matter for a lot of the concern unless it carries through for
18 a number of years. The last two years there was too much
19 flooding up there to do surveys, and I don't know what was
20 there, and this year there was a lower number. I think it's
21 because many of the fish that spawn during the summer, the
22 trout up in the Noatak, are fish which have spent the
23 previous winter in the Noatak, and then they spend the entire
24 summer up in the spawning grounds, spawn in August, and then
25 come back down and spend another winter. In order to do
26 that, they need to be in really good condition the fall
27 before when they come out of the ocean.

28
29 Last fall when the fish came into the Wulik River
30 at least they weren't in very good condition, they were
31 really quite skinny, and when we were up there, we handled
32 6,000 fish last fall, so we've got a pretty good idea of what
33 they look like. So I think only a small proportion of the
34 population could have matured were in good enough position to
35 spawn this year, so that's why I saw a low number of
36 spawners, not because there's a small number of fish.

37
38 Conversely, this fall, up on the Wulik River the
39 fish that came in, they entered the river from the sea
40 earlier than normal, and they were very fat, so I expect next
41 year we will see a good number of them spawning. That
42 remains to be seen.

43
44 That's about all I have to say. I'd be happy to
45 answer any questions regarding either of those projects or
46 other fish matters if I can.

47
48 MR. SAMPSON: Any questions for Fred with regards
49 to fishes? Thanks, Fred.
50

1 MR. BALLOT: I do have one. There was a study
2 done sometime ago in the Buckland River, I know, just from
3 BLM or Fish and Game, and it came out on studies on fish
4 types and stuff up there. When will there be one done up our

5 way sometime again?

6

7 MR. DeCICCO: In Buckland?

8

9 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, up from Bear Creek and on
10 down.

11

12 MR. DeCICCO: The study you're referring to, the
13 only work I'm aware of that's been done over there was done
14 by BLM eight or ten years ago and they did kind of a float
15 survey to see what was there. I never worked -- I've been to
16 Buckland twice, and I've never done any work there other than
17 visit around and talk to people to see what kind of fish were
18 around there.

19

20 At this time, Fish and Game doesn't anticipate any
21 work there unless you've got a particular problem that you
22 think needs to be investigated, and if so, let us know and
23 we'll see what we can work out, but I don't have any plans to
24 work there currently.

25

26 MR. SAMPSON: Any other questions?

27

28 MR. CUSTER: Question. When you were at the
29 Powder (ph) River did you contact a lot of, you know,
30 activity like planes from Fairbanks?

31

32 MR. DeCICCO: There was some activity when the
33 crew first arrived, which was around the -- they got up there
34 a couple days before we did, I think on the 14th of August.
35 They said they saw four planes, which was quite a few, and I
36 asked the project leader, Tom, and the other fellow who was
37 there last year and this year, Dave Stohler, if there was a
38 lot of sport fishing activity after that time and he said
39 no. In fact, Dave was surprised because the water was so low
40 and clear. He said there was really less than there was last
41 year in his opinion, and that's all that I know firsthand
42 about that. Have you -- do you have some feedback?

43

44 MR. CUSTER: I hear a lot of complaints from
45 locals there was a lot of activities of planes flying night
46 and day while the locals were hunting, so I just wanted to
47 ask.

48

49 MR. DeCICCO: This was fishing activity, again,
50 that they were keeping track of, and when I get back, I'll

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51

1 ask them about airplane activity which may be more involved
2 than hunting to see what their observations were, and I'll
3 let you know.

4
5 MR. SAMPSON: Any other questions, comments?
6 Thank you, Fred.
7
8 MR. DeCICCO: Thank you.
9
10 MR. SAMPSON: We'll go on to acting Barb. Acting
11 Barb.
12
13 MS. DALLEMOLLE: Yes. You have before you this
14 two-piece blue sheet, and this refers to a proposal that was
15 discussed at the last meeting from Anaktuvuk Pass people
16 about adjusting the boundary of Region 8, which concerns us,
17 so it includes the portion that is now in Region 8. They
18 would rather have it in your unit so it's treated as a unit
19 for them which would change our boundary.
20
21 It was referred to the Upper Kobuk people for
22 comment, and you have before you some of the comments which
23 are basically not in favor of adjusting the boundary.
24 However, each of the councils did express the wish that the
25 Anaktuvuk Pass people know that they were welcome to use that
26 area as they always have, that the three councils were not in
27 favor of adjusting the boundary. So that's the information
28 you needed from them. I think at this point the council has
29 requested to make a motion either for or against expressing
30 your wishes.
31
32 MR. SAMPSON: Where is Region 6?
33
34 MS. DALLEMOLLE: I think that's here.
35
36 MR. KOVACH: Western Interior.
37
38 MR. SAMPSON: And we're --
39
40 MS. DALLEMOLLE: We're part of 8. Does somebody
41 want to help point out?
42
43 MR. KOVACH: This doesn't go far enough off in
44 this direction. Region 6 is the Western Interior, so it's
45 Units 21, 24, 19, all this area over in here. Region 10 is
46 the North Slope area. What the residents of Anaktuvuk Pass,
47 which on this scale the map would sit over here.
48
49 MR. SAMPSON: You can see it right -- is that the
50 regions there?

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52

1 MR. KOVACH: This is the Western Interior here and
2 this is the North Slope up here.

3
4 MR. SAMPSON: On the smaller.
5
6 MR. KOVACH: On the smaller map this is the North
7 Slope, the red is you guys, and then this is the Western
8 Interior.
9
10 MR. SAMPSON: So what the request is then to
11 cover --
12
13 MR. KOVACH: What the people of Anaktuvuk Pass
14 wanted, they are in line for representation with the North
15 Slope region. What they wanted was to have all their use
16 areas that they use included within that North Slope region
17 which would be the boundary which currently runs here would
18 come be pushed off in this direction and as well as coming
19 south down in. It is basically encompassing all of the Gates
20 of the Arctic as well as picking up some of Noatak National
21 Preserve and so on. That was the basic request that came
22 before this council I believe a year ago, I think is when it
23 was. Anything else?
24
25 MR. SAMPSON: Any questions?
26
27 MR. GRIEST: Is this being introduced for
28 comment?
29
30 MR. SAMPSON: Yes. It's being introduced. What
31 we need to do, as I understand it, is this boundary that
32 they're requesting to adjust to include parts of the NANA
33 Region, we need to vote it yea or nay. If we vote it yea, as
34 I understand it, if we voted yes, then that adjustment could
35 be made to include that in the Kobuk area, but if we don't,
36 they stay over on their Region 6 there, and all of you should
37 have a copy of correspondence that we received from the
38 Shungnak and Kobuk and Ambler. Any questions in regards to
39 that proposal?
40
41 MR. GRIEST: No information to that council?
42
43 MS. DALLEMOLLE: That was again their request from
44 this council that we consider it. They didn't come and that
45 was the reason it was referred back to these villages because
46 it was felt to be more appropriate for the villages to
47 address it.
48
49 MR. SAMPSON: I guess it's only appropriate that
50 we talk the same language as the folks in the Upper Kobuk

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1 villages and act accordingly to their correspondence, unless

2 otherwise you guys feel differently.
3
4 MR. GRIEST: I don't have any problems with them
5 if they want to expand. The boundaries are basically for
6 determining the management of certain areas under state
7 management system or is it within?
8
9 MR. SAMPSON: Steve?
10
11 MR. KOVACH: The boundaries are strictly for
12 representation of the subsistence users by the regional
13 subsistence councils. That's all it is. The management
14 still follows the state management unit boundaries
15 specifically. It's just that these boundaries are more of
16 who the people that the regional councils represent.
17
18 MR. SAMPSON: Sorry.
19
20 MR. GRIEST: On your -- is it just a statement?
21
22 MR. SAMPSON: This federal --
23
24 MR. GRIEST: This council here.
25
26 MS. DALLEMOLLE: We would not be representing that
27 part.
28
29 MR. SAMPSON: But I got a question now. We acted
30 on --
31
32 MR. GRIEST: On the Gates of the Arctic.
33
34 MR. SAMPSON: On the issue of zone earlier, but
35 what does that do to this?
36
37 MR. KOVACH: What this -- and Park Service folks
38 can help me out here. Each subsistence resource commission
39 under a different part of ANILCA has their own
40 responsibilities. One of their responsibilities is to
41 develop a subsistence hunting plan. What the Gates of the
42 Arctic SRC is doing is trying to develop their hunting plan
43 for the Gates of the Arctic, part of which they're required
44 to identify who has customary and traditional use for hunting
45 within the Park Service area that they are responsible for.
46
47 This council does nominate one of the
48 representatives to the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
49 Resource Commission, and so that plan that you talked about
50 this morning was that draft by the Gates of the Arctic people

1 as far as trying to get a better handle on their subsistence
2 hunting plan for the park there.
3
4 The proposal by Anaktuvuk Pass deals strictly with
5 the regional council boundaries as to what geographic areas
6 are going to be represented by which regional council, so
7 there are two separate different kinds of things. I know
8 it's confusing. It's tough to keep straight, even amongst
9 ourselves.
10
11 (Speaking in Inupiaq.)
12
13 MR. SAMPSON: What I said was that the council
14 needs to think of what they want to do. They also need to
15 consider the letters that were received, or copies of letters
16 that were received from the Upper Kobuk villages in order to
17 act. So what's the wish of the council?
18
19 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we
20 not recommend that the boundaries be changed.
21
22 MR. SAMPSON: There's a motion on the floor not to
23 recommend or not to accept the recommendations of change in
24 boundary, right?
25
26 MR. GRIEST: Your motion needs to be in positive,
27 so you want to say you recommend that the boundaries be the
28 same, right?
29
30 MR. SAMPSON: Right. So his recommendation is
31 that he doesn't want to see the boundaries change, that the
32 boundaries be the same.
33
34 MR. BALLOT: So I'd like to amend my motion that
35 the boundaries not be changed.
36
37 MR. GRIEST: Change.
38
39 MR. SAMPSON: There's an amendment to the motion
40 that the boundaries not be changed. Is there a second?
41
42 MR. CUSTER: Second.
43
44 MR. GRIEST: Under discussion, we have Levi
45 and --
46
47 MR. SAMPSON: Levi from the Upper Kobuk.
48
49 MR. GRIEST: And the resources in that area.
50 Seems to me the board acting over here, I wouldn't mind

1 having one person from over there, over that way, too, if
2 they were going to act on Gates of Arctic area.
3
4 MR. SAMPSON: This is that area that Gates of the
5 Arctic that we're talking about right here, this pink one,
6 and that's where Levi comes in to be a representative for
7 that area.
8
9 MR. GRIEST: Upper Kobuk.
10
11 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. Upper Kobuk for this Gates of
12 Arctic area. Any further discussion?
13
14 MR. GRIEST: Under further discussion, they do
15 have Gates of the Arctic and have some historical use also on
16 the Noatak, which we have oversight responsibilities in terms
17 of monitoring subsistence use.
18
19 MR. SAMPSON: Noatak is a preserve, so everyone as
20 the public can go into the Noatak Preserve. Right now as we
21 have -- as we sit as a commission, we also have a commission
22 that represents Cape Krusenstern and Kobuk Valley, those two
23 areas, but as far as Noatak itself is concerned, that's a
24 public preserve.
25
26 MS. DALLEMOLLE: I think if I read it right, what
27 the boundary adjustment would mean is that this council right
28 here, you folks right here, would no longer be the
29 representative body for that section of land up there. The
30 representative body for that section of land would be the
31 council that's the Northern Arctic Council instead.
32
33 MR. GRIEST: Okay.
34
35 MR. SAMPSON: So you understand what that is then,
36 I guess?
37
38 MR. GRIEST: That just keeps the boundary in their
39 area.
40
41 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.
42
43 MR. GRIEST: Okay.
44
45 MR. SAMPSON: So again, to refresh your memory,
46 the motion is that there be no adjustment on the existing
47 boundary for the Upper Kobuk area. Any further discussion?
48
49 MR. BALLOT: Question.
50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Question has been called for. All
2 those in favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

3
4 (Unanimous response.)

5
6 MR. SAMPSON: All those opposed, same sign.

7
8 (No response.)

9
10 MR. SAMPSON: Motion carries.

11
12 Review of special actions and RFRs. What's RFRs?

13
14 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: Requests for
15 reconsiderations.

16
17 MR. KOVACH: We had a busy summer this year with a
18 number of special actions and requests for reconsiderations;
19 however, only one of those affected this council, and that
20 was the one with regard to musk-ox on the Seward Peninsula
21 which is, if you remember you had a joint meeting with the
22 Seward Peninsula in July in Kotzebue.

23
24 The final action by the Federal Subsistence Board
25 on that request for reconsideration was to not adjust any of
26 the harvest quotas for the portion of the Seward Peninsula on
27 Unit 23 and for Unit 22E, but for Unit 22E they did adjust
28 the harvest quotas based upon largely just the lack of
29 musk-ox found on public lands so they adjusted harvest quotas
30 on that, but with regards to the harvest quota for your
31 portion of the Seward Peninsula, that wasn't adjusted at all
32 by the Board. It remained at seven.

33
34 MR. SAMPSON: Twenty-two is in the --

35
36 MR. KOVACH: Seward Peninsula Council, and that's
37 the only action that the Board has taken that affects this
38 council.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: To refresh your memory, last year
41 when we discussed the musk-ox issue with regards to the
42 permit areas on allocation, the direction from this
43 commission was that Buckland and Deering, those two villages
44 would work out the allocation as to who would get how many
45 and how they would work that out, and as I understand it to
46 this point, it's never changed. It's the same, so we will
47 leave it at that level. But now that musk-ox are showing up
48 at the Selawik airport.

49
50 MR. GRIEST: Check the boundaries.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Anything else? Any action we need?

2

3 MR. KOVACH: No. Just a point of information.

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. NARC petition. Bill.

6

7 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Last year it was
8 indicated to you that the Northwest Arctic Regional Council,
9 your council, had a petition out to the secretaries of the
10 interior in agriculture and requesting that the secretaries
11 make an administrative decision that the areas of
12 jurisdiction would include navigable waters and also selected
13 but not yet conveyed lands.

14

15 Each of the regional councils was requested to
16 make a recommendation on that petition to assist the
17 secretaries. There was a Federal Register notice that was
18 published asking for comments. Some of the regional councils
19 at their meeting made their recommendations, some indicated
20 that they wished to have their recommendations appear in
21 their annual report, and others indicated that they were
22 going to do it at this meeting.

23

24 Currently, because of the uncertainty of the
25 litigation regarding the consolidated Katie John case and
26 also because we're waiting on all of the councils to react,
27 there is still some indecision yet as to when anything firm
28 will come from this, but we hope that by this winter we will
29 have some word from the secretaries as to what their
30 situation would be. We are assuming that since the petition
31 originated from this regional council that, although there is
32 not a motion on record or a letter, that in fact you do
33 endorse that petition since it did originate up here.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: Do we have a copy of the petition
36 somewhere?

37

38 MS. DALLEMOLLE: I don't have.

39

40 MR. SAMPSON: I need to refresh my memory, I
41 guess, a little bit. Do you remember, Bert, that petition?

42

43 MR. GRIEST: No.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: That petition was because the state
46 has authority over Native-selected lands and also any water
47 bodies within those areas that the state had an authority
48 over. The petition was to the secretary to include those
49 areas as part of the federal management. I think that's what
50 I'm trying to think back on it, on the petition. Is there

1 any changes to that? I mean, do we need to act on it or is
2 it just information?

3

4 MR. KNAUER: Essentially just information,
5 Mr. Chairman, and to verify that you still do support your
6 own petition, which we --

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: If that was the wish of the
9 commission from last year, I don't think there's any change
10 in regards to what the wish of this commission is now.

11

12 MR. KNAUER: Okay.

13

14 MR. GRIEST: I remember we reported the petition.

15

16 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: I do have a copy if you want
17 me to get copies to distribute to everyone.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: If you could make some copies and
20 give us a copy, not necessarily right now, but we can do it
21 later because I need to refresh my memory on the wording
22 there.

23

24 Any other comments or questions for Bill?

25

26 MR. GRIEST: Didn't the Katie John case make this
27 petition obsolete?

28

29 MR. KNAUER: If the court were to rule on it, it
30 could, but it is still sort of in limbo within the court
31 system. The district court made a ruling that would have
32 made a portion of the petition moot. They were ruling on the
33 navigable waters issue. That was appealed to the Ninth
34 Circuit Court of Appeals, and he looked at it and sent it
35 back to the Circuit -- excuse me, back to the district
36 court. However, there is still some confusion as to the
37 situation because it was not remanded. In other words, he
38 didn't direct them to do something, but we're still waiting
39 to see what happens in that case.

40

41 MR. SAMPSON: Any questions or comments? Thanks,
42 Bill. I guess under new business we'll go to information
43 exchange. Is that exchange and the budget two different
44 issues, Bill?

45

46 MR. KNAUER: I don't know whether it is or not,
47 but I do have one bit of information I think is appropriate
48 for this council and I was waiting for now. The U.S. Fish
49 and Wildlife Service here in Alaska has a new Deputy Regional
50 Director, a lady by the name of Robyn Thoreson. She's been

1 in the position about two months now, and as part of her
2 duties, she is assuming the responsibilities for the
3 coordination of the Native liaison activities, and I think it
4 would be appropriate that the council be aware of that.

5
6 Also, a national coordinator for Native liaison
7 activities has been named, a gentleman by the name of Duncan
8 Brown in Washington D.C. Duncan has been working for the
9 Fish and Wildlife Service for, I believe, about five or six
10 years or a little longer in refuges. He is a lawyer. He
11 served as the attorney general for the Seminole nation for
12 the period of time, and as he described himself to us, he is
13 part Seminole, part Irish, part English, and Jewish by
14 training. He was just up in Alaska about two weeks ago and
15 presented a seminar for the folks, and is a very astute,
16 knowledgeable gentleman.

17
18 MR. SAMPSON: Now, the Native liaison position
19 you're talking about, is that Richard's position or has that
20 been changed?

21
22 MR. KNAUER: It was not his position, but it was
23 some of the duties he was asked to fulfill. The service was
24 establishing a Native liaison position in each region.

25
26 MR. SAMPSON: That's what I was leading to. Is he
27 the Native liaison?

28
29 MR. KNAUER: No. This Robyn Thoreson is assuming
30 the duties of that.

31
32 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: If I could add, Mr. Chair,
33 there's a possibility they may advertise that position, but
34 we're in the process of reorganizing, as all the other
35 agencies have, and we're also going to be downsizing, so they
36 haven't figured out yet exactly what they're doing with it,
37 so in the interim, for the time being, Robyn Thoreson is
38 going to be doing it, and Dick doesn't have those duties any
39 more. His duties have also changed. He's in charge of a lot
40 more than subsistence now.

41
42 MR. SAMPSON: Any other questions or comments?

43
44 Hearing none, we'll go down to -- let's take a
45 ten-minute break.

46
47 (Recess taken.)

48
49 MR. SAMPSON: We'll reconvene at this time.

50

1 We'll go to the annual report at this time.
2 Annual report 1995-96 says basically what to focus on.

3
4 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman, I think Barb was going
5 to do that, but I'll try and stumble through. The annual
6 report is a permissive document. It is something that the
7 Act and the regulations indicate that the regional council
8 may do, and then it gives a number of items on which there
9 can be focus. The other regional councils have elected to
10 compile an annual report that addresses the issues of concern
11 to that particular council, and that is where they have
12 decided they would focus their attention on is what are the
13 issues that concern them.

14
15 One way that the individual councils have done it
16 is for each member to just write out a list of the issues and
17 then provide them to either the chair or the coordinator to
18 put together. One of the councils elected to sort of prepare
19 individual reports and give them to the coordinator who would
20 consolidate them, but it has been -- the focus has been on
21 the issues of concern in that particular area. If there are
22 things that have not been addressed in the past or areas
23 where you see resource problems, that's what it has been.

24
25 The Federal Subsistence Board has addressed the
26 issue of annual reports and has made a commitment to review
27 those much more closely than they have in the past, and the
28 annual report should be directed to the chair of the Federal
29 Subsistence Board. He is the one that has been delegated the
30 authority to act for the secretary. That's all.

31
32 MR. SAMPSON: Any questions or comments?

33
34 Barb, do you have anything you want to add to the
35 annual report?

36
37 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: No, unless except for I
38 haven't been up to date since July 1, so what you just heard
39 from Bill and what you have is all I know.

40
41 MR. SAMPSON: Regional council recruitment.
42 Barb?

43
44 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: What is that?

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: Regional council recruitment.

47
48 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: As of this coming year for
49 1996 the seats that are going to be open are Pete Schaeffer,
50 Raymond Stoney, and Bill Bailey. So there will be three

1 seats open on this council this coming year, and like before,
2 we will be sending all the applications to anyone interested
3 on being on this Board, and the incumbents can reapply if
4 they are so interested. We'll be starting that and
5 finalizing it in December.

6
7 MR. SAMPSON: Thanks, Barb.

8
9 Involvement of regulations, proposals form
10 review. Helen?

11
12 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 I'll start off with this one. We're under Tab 2 in your
14 book. Page 2 in there there's instructions for completing a
15 proposal form and there's some sample forms. I want to talk
16 first before we get too much into this about what we're doing
17 that's different this year from last year.

18
19 Last year we talked a little about how we were
20 starting the customary and traditional use determination
21 process, and as you know, we've already had some decisions on
22 the Kenai Peninsula and then the Upper Tananas had a report
23 done. We're changing that a little bit, and I'm not going to
24 go into too much detail about it because I think it gets
25 confusing, but when the program started in 1990 we adopted
26 the customary and traditional use determination under the
27 state program, and we made a promise, if you will, that we
28 would then develop our own schedule and priorities and how we
29 were going to do them.

30
31 There was a Federal Register notice that came out
32 in July of 1994 with that schedule of priorities, and then
33 upon that recommendation of regional councils, there was a
34 lot of the consideration about what we were doing. We
35 changed that process of how we are going to do those. There
36 was a Federal Register notice that came out in August of this
37 year, and in there we discussed what we're going to do now,
38 is take the proposals from the -- the proposals from the
39 public, proposals from the regional councils, and according
40 to the priorities that the regional council sets, we'll then
41 do customary and traditional determinations.

42
43 To be perfectly honest, we don't have the staff to
44 do -- if every council said they wanted every resource done
45 in the whole state in the first year we couldn't do it, so
46 what we're looking to you for is priorities of what the
47 issues are, and so if we get proposals in after that council
48 has met, we know what it is you want us to be looking at.

49
50 We have already received in the past, and in your

1 book there's this long page that's under Section 2, the one
2 that sticks out like this. These are proposals that have
3 already come in. Most of them came in in '91 and '92 that
4 affect this region.

5

6 Barb, did you check to verify these yet or do we
7 know if they're all still standing?

8

9 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: These ones?

10

11 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: Yeah. The ones that have an
12 unknown requestor, we made a decision that we're not going to
13 be considering those first because we can't verify whether
14 they're still there, and in this case it's statewide all
15 wildlife and fish, so it's one we won't be considering that
16 one. Most of these, if you look at them, are actually in
17 other units, but they're for where they affect Unit 23
18 because people in Unit 23 use those units like in 21. Most
19 of these are for 21. The one for moose we've already done it
20 through previous action, so that's included, and the one for
21 musk-ox we've already taken care of.

22

23 There are ten? There are ten proposals. What we
24 want to know is, are there any here that have already
25 requested that you feel we should definitely address this
26 year or some of these do you feel they can wait until a later
27 year when there aren't as pressing issues? What we're
28 looking for really is identification of, if I could lead you
29 a little bit down this path, maybe saying something like,
30 this year we would like to look at large mammals, or this
31 year we would like to look at -- we definitely need to
32 consider any proposals on moose or something like that.
33 That's what we're looking towards.

34

35 In your -- you're probably asking, well, what are
36 the C&T determinations? If you look in your book under the
37 same tab just past here a little bit, you see the Federal
38 Register notice, and on page 42092 -- now on 42092 on my copy
39 the Xerox page isn't clear on the page numbering, but you can
40 see it from 42093. On the left-hand side you see the C&T for
41 Unit 23, and on the previous page, most of those in 21 also
42 and some of 22 also affect 23.

43

44 So I guess what I would suggest is if you as a
45 council want to look through those existing C&T
46 determinations and decide either you feel need to be
47 addressed, and if so, do they need to be, are they things
48 that have to be addressed this year? What are your
49 priorities?

1 So given that -- I'll let that sink in. Given
2 that, what we'll have this year is proposals on C&T which
3 come under Sub Part C in the regulations or proposals for
4 seasons and bag or harvest limited changes which come under
5 Sub Part D of the regulations. So you'll have two different
6 types of regulation changes, and we have in here sample forms
7 for each one of those, and actually the Sub Part D is really
8 the first part of the form. C has more questions.

9
10 Sub Part C has to answer the questions of the
11 eight factors like long-term use of the resource, seasons,
12 methods and means, different resources that are used, those
13 questions. So we need a different type of information to
14 answer to do the analysis for Sub Part C or the customary and
15 traditional use changes.

16
17 The way this is different is last year we didn't
18 take proposals on. I shouldn't say we didn't take them
19 because we did musk-ox. We didn't request proposals on
20 customary and traditional use determinations, and we have
21 only done a few of them, musk-ox and a couple around the
22 state. Do you have any questions?

23
24 MR. SAMPSON: How do you make the C&T
25 determination at your level?

26
27 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: At our level we don't make
28 the determination. We do the staff work and somebody else
29 can do the recommendation, but it's a somewhat nebulous
30 process, I think, in looking at all those eight factors and
31 then deciding whether or not you want to look at where the
32 resource has been used, who has used it, how long, where they
33 used it, what months they used it in, how they store it,
34 preserve it, the methods and means of harvest.

35
36 We look at all those questions, and in answering
37 all of those, then, the reason it's a little bit nebulous is
38 we don't have weights like well, what if they answer some of
39 those questions but not all of them positively, so it's not
40 well defined at this point. I think in this region unless
41 it's something like musk-ox, which is introduced, it's pretty
42 cut and dry. In the Kenai Peninsula it's been a lot more
43 controversial because you've got a lot of people coming into
44 the area who don't have long-term use of the resource.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: Bill?

47
48 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the

49 your new members, it might be easy to think of the Sub Part D
50 regulations, say, when, how, and how many can be harvested.

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1 The C&T part of the regulations describe what species, who,
2 and where.

3
4 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: Having said all that, there
5 are instructions for completing the proposal forms. That's
6 the second page under your Tab 2. And then there's the
7 sample form that we filled out. There's a sample one for
8 C&T, there's a sample one for seasons and harvests, and if
9 when you fill these out, we just encourage you to give as
10 much information as you can. It will make it a lot easier
11 for us, the more information we have, and especially if we
12 have phone numbers where we can call people to verify or
13 clarify what it is they want. This is similar from previous
14 years.

15
16 The first question, what proposal regulation do
17 you want changed? That's pretty straightforward, but we want
18 to make sure we've got the unit, the resource, whether it's
19 for a harvest limit, a season, or a C&T determination. The
20 second one, how would you like to see the proposed regulation
21 changed? Be really specific about what it is you want
22 changed. Why should this regulation be changed, giving the
23 reasons why. How will this change affect wildlife
24 populations? How will this change affect subsistence users?

25
26 And then the remaining questions are specifically
27 for the customary and traditional use determinations: Which
28 communities have used this resource? Where was the resource
29 harvested? In what months has the resource been harvested?
30 And then is there any additional information? We're looking
31 for things like how it's processed, methods and means it's
32 harvested, the extent it's shared, knowledge of handing down
33 knowledge from generation to generation. We recognize that a
34 lot of these people aren't going to be able to answer real
35 thoroughly, but on the off-chance they can, we're asking the
36 questions anyway.

37
38 MR. SAMPSON: Having not done -- I've done it
39 through a different process, but the federal system we've not
40 done a proposal through this yet, and not knowing what -- I
41 don't think. Did we?

42
43 MR. GRIEST: Five a day, 15 a day.

44
45 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. That was last year.

46
47 MR. KOVACH: You did a couple the year before

48 that.
49
50

MR. SAMPSON: I guess my question is going to be,

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1 what is the wish of the council? How do you want to address
2 if there's species that you want to address. If we're going
3 to be doing this, then we're going to have to allocate some
4 time to do that, and if we can't allocate enough time to do
5 it, I mean, I guess what my concern is if we're going to
6 involve some other folks through a process, then we're going
7 to have to allocate sometime to do that. End of the month is
8 the deadline date.
9

10 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: And the other thing we need
11 from you, because there may be individuals or there may be
12 people from other agencies or private citizens or other
13 organizations in this region who might submit proposals, if I
14 could have a listing of priorities so because we won't have
15 time to meet again, so if we get, say, a proposal on
16 Ptarmigan, grouse, wolf, moose, and sheep, and we can only do
17 three of those, which ones do you want us to do. So if we
18 could get a prioritizing from you, because if you don't do
19 it, we have to do it, and I hate to make those judgments
20 without consulting you.
21

22 MR. SAMPSON: That's why I'm questioning as far as
23 time allocation to do a request, and I know Bert has got
24 maybe a couple of them that he would like to pursue. At the
25 same time, we also need to involve the folks in this process,
26 and we're not going to meet the deadline date, end of the
27 month if we tried to do it just here alone as a group. We
28 need to allocate some time to get some information from
29 folks. When is the next Federal Board meeting after the end
30 of the month or next month?
31

32 MR. KOVACH: Well, the Federal Board has a meeting
33 scheduled for next month to take care of some business.
34 There's a couple of special actions they need to take on and
35 some other things. After that, it varies from year to year
36 whether or not there's one in the middle of winter or not,
37 but generally the next scheduled Board meeting is the first
38 of April. That's when they take up all the proposals
39 solicited at this point in time. We know we have that one in
40 November, and its agenda is pretty well established at this
41 point in time.
42

43 MR. SAMPSON: So rather than try to rush through a
44 process, maybe we ought to take a little bit of time in
45 identifying what species we want or what regulations we would
46 like to see changed or what regulations we might want to

47 introduce. We might as well take our time to go through that
48 process, and that way we would submit a proposal that's
49 complete, not partially complete, but completed with
50 justifications.

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1 MR. KOVACH: And just a reminder, anybody, any
2 individual organization can submit a proposal. In your books
3 you have Helen's number and my phone number. If you've got
4 question and need assistance in filling out the proposal
5 form, call and ask us. Just remember they to be postmarked
6 by the 27th of October. Oh, they have to be received in our
7 office the 27th of October, which is a Friday.

8
9 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, but why should you have that
10 on the 27th? You said that the agenda is already full for
11 the November meeting.

12
13 MR. KOVACH: Right. These proposals will -- what
14 the process occurs on an annual basis is we have this call
15 for proposals which anybody can submit. All those are
16 gathered at the end of the comment period. We publish those
17 proposals. They're redistributed to all council members
18 throughout the state, everybody on our mailing list, which is
19 about 3,000 names or something like that. It's fairly
20 extensive.

21
22 All the agencies get copies of the proposal
23 books. Then what we do in the early winter is people are
24 requested if you have any comments about these proposals,
25 please submit those comments in writing or telephone the
26 office. At your winter meeting, this council will be
27 deliberating and providing recommendations to the Federal
28 Subsistence Board on all those proposals that affect this
29 council.

30
31 So if there is a proposal, say, for the Western
32 Arctic caribou herd in Unit 22 of the Seward Peninsula south
33 of you, because residents of the Northwest Arctic have a
34 customary and traditional use determination that says they're
35 also eligible to harvest from the Western Arctic caribou
36 herd, then this council will be asked to provide comment and
37 recommendation to the Federal Board on that proposal, even
38 though the proposal may be for the Seward Peninsula because
39 residents here have the best of interest in that caribou
40 herd, as well as any proposals that were received that
41 directly affect this region.

42
43 MR. SAMPSON: So these proposals then would be
44 after the April meeting?

45

46 MR. KOVACH: Right. That's what is on the Board's
47 agenda in April, would be all the proposals generated during
48 this fall.

49

50 MR. SAMPSON: Bert.

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1 MR. GRIEST: I only got a couple. I guess it's
2 probably too late to try and rush something, but I know
3 Kivalina and Noatak residents were interested in opening
4 musk-ox hunting as well in their area. I think Kotzebue
5 residents have as well. More of the coastal people have
6 been -- used to hunt musk-ox through a C&T process from up
7 north for this area. That's the only one I can think of. I
8 think that's the only one right now, and I think we need to
9 monitor that sheep situation so we can allow subsistence
10 people from Kotzebue and Noatak and Kivalina and elsewhere to
11 be able to hunt sheep.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: I think right now the sheep is under
14 the emergency order.

15

16 MR. KOVACH: It's closed.

17

18 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: Let me also ask you this:
19 On this paper here, with the backlog of requests, would it be
20 possible for the council to look at these and tell us which
21 of these you would like us to address? If we can this year,
22 we would like to take care of some of these backlogs.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Musk-ox have been done already.

25

26 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: Musk-ox are done and the
27 moose or just above that one has already been done as well.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: The only other one would be all
30 species on the top of the page, right, and that includes 23.

31

32 MR. GRIEST: There was some interesting talk, Mr.
33 Chairman, also about bear. I think we were allowed one every
34 four years. There was some interest growing that we should
35 be allowed one every year.

36

37 MR. KOVACH: You already have that.

38

39 MR. GRIEST: We already have that. That was
40 before I got on.

41

42 MR. SAMPSON: So I guess Helen's question, is
43 there anything or any of those species we want to look at?

44

45 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chairman?

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

48

49 MR. KOVACH: If I might, as an example maybe to
50 help the council on the first of these two pages, the third

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1 and fourth proposals down deal with black bear and brown
2 bear, as an example. The existing customary and traditional
3 use determination is for those species for residents of
4 Unit 23 here are eligible to harvest black bear and brown
5 bear here as well is in Unit 21.

6

7 What their request is that for Unit -- do people
8 still go from this unit over to the Upper Koyukuk area to
9 hunt brown bear and black bear? Is that important to people
10 in this region? Is it still done? If things like that are
11 important to the members of the council, those are the kinds
12 of information we are trying to seek and get guidance on.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: I know the Upper Kobuk folks go for
15 at least that, Stan, black bear and brown bear.

16

17 MR. CUSTER: What?

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: You guys go up further east over
20 towards --

21

22 MR. CUSTER: Mainly we go inside Mangoak River or
23 Powder River for black bear.

24

25 MR. SAMPSON: So that's up towards there. So
26 what's under the hunting plan that we have requested? Would
27 we make the C&T determination under that or what process or
28 what would we do to address that?

29

30 MR. KOVACH: Actually, I'd like to have Clarence
31 help out on that because you know the SRCs and that process a
32 lot better than we do.

33

34 MR. KNAUER: Is the SRC going to submit a proposal
35 in line with the recommendation of the hunting plan or was
36 that just a draft plan?

37

38 MR. SUMMERS: Mr. Chairman, to try to help out, it
39 is my understanding that the SRC is looking at C&T
40 determinations that affect resident-zoned communities, Gates
41 of Arctic National Park, and that's what they're trying to do
42 now. They're looking at existing C&Ts. They're trying to
43 align eligibility and regulation. That's the goal here.

44
45
46
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50

MR. SAMPSON: Under the tabs that have been provided to us you have all species under 23.

MS. BARB ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman, the SRC, this council can request SRC prioritized since the C&T proposal is already in and the Unit 23 is included there.

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MR. SAMPSON: Let's take a five-minute break.

(Recess taken.)

MR. SAMPSON: We will reconvene.

Bert, you've got the floor.

MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask for customary and traditional use determination on musk-ox for Unit 23 as a priority, and black bear. She fish have been -- have had a customary and traditional use determination. However, that's only for the Kotzebue District, and my understanding of Kotzebue District is only a commercial use area, or is this a full region? Kotzebue District is under the fisheries management district. Is it this whole region or commercial area of Kotzebue? Do you know?

MR. DAN: Well, the Sport Fish Division who I work for and the Commercial Fish Division who Charlie and Tracy work is split up in geography, so it's slightly different. I'm the area biologist for all of northwestern Alaska which includes the area from Point Hope all the drainages down to the Yukon River.

MR. SAMPSON: So she fish would be included?

MR. DAN: So she fish are included under me, but Charlie in the Commercial Fish Division has management authority for commercial fisheries and subsistence fisheries. So if, for example, there is a commercial under a she fish fishery, that permit is available for some locals to participate in, that's Charlie or Tracy.

MR. GRIEST: But my question was, what is the Kotzebue District boundaries?

MR. DAN: Well, the Kotzebue District boundary would be the boundary as described by the Commercial Fishing Division, and I can't explain exactly where it is.

43 MR. KNAUER: The discussion at this point might be
44 moot because the Board has indicated they will not be
45 accepting any proposals on fish or shell fish this year
46 because of the uncertainty of the Katie John.

47
48 MR. SAMPSON: So we'll wipe out she fish. I'm
49 glad it was she fish and not he fish. You know how you
50 become a he fish? Jump in the water and come up and you

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1 become a he fish.

2

3 So what you're saying is you would like for the
4 feds to start the C&T process on musk-ox and black bear?

5

6 MR. GRIEST: Musk-ox and black bear as
7 priorities.

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: Is there a motion?

10

11 MR. GRIEST: I so move.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: There's a motion on the floor to
14 prioritize making a C&T determination on musk-ox and black
15 bear. Is there a second?

16

17 MR. STONEY: Second.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Discussion?

20

21 MR. CUSTER: Question.

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: Question called for. All those in
24 favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

25

26 (Unanimous response.)

27

28 MR. SAMPSON: All opposed?

29

30 (No response.)

31

32 MR. SAMPSON: Motion carries.

33

34 So proposal form review is done. Development of
35 proposal we're done with. Status of musk-ox hunt. Steve?

36

37 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: I guess if we could
38 backtrack to the one. If we could find out for black bear
39 what you would like the proposed -- what you would like the
40 proposed regulation to be. All residents of Unit 23, is that
41 what you want? Or whatever. I mean, I need a little bit

42 further direction.

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: All residents of Unit 23.

45

46 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: All residents of Unit 23.

47 The same with musk-ox?

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

50

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1 MS. HELEN ARMSTRONG: Okay. We wanted to make
2 sure we weren't making assumptions here. That's good.

3

4 MR. KOVACH: Okay. Musk-ox hunt. I checked this
5 morning with our office and --

6

7 MR. SAMPSON: Oh, I thought you said you called
8 the musk-ox.

9

10 MR. KOVACH: I called the office, not the
11 musk-ox. As you heard this morning, all of the permits were
12 distributed amongst the eligible communities, and I checked
13 with the person who receives hunting reports after a
14 successful hunt has been held, and he says as of yesterday
15 afternoon, no harvest of musk-ox have been reported to date,
16 but that season, of course, goes through the end of January,
17 so there's a lot of time left in that hunt. Quite a few of
18 us speculated that we won't see much hunting activity until
19 the snow flies and there's good traveling conditions for snow
20 machines, and so that's the status of the musk-ox.

21

22 MR. SAMPSON: Musk-ox are going to migrate to
23 Native-selected lands.

24

25 MR. KOVACH: Well, the word may be out.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Any discussion for musk-ox?

28

29 Under other business, we have an individual from
30 Maniilaq that has something.

31

32 MR. IVANOFF: Mr. Chairman and council members, I
33 drafted up a position, but I think it's premature at this
34 time, so what I would like to do is share with you a petition
35 and a resolution that they drafted up concerning sport
36 hunters and guides within the national park lands within
37 their jurisdiction.

38

39 They collected 98 signatures on the petition, and
40 I just wanted to have you review this complaint of theirs and

41 maybe have some recommendations. There was a meeting between
42 the national -- well, the Northwest Arctic Borough with NANA
43 and Maniilaq Associations, and two solutions we thought of
44 were an extension of the time period on the Noatak controlled
45 use area and perhaps having the borough implement Title VIV,
46 which deals with permits.

47
48 MR. SAMPSON: What we need to do, I think, is two
49 things: One, we need to study this a little bit; and the
50 other is in regards to the fact that the petition addresses

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1 the Noatak River as part of it, and that's in litigation as I
2 understand it. The navigable waters I'm talking about.

3
4 MR. KNAUER: That's correct. Navigable waters and
5 fisheries in the navigable waters is still under litigation,
6 and as a result, the federal program has not included that
7 for the most part.

8
9 MR. IVANOFF: But does that also include the
10 controlled-use area? We're talking about five miles on other
11 side of the Noatak River.

12
13 MR. SAMPSON: But when you say Noatak River, if
14 you're talking about the sandbars that is submerged, and
15 those are under state right now, under state control, and
16 this petition basically is for the federal agencies to
17 address, and that's why I bring the issue up in regards to if
18 the navigable water question is still in litigation, then the
19 federal government is going to say, well, we can't do
20 anything about it until that litigation has been settled, and
21 if the state has the authority over navigable waters right
22 now, the feds really can't do nothing about the navigable
23 water issue. Bert.

24
25 MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman, I don't think it's just
26 on the river itself. There were some up in the hill, and
27 that's what basically I guess the people are talking about.
28 I'm not sure to what extent the type of damage they're
29 making, if any, but I think they are beginning to
30 make -- some people can use the impact that some of this
31 stuff is making, and I guess three or four times that I heard
32 it from, I think it was -- who was it? Frank Adams. When
33 you mentioned they would be throwing in an application -- I
34 mean a request to their board for us to act on, and I think
35 it's a growing problem.

36
37 I'm not sure if it requires emergency regulation
38 or some type, but we ought to ask the staff to look into and
39 gather more information on the extent of what rivers they're

40 making other than just Noatak River itself. They're going
41 into the hills basically.

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: I think one thing we also need to
44 understand is that any individuals, any organization that
45 wishes to submit proposals or petition can actually bypass
46 this body and go directly to the Federal Board itself, and if
47 that's a wish of Noatak or Maniilaq, then they can do that.

48

49 MR. IVANOFF: We're aware of the other
50 alternative, but maybe we need some clarification from Noatak

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1 as to what they mean by the Noatak River, but then again, do
2 you consider the borough's Title VIV? I think the borough
3 might have some jurisdiction on this matter, but we just
4 wanted to bring it in front of you to maybe get your thoughts
5 and try to find out some solutions to the problem.

6

7 MR. SAMPSON: If you can leave us copies of this,
8 then we could use that as part to deal with when we start
9 doing our -- start putting proposals together, and we can use
10 this as a basis for discussion as well too.

11

12 MR. IVANOFF: Thank you.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: But again, please understand that if
15 you wish to submit that to the Federal Board, you can bypass
16 this Board to do that.

17

18 MR. IVANOFF: Thanks.

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: Thanks, Art.

21

22 Establish time and place for next meeting. Your
23 calendar.

24

25 (Speaking Inupiaq.)

26

27 MR. GRIEST: First week.

28

29 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: I think North Slope might
30 have theirs on the first week. I'm not sure yet, but that's
31 what they were looking at.

32

33 MR. GRIEST: Thursday, Friday.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: February 15, 16.

36

37 MR. STONEY: Fifteen, 16.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: Fifteen. 16.
40
41 MR. GRIEST: First week is better.
42
43 MS. BARBARA ARMSTRONG: Yeah. North Slope has
44 that first week, and I work with both councils.
45
46 MR. SAMPSON: Fifteenth and 16th tentatively?
47
48 MR. GRIEST: Yes.
49
50 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Tentatively the 15th and

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1 16th. Kotzebue 15th and 16th. Okay.
2
3 We'll go now to public comments. Does anyone from
4 the public have any comments to make at this time?
5
6 Hearing none, we'll go to the council. Any
7 comments from the council? Bert.
8
9 MR. GRIEST: I don't have any comments other than
10 that was a good letter from the Subsistence Regional
11 Director, and it was encouraging to see something like that.
12
13 MR. SAMPSON: Raymond.
14
15 MR. STONEY: I don't have any comments,
16 Mr. Chairman, but I want to welcome Percy and Stanley with us
17 on this advisory council. I'm glad you guys are joining us.
18
19 MR. SAMPSON: Percy.
20
21 MR. BALLOT: I just want to say I'm glad I got on
22 the council. I waited a year and a half to step out and help
23 us with our home folks or my region.
24
25 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. Stan.
26
27 MR. CUSTER: Since this is my first meeting, too,
28 I don't have much to say, so I suppose I will have more at
29 our next meeting. Like I said, I've got a lot of books to
30 read here to catch up. That's all.
31
32 MR. SAMPSON: Just like any other organizations
33 you join, there's a curve of learning that you have to go
34 through, and there's times when you're going to be frustrated
35 because of some things you can't understand. There's going
36 to be times when you're going to be happy because something
37 occurred because it acted in favor of your council, and

38 there's going to be times when you really have to look deep
39 in your heart as to what exactly or how are you going to vote
40 on different issues, because there's going to be times when
41 it's critical that you're going to have to vote on an issue
42 that represents all of the Northwest Region, and so it's a
43 decision that you have to make for all your constituents.
44

45 The other area you also need to look at and think
46 about is that you need to be open to people that want to
47 communicate to you to get a message to the council, which
48 means that you are now the communicator for this advisory
49 council, and we in turn communicate those concerns to the
50 Federal Board. So it's an opportunity for this council, you

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1 as a council to make a difference in the system.
2

3 You have an outlet that we can use for the basis
4 of the community to you to this council and right to the
5 regional board. So it's an outlet that we can use. It's an
6 effective way of voicing the concerns that the regional folks
7 have, so keep that in mind when you get back home and as you
8 travel people have concerns. Be open to talk to people.
9

10 So with that, I want to conclude my thoughts, and
11 it's been a good meeting I think, and until our next meeting,
12 we'll see you folks next month, I guess, is our Federal Board
13 meeting, which I would have to attend and if I can't attend
14 that meeting, then the vice chair will attend. If the vice
15 chair cannot, then we will delegate a representative from the
16 advisory council to go. Yes, Bill.
17

18 MR. KNAUER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. One thing that
19 the Federal Subsistence Board had asked was that each council
20 reflect on the size of their council and whether the size
21 provided adequate representation without being excessively
22 large or cumbersome, and some council had not yet expressed
23 an opinion on that.
24

25 MR. SAMPSON: What is the wish of this council in
26 regards to having either a larger council or keep the size
27 down to seven? If you have any comments, voice them.
28

29 MR. GRIEST: The only comment I got is I think we
30 represent all the districts, main districts, the lower
31 starting the Buckland, Deering and Upper Kobuk and then up
32 Noatak, Kivalina and Kotzebue is represented, so I think
33 seven is just right for this area anyway.
34

35 MR. SAMPSON: Any comments? Raymond.
36

37 MR. STONEY: I think seven is about the right
38 number to represent this area.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Percy.

41
42 MR. BALLOT: Seven is fine.

43
44 MR. CUSTER: Seven is fine.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: I think you're pretty much thinking
47 what I've been thinking. Any time you get a group together
48 that's larger than what you really need, it's a lot harder to
49 try to settle an issue, and it takes much longer time to go
50 through a process. I mean, a smaller group, seven, can act

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1 just as good as ten or fifteen people, so seven I think is
2 suffice enough for a representation for our region.

3
4 MR. KNAUER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members for
5 your information.

6
7 MR. SAMPSON: So with that, what's the wish of the
8 council? Continue to meet?

9
10 MR. GRIEST: Motion to adjourn.

11
12 MR. SAMPSON: Motion to adjourn. We're
13 adjourned.

14
15 (Proceedings concluded at 3:22 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, DEIRDRE J.F. RADCLIFFE, Verbatim Shorthand
Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska,
do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before
me at the time and place herein set forth; that the
proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later
transcribed under my direction by computer transcription;
that the foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken
at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have I any
interest in the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed my seal this day of , 1995.

DEIRDRE J.F. RADCLIFFE
Notary Public for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 5-19-98

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