NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

Kotzebue, Alaska
October 13, 2006
8:30 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Raymond Stoney, Chair
Percy Ballot
Victor Karmun
Joe Arey
Robbie Everett
Attamuk (Enoch Shiedt)
Calvin Moto

Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Armstrong (Acting)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 10/13/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Can I have your attention, please. Can I have your attention. Since it's 8:30, you know, and I know we don't have any coffee here, but I think they'll have to walk out and get your own coffee or something.

So, good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'll call the Northwest Arctic Federal Subsistence Resource Advisory meeting to order at exactly 8:33.

Can we have roll call, Barbara.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Percy Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Ralph Ramoth is excused. Victor Karmun.

MR. KARMUN: Yes.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Joe Arey.

MR. AREY: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Raymond Stoney.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Robbie Everett.

MR. EVERETT: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Attamuk.

ATTAMUK: Here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Calvin Moto should be here. Maybe he will be in late. And Reggie is also excused. You have a quorum, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Barbara. Do we need an excuse for Mr. Ramoth and Mr. Moto? Do we need an excuse for them?

MS. ARMSTRONG: You just need an excuse for -- Ralph and Reggie are excused. Calvin should be here. Has anyone seen him?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. So we don't need no action for.....

MS. ARMSTRONG: No.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you, Barbara.

Okay. Go down to item number 3, welcome. Welcome to Kotzebue. I know that most of you are from out of town, Anchorage or somewhere else. Welcome to Kotzebue.

And with that, with the introductions from the council members. We'll start from Mr. Karmun, down the line, and we'll go to the public. I know you all say your name, but we need the introduction. We'll start from Victor.

MR. KARMUN: Victor Karmun, Kotzebue.

MR. AREY: Joe Arey, Noatak.

MR. EVERETT: Robbie Everett, Kotzebue.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

ATTAMUK: Attamuk, Kotzebue.

MR. BALLOT: Percy Ballot, Buckland.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: I'm Raymond Stoney, I'm from Kiana. And now welcome to -- with that we'll start from the lady and go around with introductions.

MS. DOWNING: Meredith Downing, your court reporter for today's meeting.

MR. LAPLANT: I'm Dan LaPlant with the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette with the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

MR. ARDIZZONE: Chuck Ardizzone from BLM.

MS. AYERS: Lee Anne Ayers with the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge here in Kotzebue.

MS. MORAN: Tina Moran with the Selawik Refuge.

MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson with Western Arctic national park lands.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Way back in the back there.

MS. ORZECHOWSKI: Kathy Orzechowski with the Office of Subsistence Management.

MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz with Fish and Game.

MR. JOLY: Kyle Joly, BLM.

MS. MEYERS: Randy Meyers, BLM here in Kotzebue.

MS. JACOBSON: I'm Shelly Jacobson. I work for BLM out of Fairbanks.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Welcome. Thanks for being at the meeting today. We don't have too much on agenda, but I know some of these members are anxious to go back to their home town, so we'll try to work rapidly trying to get done. Maybe most of you will be on that Alaska Airlines tonight anyway to Anchorage. So we should be done sometime today, but I know most of you will have to spend the night here again, on our next flight tomorrow morning.

So go down to the -- to the Council members here, I know that you've got pass outs. One is in the black one, and one is in your booklet right here. And I just was informed by Barbara that these two are identical, the same, right? You know, the one in the packet and the one in your yellow booklet, they're both the same.

So we've got a few minutes, go through it and see if there are any changes or additions to the agenda.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: If there are no changes or additions, that a motion on the floor to adopt the agenda for today's meeting.

ATTAMUK: Motion to adopt.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion made by Attamuk. Any second.

MR. KARMUN: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Victor. Any discussion on agenda for today's meeting.

(No comments)

ATTAMUK: Question.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been called for. All in favor of adopting today's agenda signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion carried, Barbara.

Okay. Item number 5, review and adoption of the minutes of March 7, 2006. So on your booklet right there you've got the minutes of March 7 meeting. We'll take a few minutes, go through it, then we'll call for a motion from the floor for approve the minutes of March 7 meeting.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. I move to approve the March 7, 2006 minutes.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: What page is that, Mr. Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: March 7.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Page 4.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's your motion?

MR. BALLOT: Yes.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Motion made by Mr. Ballot. Is there a second.

ATTAMUK: I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Attamuk. Any discussion from the minutes from March 7 meeting.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: If there's no discussion -- any further discussion on the minutes of March 7 meeting.

(No comments)

MR. BALLOT: Question.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been called. All in favor of adopting the minutes of March 7 signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion carries, Barbara.

Okay. Item number 6, Council member reports. What we'll do is just go through the Council, and then give us a very brief report what's happening in the villages. We'll start with Mr. Ballot from Buckland. Mr. Ballot, you know that recently this hunting season the caribou has been scarce for your area until about like almost a week ago or so. The caribou as far as I know, they were almost like two, three weeks late. So you can give us a brief report of what's happening in Buckland. Mr. Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: That's true. Well, you know they were a week late, they were still too far up for us

to catch. But right now they're getting some. We're lucky we had the high rain and the water and the snow, so hopefully they're going to be able to reach up there where they're at. Right now there's a few near town that are passing by. But as usual, you've got to watch what you get, because you know how they rut and stuff and get strong.

The other thing is we have a lot of bears again around the area, which has always been a problem.

Wondering where the birds go. Tina and I weren't seeing very much this summer, so that's another question of what's going on in your regions. But otherwise everything else is fine.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Ballot, I'll ask you a question again I asked you before. You know, since the moose population and the season has been closed on the federal land in Buckland area, what is the information on moose in your area? Are there any moose? Did they decrease or increase in your area? Moose?

MR. BALLOT: There's lot, and they're further up. Like you say, you get very few. There's some state lands nearby and they've been getting not as much. Most everybody like caribou.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Mr. Ballot, my final question to you, that like the sport hunter activity. Is there anything happening in this season in your area from south Buckland and north Buckland from non-resident hunters?

MR. BALLOT: Not that I know of. It's too far for us to go, so most of the time we hear what's going on is from here.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: From the reports.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is there any questions to Mr. Ballot from the Council members?

ATTAMUK: I've got one.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

ATTAMUK: Percy, you said there's moose in your region. Are they places where it's hard for planes to land? Is it up the Kobuk where there's willow, you know.....

MR. BALLOT: No, people there.....

ATTAMUK: .....compared to where easy to access, they could hunt for this, or, you know, outside people could get more moose than before, because if you look at it here, at Noatak, places where they can land, there's moose, and places where they could land is a lot less.

MR. BALLOT: Oh, we've got good gravel bars, so they could land just about anywhere. And the water's low all the time up there, so, yeah. But we've been seeing near town a lot here and there all summer long. Of course, when it opens, they're gone. But we've got a few. There's even twins running around, so we've got a few moose.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Any other questions from the Council members to Mr. Ballot.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is there any questions from the public to Mr. Ballot. Any questions of that. You know, we're here to answer what you come up with here, and question to the villages.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: If no questions, we'll go to a popular place, Kotzebue, with Mr. Attamuk we call it. I just say the right pronunciation, right?

ATTAMUK: Yes. I've got hope for you, Raymond, saying it right.

Like anywhere else, caribou was scarce this year. They crossed early. That's just about normal, but they were up above Noatak, and they crossed around my camp, and they just completely stopped. I didn't go much inland like I did last year, but I saw two campers above and I was told by two private planes that there was also campers in front of me toward Red Dog. I couldn't believe that, more toward on Abakasugluk (ph). That's across the bay across here. They were holding

them. And they had caribou. And when my boy and I dragged out little boat up the Aggie, once you make it part way inside, you could go inside. We dragged it. And we saw these two campers had hides outside. That's all we could see, but they were too far for me to walk. And they were in the backside where you can access them with a boat. They could access them with a plane. And they were pretty much nice. But we saw -- we climb one mountain, we look with binoculars, and we could see hides. We got an idea how they were. And I approached them here in town, and they denied it. And I can't really say, because I -- you know, it was at a distance, and what.....

That's problem we're having here, hunters are being dropped off right in the migration route. And my people depend on the caribou on my past surveys, and they've taken 14 just to survive. And a lot of people never get caribou yet. And I'm trying my best to help them right now, and since some of them are working, they're helping me buy gas. And we got lucky around my camp. But they cross in nighttime, I'll tell you that right now. I saw about five different ones early, like at 11:00 o'clock, crossing. And we'd go after them. I'd get my night visions, and we'd watch them. But that's not unusual for them to cross nighttime. They've done it before when they're really migrating. I know they cross nighttime. But this time above my camp there's a mountain. People will know it. And if you look on the other side from the graves, when you walk up, you could see, they would just stop right there and just wait. We watched them. Me and my boy watched them until 10:30 at night. And as soon as it would get dark, they'd just start moving. They'd go straight across. They didn't even stop. We barely caught them. I had to -- we went running down. By the time we get down to the beach, they were in the water already. And so that's not unusual like I say.

But they're changing their patterns in order just to survive. And our people are feeling it. Just people just being dropped off and they're hurting the migration of our caribou. Their routing. And they're changing it.

But this year it's more unusual than before. They're way above Noatak, and they're not down here, because it's been -- it's really warm. It's really warm up there. It's really different this year. So we probably will have by winter caribou are going to be

further up I guess. I don't know. We'll never know. We'll play it by ear. We'll find out this winter.

But I'll tell you one thing. They are feeling it. the people are feeling it. A lot of them never get caribou yet.

That's it. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Attamuk. You know, for the record, we've got the national park superintendent here with us this morning. And thank you very much, George, you know for seeing that number of places in that number of days, so welcome to the meeting. It's nice to have someone from the national park as a superintendent.

Are there any questions for Attamuk from the Council about the report.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from the public for Attamuk about what's happening in the Kotzebue area. I know that this fall you've seen a lot of people in and out of Kotzebue going to all parts of the Northwest Alaska. How much -- have you got an idea -- I know you probably won't have, but I'll ask you the question, how much caribou do you think went through Kotzebue from non-local hunters this season, Attamuk?

ATTAMUK: Well, I went to the airport and watched a couple of times, and I'll tell you one thing. One day I saw four pallets left through Northern Air cargo. I mean, these -- for something unusual, they weren't used for trophy. They were cut to fit the pallets. They were cut probably -- he use them for different reason, and he cut them, and within the pallet I would say, just -- I'm about six feet. They were just below me. Just one day alone. Because I have relatives, they were shipping different boxes, and I went to the airport that day. But I wasn't there all day. And the other time I just saw two pallets leave, one through Alaska Airlines, and one with a freighter, another one, Northern Air Cargo or one of the airlines there.

But I see a lot of people were trying to give meat away. I saw a truck going different houses here in Kotzebue asking if people want meat, and some of them said yes, but they were smart enough to go check.

They were not edible. They were -- like I said, they were bagged in plastic, which never change. That's not going to save them. That's why I would like to see them place in the regulation, that we have a proposal that if they're going to get their game, they need to put it in a game bag, or like us natives. We need to educate them how we preserve ours. I try to age them a little bit, two, three days, but a lot depends on the season. If it's too warm, within a couple days I have them in the freezer. If I could age them a little bit, I'm better off.

But I tell you, that truck load was -- I could easily see about 16 caribou in there. They were boned. Most of them were boned. I did not see a single rib when I looked in the two trucks. Both trucks I checked, I did not see a rib. I saw a lot of blades and a lot of, excuse me, hind quarters. But they were leaving in numbers. Probably getting -- there weren't getting as much as they did like before, because we didn't get.....

In fact, I had two phone calls about just in dumpsters. But the time I get to the dumpsters and get my message, they weren't there. They were already picked up by the city. But one dumpster, I was told by the city here they left the meat and they didn't pick that meat up for a week, because they pick the dumpsters when they're full. It had worms in there, so they had to be in there a while before they could get worms. And this was in September. They were even dropping in the road. So I ask city to put chlorine to kill them, which they did. I mean, it was full. That's how it was.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Attamuk, on the report you gave us, I think we'll go a little more deeply in it on our agency reports. Would that be feasible?

ATTAMUK: Sure.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thanks. Got anything else?

ATTAMUK: No.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Robbie.

MR. EVERETT: Thank you. Just a couple things. I had several people concerned about the warmer temperatures and trying to take care of their meat and

their animals that they had caught.

I've had a couple people approach me about concerns with transporters using subcontractors to transport hunters into restricted areas. And I'm not sure of all the details on that, but they wanted me to bring that up so that that could be looked into. So I guess their understanding was is that transporters that were restricted from certain areas because of past violations were now finding a loophole with subcontracting their clients out to other transporters to put those hunters into previously restricted areas from the -- I guess the transporters with the violations.

I've had several people though comment that there were more bull moose harvested this year than in previous years in their remembrance in the Kotzebue area, so they were happy about that.

Many comments about the positive posters that the Borough put together on the proper care of the meat and warning people of wanton waste and I've seen those all over. In fact, I have several of them hanging in the school, so people were commenting that that was a positive move by the Borough to do that.

All though I've heard some of those same stories that Attamuk was telling, there have been, however, some people reporting that they felt like some of the hunters were doing a much better job with their handling of the meat in the past, and that transporters were -- several of them were being proactive and being helpful. And I'm sure that's true for many of them.

I think that's the end of my report.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Robbie, I think somebody would maybe answer your question about the contractors from the transporters, might have some information. Anybody prepared to give a report on the subcontractors from the guides? Any information from the agency, how we'd handle that? Okay. I think we'll get to you on your report, and then you can answer Mr. Everett's question about those contractors from the guides.

MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Stoney, that will be fine. We'll bring it up during our staff report.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you. Any

questions for Robbie from the Council members on his report.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from the public.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. We'll go down to Mr. Arey. Joe is from Noatak. I know he's got lots to say. Joe.

MR. AREY: Yeah. Everybody's having problem with these transporters and the guides, and just our weather's changing where it's staying warm in the falltime without getting cold like before. So the caribou migration now is coming in real late from the north. And when they do that, we've got this no fly zone on the Noatak from the marsh all the way to Shuplun (ph), and that one is only one month, and then when it opened up, there's no caribou around, and when it's closed up, they just start coming. That one my people didn't like, and they wanted to change that and bring that deal up at least to September so that way they can fill up their freezer. And then they made a proposal, the council made a proposal in my village, and then I gave it to -- or I faxed it to Jim Dau and to Charlie Rigg, but I haven't heard nothing from them, so I don't know what's going to happen there.

Since they're coming late and we're having more problems with transporters and guides coming up. There's tents up there above the canyons with no boat, no nothing. And then when these people go up and see caribou in the hills coming down, they wait there all day, and just wait, and when they come down to the river, ready to cross, somebody from nowhere would start shooting and chase them back up, and they get nothing again. So we're still having problems with these transporters and these hunters, guides bringing them up and just leaving them while these guys are trying to fill up their freezer.

So that proposal they make, I don't know how they're going to do it, but if they need the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council's okay on it, it would help a lot so they can bring the dates up. That way it will give us more chance to get caribou. But even -- very few

people got some up there, and then they're really complaining, because they just go up river with all that gas and go home with nothing. And that gas is what, six, almost $7 a gallon. And then when they go home with nothing, they complain to everybody. So I hope they change that.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Done, Joe?

MR. AREY: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Arey. This proposal that Noatak submitted, would it have to go to the Federal Regional Council also, Mrs. Armstrong?

MS. ARMSTRONG: I think that's the proposal that they were discussing not too long ago. Was it submitted by Noatak IRA?

MR. AREY: Yeah.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. That will come before you at your winter meeting when you discuss the wildlife proposals. Bill Knauer's got it. So it is I think through the Federal Board, too. Unless they also sent it to Board of Game. I don't know. Did they send it to Board of Game or did they send it to the Federal? I know we received one from Noatak IRA.

MR. AREY: Yeah.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. That must be the one that we discussed just before -- prior to coming up here Noatak IRA contacted me about a proposal that they need to come and testify on behalf, and so we had to talk to them and I then Dan got wind of it, too, where we said it will come before this board at your winter meeting in March, so that's when wildlife proposals are discussed before you anyway.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you, Barbara. Mr. Arey, it seems to me like your proposal from the village is being taken care of now from either State and Federal Fish and Wildlife, so you'll be hearing from it then.

MR. AREY: Yeah. It's got August 20 on your last date for proposal. That's why the Council was trying to make it before August 20.

MS. ARMSTRONG: October.

MR. AREY: I mean October 20. Okay.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Okay. That's the one then.

MR. AREY: Yeah. Okay.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: So that proposal, Mr. Arey, is that the no fly zone be from August 20 to October 20, is that what they prefer?

MS. ARMSTRONG: No, closing for proposals is October 20, for wildlife proposals, what he's discussing. And I think they're trying to make some date changes on that proposal, right?

MR. AREY: Yeah. When I talked to Jim Dau, he was saying something about we can't extend it, but we can try bringing the date up, because just warmer climate is keeping the caribous coming in later and later, and if we bring that no fly zone up like with the caribou coming in together, and nobody running up the Noatak on those -- on even that two weeks it would help. That's why they're trying to make another proposal up there to bring the dates up and with the weather or whatever. Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Arey. Is there any questions from the Council to Joe.

ATTAMUK: I've got -- just on behalf of Joe, when I went up the Noatak River just with GPS, where they were crossing was 135 miles from Noatak. That's how far they had to go up this year, up towards Naflik. Me and another guy sat our GPS and we followed it, and he was a few minutes behind me. And that's how far the people of Noatak have to go. And if you average out on gas $5, you know, five gallons an hour, and it takes a few hours to get up there, how much gas they have to use. It's more hardship for them. That's what we're trying to tell you guys, it's getting harder and harder every year to do it for our people. And, Joe, my people, I'm originally from Noatak, and I do get calls and I do talk to them. And if they don't get their fill on the freezers, it's hardship on them. It's not only the gas, the price of hunting, it's the amount of how must it cost to keep their monthly bills going. And it's less food on the table. That's why we need to do something about

these people that are intercepting our caribou. The caribou was put here for the people to start with. It wasn't here just for game. My people hunt for table. They never hunt for game. They have to feed their families. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it, Attamuk?

ATTAMUK: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Something for your information, I think that the information I got concerning the sport hunters and guides, I think that we'll be coming up to a point where we'll be working with the agencies, the Alaska Big Game Commercial Board will be producing some new regulations on the transporters and guides and outfitters. So we'll be hearing a lot of it in the next two or three years, so don't be surprised if it comes before you and we have to bear with it. And that's some very powerful information on the new rules that will be coming concerning the hunters for non-residency, Northwest Alaska.

Anything else, Joe?

MR. AREY: No. But these guys that go hunting up the Noatak, they said they run into some sports hunters up there that are just packing horns and a hind quarter, nothing else. And I know where he come from. Maybe he didn't want to pack them down. But that's -- we're still having problems with those sports hunters, because these people want to go out and get meat for their freezers, and somebody else comes from the Lower 48 comes up here they want a big horn. And I don't blame my people for being mad. And another time this one guy went up the Noatak, he had his two sons with him. He got caribou close and then these three guys come from nowhere and they said, that one's mine. So that guy choose the one that had the biggest antlers. And he didn't argue with him, he just gave it to him. We've got lots of problems with them. It's not only hurting the people in Noatak, it's hurting the whole NANA region, almost all of us, because there's probably more people here from Kotzebue that goes up to Noatak when they hear that a migration is coming down on caribou. And I always hear from different villages to hear they're coming down, so it's hurting the NANA region quite a bit when we get these sport hunters in that don't want the meat, they just want the trophies. We've got to do something about that.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Arey. Anything else? Okay. Thank you, Joe. That's very good information that you gave us.

Now we'll go down to Mr. Karmun. Victor Karmun is originally from Kotzebue, is that correct, Vic? You lived here a long time. I know you're from other place down there, off Candle some place. What's the name of that place you were raised?

MR. KARMUN: Deering.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Not Deering, but further south.

MR. KARMUN: Oh, Haycock.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Haycock. Okay. Mr. Karmun.

MR. KARMUN: Yeah. The state troopers that are here are supposed to be monitoring the airport 24/7. I think they got kind of bored, because sometimes when you go out with your boat and you come back, it's still daylight. I got carded back here in the boat harbor. Luckily before I went out bird hunting that day, I made sure I had all my marbles in one bag up to and including duck stamps, my plug and my shotgun and everything else. After a while I guess they said they dug deep enough and left.

But I also got a warning. I don't have a sticker or an Alaska number on my hull yet, but it will be mandatory after next year -- or next season.

There was a few guys that got citations back there when they would come in and get checked, but I told them, well, maybe it's about time. This is a good wake up call. Anyway, it was a good wake up call for me.

As to caribou, I did very well this fall. The animals were in very good shape, but they only had about one inch of fat on them, and at that particular time in the last week in September, the third and fourth week in September, they should have at least two inches of fat or more. In observing the animals from the vantage point, I'd just go sit and wait, it seemed like they were in a feeding frenzy. As soon as they'd get a full paunch, they'd go find some place to lay down and stay there for quite a while. On the other hand, it

seems to me that -- in talking with Jim Dau, I told him I did see my share of the animals. He said, well, flying up into the Brooks Range, he said his collared ones were still wandering around up inside the Brooks Range. And I said, I possibly just lucked out. Probably the most in one bunch we saw was probably between four and 500. That was a pretty good sized bunch, and it just made the tundra white, mainly because at that time, it seemed like they were all bulls with their white manes.

There was something around there spooking them. There was a world class grizzly bear in that area when we first got there. I don't know if he was still around there or not, but also I know moose don't get along with caribou. And just the other day I was up with Langford Adams at Sevenivuk (ph) and something here again, probably a bull moose, spooked the caribou from crossing. So we just gave it up, and I just said, well, that's good enough for me. I turned around and came back to town.

Kiana, I didn't go past Kiana, but they were crossing pretty good coming down the Squirrel River, and right above the Village of Kiana at that time. But above Sevenivuk on that channel, it seemed like they were crossing more at night than during the day. We'd have to wait. I just picked a good high vantage point and I'd just sit and wait until I could get a good shot at them, and we came back with a pretty good boat load. In fact I had to leave my gear up there and go back and get it later.

That's about it for mine.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Karmun. Any questions from council members to Mr. Karmun.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from the public to Mr. Karmun.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: I guess there's no questions, Mr. Karmun.

MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. To hear

from myself now, that as you heard from the Council members that this year migrations of the caribou herd was pretty much identical to last year. It was late. Otherwise, the caribou that I've seen -- my type of work I do for NANA, I fly the country quite a bit there, there's some went through. We don't know exactly how much, but the first one I see, about like 10 days ago, they were just over on Berry Creek heading for the Koyuk and that area, but they still continue further south. But I just got word yesterday that the caribou were just really crowding around Kiana area quite a bit, so apparently that even today is the 13th, usually they have ice in Kiana. Now it's still warm that everybody's still boating, so we're busy in caribou.

Number 1, my very concern, as probably Ken knows about it, too, like in Noatak, the salmon is so different this year. I see the parts everywhere up at Noatak River, almost like two weeks ago, if you went up and the water was low, there's about like 30 miles of dead salmon. The number of return of the salmon this year I think is a record. Thousands and thousands of salmon up Noatak, and that apparently that nobody just didn't get enough here in Kotzebue even the commercial fisheries. Is that right Attamuk? They did a little bit of commercial fish here this year?

ATTAMUK: Yeah, they did. They done real good earlier, yes.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: And they just handled what they could handled.

ATTAMUK: At limited basis. The timing was so -- within six hours they got record catches this year. Not 24-hour periods versus what hey did years ago.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: So that was a great return for salmon for this area. Because I've heard the national park was up there from Nome and monitoring the salmon also like I was doing.

For the sport hunters and on the area up at the Squirrel, there was quite a few camps, I don't have the exact number of the non-resident hunters, but it was a pretty popular season again for Squirrel River. There was quite a few large camps. However, I think I was not comfortable with some of the sport hunters. They were not successful on hunting, because from their camp the caribou was just 100 miles away. And some were

successful. However, like you said, Mr. Arey, that the sport hunting and the guide and outfitting like in the Noatak Valley at the Squirrel again is a big step. And the people say that they're interfering with the migration of the herd, but within the villages some of these non-resident people go is just miles and miles away.

Just like I said, the caribou was almost identical to last year. They did appear, yes. We all know they did appear, quite a few, and then all of a sudden they stopped in the middle of nowhere. They stayed almost like a day and a half in one certain area, and they turned around, like 180 degree turn and returned back north. That may just be the warm weather, warm spell some place ahead of them, that they know it. They know it more than we do. Now this is in October now, it's almost like freezing conditions to where temperatures are getting lower, they start moving south again. And they'll be quite a bit right through freeze up.

For transporters and the guides, Mr. Arey, that you hear little information on what probably will do with the subcontractors from these guides and outfitters. We'll give you some little information on, you know, what you'll be seeing.

So anyway the moose population in Game Unit 23 north from here and north from Buckland, they're pretty identical compared to numbers. There was a lot of -- there's quite a bit of moose everywhere except unexpectedly there wasn't that many bulls, but there was a lot of cows everywhere. They're pretty healthy moose.

And the black bears and the grizzly bears, the type of work I do, I normally see like 15, 20 bears a day before, I'm lucky enough to see one bear a day, so evidently that -- they say there's a lot of bears everywhere, but I'm not seeing them. I was very concerned about that Noatak River, Mr. Arey, when I see so much salmon dead, I thought I'd see a bear every mile, but I didn't see any at all, so if they're there, maybe they hide from us. So it's something that I'm always very concerned about the salmon, you know, that like I say, like in Noatak, every time I think that there's too much salmon, you can get enough in Kotzebue.

Attamuk.

ATTAMUK: Yeah, since you brought up that fish, I practically lived in camp this summer. I walked about six miles from the mouth of Aggie and almost every trout, this is rainbow trout I'm talking about, they were in high numbers where I could scoop them off just with my hands in the river. I don't care for rainbow trout, but I had to pull them, because I could see where I'm standing at so many sores and sots in them that when I get seven just with my hands, that every rainbow trout had a big black spot, more like aged, and they're not. I see this in the white fish, I see this in the trout, and I see this in the salmon. But more in the rainbow trout than anything else. I'll be -- I get trout like this, and it will be just spots. I counted 11 spots on the back and the belly side just on one. And I put them back in, because I have no reason to -- and I just think this is just a quick examination. And if you walk -- that is unusual, there is so much -- the water is warm. I didn't take the water temp like I usually do in the river, because I didn't have it sent out to have it checked to where it will be real close. So I saw a lot of it this summer. And every time we set net in camp, pretty much half of them we could not eat because they had sores in them. I didn't want to make -- have dried fish up there either from the trout or the whitefish because they all, the majority of them had sores. I even quit setting net. So what I did is I told my boys, and they tried rodding and reeling just for supper, just to change our diet, and it did not work this year.

The fish was there high in numbers, I see them in that little cove that's below me. When they -- before they go up the river, they always stop there. You could see them. And there -- for some reason seals right there were fat. They were getting what they want. Really fat this year. But the seals were down in numbers compared to where they usually be, all the way from my camp up to Eli. I usually see them, but this year the seals were low, but the ones we were watching, when we were in Rock Island, they were really fat. They weren't even scared of us, the seals. They know we were not going to get them.

And since you brought up the local hunters, if I could get my time, maybe we should -- we need to make a proposal to have the agencies, NANA, Maniilaq, KIC, who are landowners here in our region to put money in a pie where we could hire our local enforcers. Because Raymond can't do what he need to do, because he's only watching out for NANA lands. He can't

do nothing with KIC, local land owners, and he can't do nothing with the Park Service lands, he can't do with the other agencies, the monuments.

In order for us to preserve our animals for the future, we need to take it in our own hands to start doing something about it. If we don't, we will have nothing in the future. If you look at it, Alaska versus the other states, they overharvest, and that's what I don't want. I want to preserve it for the future. Our kids need to do it, and they probably will have to survive.

And back to what I could come up with the best so far, we need to have our local agencies, need the park, all different park lands, NANA, KIC and Maniilaq to get together and in drainage have somebody in there, because the state troopers can't go to all our different drainages, Buckland, Selawik, upper Kobuk, lower Kobuk, and Noatak. Maybe if we have somebody out there. And I guarantee you, if we have our local enforcers, if they're really serious about what they need to preserve it, I think they would do a good job enforcing it. Not to do anything like arrest anybody, but give them citations where they have to show up. Limit what they could do so they won't get into trouble, with the right training. It's going to cost money the first year. I think that's what we need to do to do it, because our people are getting tired of it just like Victor and Joe was saying. We're going to have another incident here and it's going to be terrible.

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Attamuk. One more item I want to bring out. It's the hunt license in the villages. There's a few vendors in the NANA region up here that's affective today, but all the villages don't have a license vendor. For instance, if you live at Kobuk and there's vendor up there, if you wanted to go hunt moose tomorrow, and you don't have a hunting license, you've got to pay $520 round trip ticket to Kotzebue just to go get a $5 low income license. $5. So nobody can afford $520, 30 for airfare just to go get the hunting license. Evidently what we're doing now, we're trying to make arrangement the NANA regional resource specialist in each village, see if they could handle this issue on issuing a hunting license, or we can go maybe to the IRA villages, maybe they could administer this, you know, for issuing hunting license. However,

this issue will come to the SRC meeting in Anchorage during AFN. And then I get few reports to the SRCC how we can help fund these villages, you know, to be a license vendor. So like all the people today doesn't want to get into trouble, you know, for not having hunting license or any other harvest report or tickets.

If you -- I know most of the agencies don't know it, maybe the State does now, this year is a record for purchasing hunting license everywhere. I get a report in Kiana that said our vendor in just two weeks he collected $850 from hunting license from Kiana only. That's how good they were, they didn't want to get in trouble with the law enforcement. We all heard that the citations were pretty popular from the state everywhere, not only just in Kiana, not only from the State, not for Park Service. Everywhere they are with airplanes giving citations, so the people was very, very concerned and very alerted this year. The first time in history of my lifetime that they well was interested and be fair with all the agencies, make sure that they had hunting license before they go hunting. However, that was one of my advises in Kiana and Noorvik, that make sure you've got your hunting license. And by next year, 2007, make sure you've got your boat registered. I've registered mine, four years ago, but I renewed mine again this year. So everybody is aware of having their boat registered by 2007.

I think when the agencies for this area up here, that it should be publicized on Arctic Sounder and KOTZ radio for the next 11 months. If you have to do it every week, every month, fine. Just put it on the radio so everybody will be aware of their boat registration in 2007.

And again on the Federal and State side, make sure the regulations should be put to the public concerning bird hunting. I know that one of our people that holds a very high office was given citations for, you know, lawful manner for not paying attention to regulations that are effective today concerning duck hunting. I'm not going to mention no names, but he did have a pretty tough citation. So this should be public, not just in booklet only. If we have to use KOTZ radio and Arctic Sounder newspaper that these things are coming, and we will be aware of it.

Any questions from the Council members.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from the public.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: I know we're on schedule, but we'll continue right on on agenda. It's the Chairman on your item number 7, it's the Chair's report. 805 is on Page 14 is the letter. It's self-explanatory. So if you have any questions, or if anything come up on this 805 letter, if I can't answer the question, I think Barbara behind me or the agencies can answer the question, or if you have any concern about this letter 805.

Any question from the Council on this letter 805.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: If there's no questions, we'll go down to item number 8. It's a proposal, WCR06-27. It's just one proposal. Who's going to handle this proposal. Okay.

MR. LAPLANT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Council. My name is Dan LaPlant with the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. I've got a briefing for you here.

This is not a proposal, this is a review of a closure that is in the regulations for this region. We just want to review that with you.

Section 815, paragraph 3 of Title VIII of ANILCA says that there's basically two reasons that the Federal Subsistence Board can close hunting to non-subsistence users. And that's to provide for subsistence uses by rural residents if the resource is scarce, or for conservation of healthy fish and wildlife populations. So that's in Section 815.3, those two reasons that a closure can be adopted by the Board.

The Federal Board has been very cautious in adopting these closures in the past, and since the program began in 1990, there's been about 30 of them adopted into the Federal regulation. And that's 30 closures, and I think there's probably about 400 hunts in

the Federal regulations for large animals or big game animals, so they've been pretty conservative with using those provisions.

Some of the closures that we have in regulations now have been in place since the beginning of the program, and some of them are more recent. But the Federal program has been criticized for not reviewing these closures. Some them like I said have been on the books for quite a while, and we haven't really looked at them to see if the reasons for adopting them in the first place still exist. The State has asked the Federal program to adopt a policy on closures, and we're going to give you a briefing later on in the day about the status of that policy, but basically what I'm going to tell you is that we don't have a policy yet. So in absence of a policy, what we've decided to do is go ahead and review all the closures that we have in the regulations right now. And we started that process last year. And we did most of them last year, I think we did about 21 of them, and we had about nine left this year. And one of those closures happens to be in the Arctic Northwest -- or Northwest Arctic Region, and that's why I wanted to review that one with you today.

This closure is on Unit 23, Cape Krusenstern National Monument. It's for musk ox. And the review that we have for you is on -- starts on Page 21 of your Council book. What we've done is we've looked at the existing regulation again, and some of the history of when the closure was adopted and the justification for that closure, what the Board decided was the reason for adopting it, and then what the current status of the populations.

So this closure again is for muskox. The muskox season is August 1 to March 15th. This one is a little bit different than the other closures in that it's a closure to other rural residents, other Federally-qualified subsistence users. We used Section -- or the Board used Section 804 as the guidance for adopting this closure. As you know, that this takes place in a national monument, so State regulations don't apply there. So the State hunters, or people hunting under State regulations are prohibited from participating in the hunt anyway. But because of the limited resource, the Board felt that there was a need to limit the number of participants, so they used Section 804 regulations, or Section 804 criteria, to determine whether there was a need to reduce the eligibility, or the number of

participants that were eligible to hunt. So in this case, only residents of Cape Krusenstern National Monument or adjacent areas are eligible to hunt for this muskox hunt.

And you'll see here that the State has regulations for the same population. Again, they don't apply to the monument, but they're hunting the same population, and the State regulations allow for a one bull hunt for the same season, August 1 through March 15.

The proposal that was adopted by the Board was adopted in the year 2005, so it hasn't been in effect that long. This is the second season that that closure is in existence. It was Proposal No. WP05-19. And it was established as the reason for allocation of muskox within the affected area. The proposal was submitted by the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission and the National Park Service.

The justification for the closure was that because a two muskox harvest quarter -- because of that low harvest quota, the Board was forced to allocate opportunity according to Section 804 criteria that restricted access to resident zone community members that did not have a permanent residence within the monument or the adjacent, and I'm not going to try to pronounce the mountain area. I believe that's the Jones Camp area. This criteria narrowed the eligibility for Federal permits to three families and an allocation of two Federal permits.

So that was the justification they used for that closure. The Council supported that decision, they supported that proposal with modification to make those adjustments to just those who live within the monument or adjacent areas, and the State also supported that proposal. Again this was back in 2005.

As far as the current condition of the resource, the current resource abundance related to the management objective, our understanding now is that it still is a small population in the area. It has a slow growth rate. You see the management objectives of the State on the top of Page 22. I'm not going to read through those, but currently we believe that there is less than 400 muskox in that population yet.

Talking to Jim Dau, or information from

Jim Dau, he said that in 2004, there was a survey that provided an estimate of 363 muskox, and then in 2005 their estimate was 369. And we've had some confusion here as to whether there was a survey in 2006. Apparently there wasn't, but the estimate is still less than 400 muskox in that area.

We would like to strike out of this report that first paragraph, the first couple sentences in that paragraph under resource population trend where it says a complete census of the affected muskox population was conducted in 2006. Apparently that's not correct, so we're striking that out.

A little bit farther down you see the results of the 2004 surveys was 44 calves per 100 cows and 60 bulls per 100 cows, so there's information there on the productivity of the population. Again slow growing. A stable population.

As far as the harvest goes, the harvest trend and hunter effort, a correction there. We know how that one muskox, apparently I just learned this morning that we have information that one muskox was harvested last year out of the two permits that were issued. And we don't have any reports, of course, the current season is ongoing, so we have any information on whether anything's been harvested this year or not.

The total allocation for the affected population is eight permits. The State issues six permits for that population in the areas outside the monument. The Federal program issues those two permits. So there's a total of eight permits issued for that population. The total State-reported harvest for 2003/2004 and then 2004/2005, and in the following year 2005/2006, they reported a harvest of zero, three and zero muskox for those three years. So again a total of three muskox out of those, what would be 18 permits I guess. Six permits per year. So very low harvest of this population.

Anyway, Mr. Chairman, our recommendation is to continue the Federal hunt and to continue the closure in this area to those people who are not residents of the monument or the adjacent area. So we're not recommending any changes to this closure.

So this was just presented as a review for you. If the Council agrees, no action is needed. If

the Council believes that a change or modification in this regulation should take place, you should submit a proposal during the call for proposals later on in this meetings. Again, October 20th is the date for submitting those, and you're encouraged to discuss this and make a decision on what you'd like to do with it.

I'd just like to make one more correction. On Page 23 we have an incorrect citation there. That last citation under literature cited lists a citation from Kate Persons, 2005. That's relative to Unit 22 muskox, and that should not have been in here. What we should have done is referenced communications with Jim Dau. And some of the information in the report is through communications with Mr. Dau, so that will be corrected in this document as well.

So, Mr. Chairman, that's all I have. thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: So this proposal doesn't require any action at this time?

MR. LAPLANT: That's correct, Mr. Chairman. This is not a proposal. This is just a review of an existing regulation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Okay. For record, you know, right here in the audience, we get the honorable people that join, it's Caleb Pungowiyi, the coordinator of Northern Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. And we've also got Kim Franklin that works with the Northwest Arctic Borough, and we've got Hazel Apok also from Maniilaq who joined us. Welcome to them. Thank you for joining us.

Any questions to Dan from the Council about this informational type report, this proposal. Percy.

MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering, what's contributing to the slow growth rate for the herd? Do we have an inkling of what's going on?

MR. LAPLANT: Well, no, I sure don't, Mr. Ballot. I'd have too defer that to the local managers or to Jim Dau from the State. I'm not -- I don't have any more information than what we have in the report here. Just basing our information on the surveys that -- data

that we've been provided, so I don't have any answer to that.

MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: All right.

MR. EVERETT: And maybe some of these you won't be able to answer either, but concerns that I had. How many current year residents are residing in Cape -- or over in Krusenstern? Do we know how many there are actually that are considered permanent -- it says permanent year-round residents within the monument? I'm just curious if they have a number on how many.

MR. LAPLANT: I don't have the answer, but I'll bet Ken Adkisson does probably. I know it's very small.

MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Everett through Mr. Stoney, the Chair. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

I don't actually have that number right at hand, but it is very small. It's like around three families and a total of five people.

And the decision to restrict it down to that very narrow pool all went through public review process. This was approved by the SRC, supported by the RAC, supported by the local fish and game advisory committee, and ultimately by the State and Federal agencies. And the basic justification was that those families reside there permanently, are more dependent on the immediate resources of the monument, and don't have opportunities to participate as well in other hunts, like the State Tier II hunt.

MR. EVERETT: Thank you. That was just an informative question. I appreciate your response. The other question I just -- maybe Jim Dau would have to answer this. I'm curious, what is the current bull to cow ratio, and probably along with that, how many or what is the percentage of open cows each year that are not bred and do not calve. I'm just wondering the same question as Percy as to the low growth and if there's any indication of brucellosis or banes (ph) in the herd.

MR. ADKISSON: I'm going to have to be

somewhat speculative, because I don't have that information right at my fingertips, but generally speaking maybe I can address a couple questions at the same time.

And also there are some other errors in the OSM write-up. For example, the 2006. Park Service did conduct in 2006 a census and composition count work within Cape Krusenstern National Monument. And this requirement to deal with State regulations and Federal regulations tends to confuse proposals and things.

But basically what's been going on with those animals is since their reintroduction back in the late 70s, they started out growing at about an eight percent annual growth rate over a few years. That's tapered off. The last few counts that data's available for kind of shows a slight fluctuating population, and possibly some changes in distribution which are not well understood why that's happening. We don't really why they've consistently grown at lower growth rates than some of the reintroduced populations. There's even -- there's been speculation some of that has been due to illegal harvest. My guess is that -- my best guess would be that it's largely habitat related, but we don't fully understand the relationship of the habitat to the response to the animals to it.

We have done some comparative work in the monument looking at some habitat there in relation to some habitat studies in the Deering area, and it would appear that the monument habitat is less quality than what was available in the Deering habitat, so it tends to support the idea that there's some habitat limitation going on.

I don't have the recent composition work material at hand. We'll have more of that for you perhaps at the next meeting. But what I can tell you is there are some gaps in some of the age structure. Basically the results of this year's work in Cape Krusenstern showed pretty good survivability -- pretty good production and survivability of calves this year. Bull/cow ratios are nothing that would suggest a bull/cow problem. In other words, there's not -- there's generally more cows than there are bulls as the population matures, but there's nothing that would suggest you have a bull/cow ratio. These things are sort of like group breeders. Bulls tend to aggregate and collect cows. Most cows under good habitat conditions

will -- when they reach breeding age, quite often a cow will produce a calf a year or every two years for the rest of her life. So you don't really have a whole lot of cows normally not being bred or not reproducing unless you have some habitat factor going on that limits that reproduction.

MR. EVERETT: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Dan. Are you about done with your.....

MR. LAPLANT: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Well, a seat right there. How about from the public about the proposal?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: You know, we need some information, I know, from the National Park already, so -- any from the agencies about this proposal. Any other agencies for Dan.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: From the Advisory Council and from the RAC here, anybody, questions to Dan about this proposal.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, if there's none, I guess you're done. Thank you so much.

MR. LAPLANT: Okay. thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Ken.

MR. ADKISSON: You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. I know that you guys are sitting there with no coffee but that's -- let's take a 10-minute break and you can find your coffee from some place. Take a 10-minute break.

(Off record)

(On record)

(Calvin Moto now present)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: I'll call the meeting back to order. I know we've got coffee over there now. They say it's good coffee, right Attamuk? You say it's good coffee?

ATTAMUK: Good for Raymond, not me.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We're down to item number 9, call for proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife regulations. These proposal will be accepted from August 9 to just a few days from now, October 20th, 2006. So that's just information for you. So we go down the line.

I know that I've got a yellow tag here, that any of you that want to testify, there's some yellow cards over there on the desk. Fill it out and bring it up here. We'll give an opportunity for you to give us a presentation.

Right now we've got information from Mr. Pungowiyi from subsistence I believe working group, Kotzebue here. So it's informational type for all of us, to have Caleb come up and give the information on the proposals that they submitted to this Council for the next meeting. Mr. Pungowiyi.

MR. PUNGOWIYI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the committee.

I'm sorry I don't have a copy of the proposal. I thought it would be here, but I guess you won't take it up until your March meeting.

But my proposal is basically on the grizzly and brown bear regulations where the Federal regs require that you have a registration permit to hunt brown bear. And then under the State regs, any Alaskan resident can hunt brown bear without having registration permit. I guess you still have to pay the $25 tag fee.

But I felt that there was some injustice in that the Federal regs make it, you know, harder for our people to hunt, because you have to go to State offices or wherever the permits are to get a registration permit for Federal lands. And that if we're going to make it easier for our subsistence hunters to be able to hunt the species, we should not make it harder for them,

but rather have, you know, equal opportunity for all concerned. And that's basically what my proposal does, is to remove the required state registration permit under the Federal regulations.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: There will be a number of questions for Mr. Pungowiyi. My question right now would be if the proposal, as we're not aware of it, so if you get the copy of this proposal, Mr. Pungowiyi, it would be nice if you mail every Council member so we an review it for this coming March meeting, so we'll be prepared for it.

MR. PUNGOWIYI: Okay. Your Staff is waving something in the air.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. My.....

MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Yeah, that proposal will be sent to all your Council members. Somebody will get it to them at the office, and they'll make a book and they'll send them out to your council before your next meeting.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. So the.....

MS. ARMSTRONG: So Caleb is just -- he's just the one that sent the proposal in, and then we do the rest of the work.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. I'm not against your proposal, Mr. Pungowiyi, but was that proposal from you or some other organi.....

MR. PUNGOWIYI: Yes, just from me personally. Right.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. That's great. Any questions to Mr. Pungowiyi about the proposal, what you'll be seeing for the next March meeting. Like I said, we'd like to have that proposal so we can review it before our next meeting.

MR. PUNGOWIYI: Sure.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: So I know we'll get it. Any questions for Caleb from the Council members?

MR. BALLOT: No, Mr. Chairman. Just that it sounds good to me.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Good. Any other questions from the Council for Mr. Pungowiyi before he leaves.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, thank you, Caleb.

MR. PUNGOWIYI: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Ken.

MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Fellow Council members. I'm Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

Since we're talking about a proposal that we haven't seen actually, or you haven't seen, this is sort of hypothetical. But I want to clear up a couple things, and you'll see all this again when it comes out in the staff analysis and so forth, so this is just informational. It will be short.

The brown bear regs in Unit 23 are a mess. Everybody recognizes that. There's general sport hunting regulations, and there's subsistence hunting regulations, and these have different requirements. Caleb's proposal addresses subsistence regulations and tries to equate them with the general sport hunting requirements which are currently under the State. One bear a year, no tag fee is required, and you have to have the bear sealed. And basically you don't have to salvage the meat, but you can keep the skull and the hide.

As you all know, the subsistence regulations are very different. The State has liberalized their bear regulations to the point where as Mr. Pungowiyi says it's almost easier to hunt under the general regulations than it is under the subsistence regulation. However, there's been discussions on the State side of doing away wit the subsistence regulation, and they don't intend to do that.

Also, the permit requirement is the only way that we know who's hunting and get a report back on the harvest. So biologically, and from a management point of view of brown bears, even though it seems to be

more inconvenient, the State has no intention of doing away with their permit requirement. So it makes us hard on the Federal side to support doing away with the permit requirement and the reporting requirement.

The general regulations that now make it seem so easy do not apply on park lands like Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National Park. State regulations don't apply. Currently therefore we're looking at a way, and we don't have an answer for it yet, but we may wind up submitting our own bear proposal to where we try to address the conservation and the reporting and the management concerns, get make it easier for the subsistence user, and eliminate what we have long said is a problem with essentially sport hunting for bears in Krusenstern under the guise of subsistence.

So that's all I've got on bears and you'll see it all come out again, but I just wanted to give you a head's up that we're looking at a pretty complicated situation.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Ken. Anything, Barb?

MS. ARMSTRONG: No.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We'll go down our agenda on item number 10, the Regional Council Charter, so I think we've got Mrs. Armstrong here with this. Is this informational type or just action type or what is it?

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Da-gu. It's so good to be home.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. I'll tell you what, you know, for the record before we get going, I certainly want to thank Calvin. Calvin Moto has just joined us, you know, from his funeral trip to Nome, and then now he is with us today, for the record.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Welcome, Calvin. Welcome.

MR. MOTO: Pardon?

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Welcome to our meeting, Calvin. Welcome.

MR. MOTO: Yeah, I'm sorry. You'll have to pardon my tardiness, but I didn't find out until after I talked to Michelle that my grandchildren wanted me to come down to Nome for the funeral of their auntie, because their mom couldn't make it. So that's why I'm late today. I tried to get here as fast as I could this morning, so.....

And the only thing we have like in Deering, we had a pretty successful moose hunting as far as I know. And we had -- they've been getting their caribou every other week. A lot of the men are working, so they only hunt on Sundays now.

We didn't harvest very many salmon this year, because most of the people that did fish were working seven days a week this summer, because they wanted to get some of the stuff done before. So we had -- but we did take out a bunch of kids to harvest for elders and stuff like salmon, you know.

We still see a lot of muskox, but not as many as -- they don't come down as much as they did before. Maybe they're getting used to the bears, I don't know.

So other than that, I don't have very much to report for Deering, but that's pretty much what we've been doing this past -- since the last meeting.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Moto. Thank you very much. Barbara.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. On Page 24 is your charter. And every two years we do make some changes on the charter that the Councils make -- or request on to make changes on the charter, and this is the year that if you have any changes that you want to make on the charter, your last chance will be at your winter meeting. So this is just like a head's up for you to be thinking on if there's anything that you would like to make changes on your charter. And that's it.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Any questions to Barbara on the charter.

(No comments)

MS. ARMSTRONG: Thanks.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you very much, Barbara.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: We're down to item number 11. The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. I think we have Amy. Oh, Amy's all ready.

MS. CRAVER: Good morning, Council members and Chairman Stoney. For the record, my name is Amy Craver, and I work as an anthropologist for OSM's Fisheries Information Service.

And I will be presenting to you the 2007 Fisheries Monitoring Program for the Northern Region. The materials I'll be covering can be found on your Board books on Pages 27 through 45.

This report is organized into three sections, the first beginning on Page 28 provides you with a summary of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program statewide. The introduction discusses the history, procedures used to evaluate projects and policy and funding guidelines.

On Page 31, Table 1 provides a breakdown of the number of investigation plans received for funding consideration in 2007. You will note that the projects are summarized by stock status and return projects which are biological studies like escapement weirs, towers and tagging studies, and harvest monitoring, and traditional ecological knowledge studies that deal with how subsistence users interact with the fish resources. The last three columns reflect the recommendations made by the Interagency Technical Review Committee.

Total funding for 2007 was $3.9 million. The total cost for all 37 projects submitted was $4 million. And the cost for the 35 projects recommended would be $3.8 million.

Figure 1 on Page 32 shows the distribution of funds between Alaska native, State and Federal organizations.

The draft resource monitoring plan for the Northern Region, beginning on Page 33, discusses the issues and information needs that went out in the 2000 (sic) call in November of 2005. The Seward Peninsula and the Northwest Arctic Councils have identified salmon and char fisheries as being the most important fisheries for their region.

Table 1 found on Page 34, lists 24 projects that have been funded for the Northern Region since 2000. One of these existing projects will continue in 2007 in your region, and this project is titled Exploring Approaches to Sustainable Fisheries Harvest Assessment in Northwest Arctic. And I believe Jim Magdanz will be providing an update on this project in his report later.

Fourteen projects were originally submitted for the entire Northern Region in 2007. The Technical Review Committee reviewed these original proposals and suggested that four be fully developed for investigation plans. Table 2 found on Page 35 provides a listing of the proposed funding by project. Table 3 on the same page lists local hire and matching funding proposed by each project.

The Technical Review Committee listed its priorities for funding of the projects at the top of Page 36. The priorities are listed from the highest to the lowest at the -- from the highest to the lowest. However, the final recommendation was to fund all four projections that were submitted for the Northern Region. More detailed descriptions of each of these projects and the Technical Review Committee's recommendations are found on Pages 38 through 45.

And the four projects recommended for funding are as follows. There was only one for this region, and this was called the Northwest Alaska Subsistence Fish Harvest Patterns and Trends, and this project is being proposed by Jim Magdanz of Fish and Game and Hazel Apok from Maniilaq. And this traditional knowledge project will explore subsistence fish harvest patterns and trends in six Northwest Alaska communities of Ambler, Kiana, Kobuk, Noatak, Noorvik and Shungnak.

And then the following two projects that were recommended by the Technical Review Committee are from the North Slope Region, and those are titled the North Slope Dolly Farden Genetic Baseline Completion, and

this is a continuation project, and then the Hulahula River Enumeration of dolly Varden. And then finally there was one project that was recommended for the Seward Peninsula, and that was the Unalakleet River Chinook Salmon Radio Telemetry project. And there's executive summaries of each of these projects in your Board books if you want to find additional information out about them.

So that's basically all I have, and are there any questions.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions or comments, if there are any, from the Council members. Time to ask her now.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. Yes, I was just wondering, are any of these studies going to be about the health or what Enoch was talking about, on the abnormalities of trout or whatever in our region?

MS. CRAVER: Well, unfortunately our program doesn't really look at abnormalities of fish. We're mostly looking at numbers. That's kind of a different, maybe like EPA or some other, but we don't really specifically look at abnormalities of fish. Perhaps, you know, that might come up with Jim and Caleb's project, going around to different communities and finding out about, you know, harvest levels and sort of what affects those harvest levels, but in terms of actually knowing specifically what's going on with the abnormalities, unfortunately, no.

ATTAMUK: On the future proposals, can we change for the ab -- it's happening more and more. I know it's not in yours, but maybe you could get together with someone that worry about the health of the fish, because it's happening more and more every year. Because in the future we need to have a proposal to do a study to see what's going on with our fish. We need to know, because -- and before after. If we don't collect this before, we'll never know if there's major change in the future. Go ahead, Jim.

MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes, you may.

MR. MAGDANZ: I'm Jim Magdanz with Fish and Game, Subsistence Division.

We do routinely ask on our fish surveys, and we're adding now to our comprehensive surveys questions that ask people to report to us abnormalities. So in terms of documenting what people see, we will do that, and we are doing that already.

The other half of that, the biological half is the part that isn't covered by your program, where they actually -- the fish pathologist would study the fish to see what's causing the abnormalities that are being reported. So we do track abnormalities, but when -- but we don't in our program study the fish themselves to try to explain the abnormalities. We do have pathologists in the department that can test fish if they're turned into us.

So that's what we are doing. It's not as much I think as Mr. Ballot would like us to do, but we're doing what we can within the boundaries of the FIS program.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

MR. BALLOT: Sometime in the future I think it might be good to wonder what's on the food chain for the fish out here in the ocean, if there's some way some of these studies can be looked at, because we're kind of noticing that we've seen more seabirds near further up than where they usually are in our rivers, like the puffins and crow bills, and I was wondering what's going on out there.

MR. MAGDANZ: Well, Mr. Chair and Mr. Ballot, the Kotzebue IRA has funding from NSF and they've been working with Eastern Carolina University on a really interesting study that looks at the food web in Kotzebue Sound. And they were just here in town about a week ago, and they've had a public meeting about their results. So they haven't published yet, but they should be publishing fairly soon on the results of that study. So there is some work underway on that subject right now.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Moto.

MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair. I wonder if -- you know, I brought up this issue about the high amount of mercury that was found in our mines. And the people are concerned about the salmon, because right about half a

mile up where they spawn. And then we've been getting some salmon with bad insides, you know. We don't know whether it's from the effects of the mercury or whether it's from -- because I know we had to destroy a lot of salmon that we caught, you know, too. I was wondering who would we approach to try to get some testing down on some of our fish that come back, or -- because we know there's a lot of fry come out of there, but we don't know how many actually get affected by that mercury. So this is kind of a concern with our people, because -- we also get a fair amount grayling up in that area and ling cod. But people haven't been getting too many, because they were afraid, because they're right below -- they go right below where the mercury was found. We've had two proposals to try to clean it up, but so far all they've been doing is talking, you know. We're trying to find out ways and fundings for that testing of the fish, and who would we approach, State or Fed?

MR. MAGDANZ: Well, the State -- this is Jim Magdanz again. The State Department of Environmental Conservation does contaminants testing on fish, so that's the agency that would do it. And pathologists in our department can look at diseases, but contaminants is not their thing.

MR. MOTO: Because even when we cut it up and cook it for dogs, they won't eat it. They'll just tip over the pot and walk away from it, so there must be something wrong with that fish.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Concerning salmon, you know, the way I see it, that we cannot control the migration of the fish, of any kind of fish or anywhere around the world. That this year again I'll bring it up again, that the returns of the salmon, I don't know what kind of salmon are there, but I see from the air the returns of the salmon in Noatak River are tremendous, heavy, because if you was up there in the Noatak River, about 30 miles of the river was full of salmon. I know, like I said, we just can't control them, so it would nice if somehow that, Amy, if you ever get up to Noatak and examine these salmon, the way they look, they weren't that old when seen from the air, and they were -- you know, that's their harvesting area, the returns of this salmon was very, very high. This is the first time in the records of my career, the work I do in the Noatak, it was a record of return of salmon in that river, because there were thousands of salmon dead up there. So apparently they looked good, but -- it would

be nice to go up there that time of the year, and then at least take some sort of sample or information, you know, why they spawn so early and then just died, so it would be something to look into in the future. I don't know what's going to happen next year, but this year was a record.

Any further questions to Amy from the Council.

MR. MOTO: One more.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Moto.

MR. MOTO: I've got one more thing. Also our Smith Creek, where the whitefish to go spawn has been terrible. In the last three, four years we saw a big decline on the harvesting of whitefish. We go out, try to fish whitefish and all we get is trout nowadays. We don't get as many. We were known at one time to have a lot of whitefish, too, you know, but the creek that they go up, if you -- even now, if you fall in, you have to take a shower right away, because otherwise you get a rash on your legs and stuff like that. So that creek has to be tested. It used to be kind of clear. Now it's really brown and brackish and oily feeling, you know. And -- but the whitefish go up that creek. And so I think this has been a concern with the people, because we like to have whitefish once in a while. So nowadays we have to buy it from Kobuk River or some place.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Moto. Any further questions to Amy from the Council members?

MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: That traditional knowledge, we only had one in our region funded? Traditional knowledge, ecological knowledge, only one for our region? Or we have -- of the '07 proposal?

MS. CRAVER: There was -- Mr. Ballot, there was one traditional ecological knowledge project that was submitted for the Northern Region, and that project was recommended for funding by the Technical Review Committee. And that one is the Northwest Alaska Subsistence Fish Harvest Patterns and Trends project.

And so I guess what I need from the Council is an action item in terms of whether or not you support the recommendation of the Technical Review Committee. And you can do this in two different ways. You can either just decide that you want to either support or not support the recommendation for the project that was recommended for your region, or you can make a recommendation to support all the projects that they recommended for the entire Northern Region. Sometimes Councils want to only make a -- recommend projects that are only in their particular region, and other times they want to support the recommendation for the entire Northern Region. So it's up to you.

ATTAMUK: So the exploring the approach, this one here, the last one, is the only one left we need to put a motion on for.....

MS. CRAVER: No, the exploring approaches project is already funded and is in the process of -- it will be going on for another year. So that one's already -- we're just talking about for 2007. So the projects -- so you'll see on Page, let's see, 38 through 45 are the projects that are being submitted for 2005 (sic) for funding. Well, all of them were recommended by the Technical Review Committee. And as I said before, there was one project, the Northwest Alaska Subsistence Fish Harvest Patterns and Trends project that was recommended for this region. That was the only project that was submitted for this region, and the only one that was recommended by the TRC.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else for Amy from the Council members.

MR. MOTO: One more, yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Moto.

MR. MOTO: I have a report on our economic development meeting we had in April, and some of these issues came up. If you would like a copy of it, I have a copy here, and you could make some copies and read that economic development.

MS. CRAVER: Sure.

MR. MOTO: Because it shows the concern of the species we have, you know.

MS. CRAVER: Oh, that would be great, yeah.

MR. MOTO: It's a long report. We had about five, six days of meeting with the economic development people. I'll see if I can make some copies for you all.

MS. CRAVER: That would be great.

ATTAMUK: So you want us to put a proposal -- or make a motion to adopt whatever the proposal are out there as a group or individually?

MS. CRAVER: Well, it's.....

ATTAMUK: Maybe it's better off just doing it as a group, because I've pretty much reviewed this when it was sent to me of all. I understand what's going on on these. I don't know about the rest of the Board here.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Do you want this action now, or just.....

MS. CRAVER: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

MS. ARMSTRONG: You need to clarify to them which reach regions you are talking about, Amy.

MS. CRAVER: Well, it's really -- it's up to you.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Is it for this region? It's for Unit 23?

MS. CRAVER: Okay. It's up to you as a Council. You can either make a motion to support all four projects that were submitted and recommended by the TRC, you can make a motion to recommend each project individually, or you can make a motion just to support the project.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: All four?

MS. CRAVER: .....that was recommended for your particular area. So it's either all four, or make four separate motions, or just a motion on the project that was submitted for this area, and then take no action on the rest of the projects that were submitted

for North Slope or Seward Pen.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Take the second one.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. What's the wish of the Council? Take them individually or you make a recommendation to all four projects? A motion on the floor.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

MR. BALLOT: I think all studies, when we say Northern Region, I think some of the fish that go up that way come by here, and some of the fish that are down by Nome area are coming this way, so I would have no objection. I'd just move to approve and support all seven. Was it seven?

ATTAMUK: Four.

MS. CRAVER: Four.

MR. BALLOT: Four for.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. All four. You make a motion to support all four projects?

MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Motion made by Percy. Is there a second?

ATTAMUK: I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second by Attamuk. Any further discussions.

MR. BALLOT: Just that, Mr. Chairman, I hope we see more studies, traditional knowledge of other species in our region also in the future.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. Any further discussions.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'll second.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Did you call for

question?

MS. ARMSTRONG: Who was the seconder?

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk seconded it. We're on discussions.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Are you ready for the question.

MR. EVERETT: Call for question.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been called for. All in favor of adopting all four projects signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any objections.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: The motion's been carried.

MS. CRAVER: Okay. Thank you. And then just in closing, I wanted to let the Council know that a tentative to develop a strategic plan for the Northern Region is sort of in the works, and we'll probably be starting that plan and working with the Councils and various entities maybe beginning 2008. So that's something that will be in the future. But we've completed the strategic plans for the Bristol Bay, Southcentral, Southeast and the Kodiak/Aleutians, and there are plans that are underway for the Yukon and Kuskokwim. Other working groups are sort of working on that strategic plan. And then we're -- we've got the Northern Region to finish up. So that will be in 2008.

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's informational?

MS. CRAVER: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you, Amy. Thank you very much.

Okay. We'll go to item number 12, the annual report. This has been going for quite some time now. The annual report, you know, that it was delayed, and I think maybe Barbara will give a little explanation about annual report. Okay. Barbara.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: I know they were a little bit late, but, you know, we apologize for being late, but, however, you know, that I know we've got pages of the panels, all our minutes and our report to the Federal Board of Game. Barbara.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yep. Yep. Mr. Chair, annual reports are sent in from you every year, and if there are any issues that you guys bring up. And the other Councils that I work with like Seward Pen and North Slope include fish studies like in their rivers and stuff, if there's any sports fishing and stuff like that, they do include fishing, fish studies that are done, because there are some people that do some fish studies in your regions, and then we can get reports from them to get you updated, and they always be updated every meeting. And through the annual report, you can make that request. And any concerns that you have in your areas, like with bears or moose, caribou and whatever concerns you have, if you guys would forward those to your coordinator, then she would write up that letter for you to approve at your winter meeting. And then this way the Federal Board will know what kind of concerns you have in your region. And that's what the annual report is. So if you have any in the meantime while this meeting goes on today or after, you can come forward, come to me and then give me a list and then I can bring it forward to Michelle.

MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Moto.

MR. MOTO: I remember the report, and I had written down some comments, but I lost the report and the comments I was going to -- because I remember off the top of my head what I was going to bring up, but maybe I'll send a copy to you.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. You can fax it.....

MR. MOTO: Yeah.

MS. ARMSTRONG: .....to our fax number and direct it to Michelle, and she'll get it, and then she can include that when she does your annual report. Ta-gu.

MR. MOTO: Because I read everything I get.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Before you go, on these annual report, you know, that they've been collected by -- you know, from all the villages, and they come back to me for my signature for our annual report, which is pretty accurate.

Any questions to Barbara on these annual reports. Percy.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Can we do a -- what was Enoch saying earlier about all the -- we do studies on subsistence catch and so when are we going to see sports hunters catches or whatever.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Like this -- would that be subsistence use amount, somebody? Is that what he's referring to?

MR. BALLOT: No, I'm talking the horns and all that kind of stuff. What's the catch of all these hunters that come around to our region? Is that.....

MS. ARMSTRONG: You mean harvest reporting?

MR. BALLOT: Is that harvest reports? Yeah.

MS. CRAVER: I think in the spring we'll get a report from the agencies.

ATTAMUK: Springtime.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. The agencies at your winter meeting will give those reports. They give those reports at your winter meeting.

MR. BALLOT: All right. That's fine.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Because they're still ongoing right now collecting information, and then they'll turn it into a report.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you, Barbara.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Go down to agency reports. A would be U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Subsistence Management. Who's going to do that? Dan.

MR. LAPLANT: Well, Mr. Chairman, again for the record, my name is Dan LaPlant. Excuse me.

Mr. Chairman. Before I do that, if I could ask the Council to go back to the call for wildlife proposals. I just happen to have a comment there to make.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

MR. LAPLANT: If we could. You kind of went by that kind of fast, and I was going to mention some things.

You have the proposal from Mr. Pungowiyi on bears. And I heard earlier in the discussion the request that was submitted for changing the controlled use area in the Noatak that was submitted to the State and apparently submitted to the Federal Board. I haven't see that proposal some through our office, but I probably will see it.

I just want to say that when folks request a change in a controlled use area, usually that action needs to be taken by the State first. The Federal Board when they've received those type of proposals in the past, they've deferred action until after the State addresses it, because it wouldn't be productive for the Federal Board to initiate a controlled use area before the State did, because under the Federal regulations, only the rural residents would be affected by it. So you'd have a situation where only Federal hunters would be restricted, you know, by that regulation, and the sport hunters would not be. So in the past, every time a controlled use area request has come before the Federal Board, they've asked that it be deferred until after the State takes action. So I encourage you to focus on the

proposal to the State. And I know the State, the next time they address proposals for this region will be next year in November. They are meeting in Anchorage in March to address a proposal for Southcentral Alaska. You could submit this proposal and submit an agenda change request to the Board of Game asking them to address this issue if you feel that it's that urgent. But again I just want to make the point that it's important that the Board of Game or the State address this issue before the Federal Subsistence Board does.

The only other thing I wanted to mention is we did receive some other proposals from this region in OSM here over the last couple weeks. I've got four of them here that came from the Native Village of Kotzebue Council. One is asking for a beaver hunting season. One is asking for a -- or changing the red fox hunting season. Another one is asking for a muskrat hunting season. And this one's asking for changes to the Arctic fox hunting season. So we have those four proposals that we'll be doing analysis on, and will be brought back to you at the winter meeting. I just wanted to let you know that.

That's all I have, Mr. Chairman, on wildlife proposals.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for Dan here from the Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That hunting on beaver, what -- that came from what region?

MR. LAPLANT: All four of these proposals came from it says the Native Village of Kotzebue Council, and Alex Whiting is the contact person named. And they were all submitted for Unit 23. They were all submitted to OSM here within the last couple weeks.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: I'll tell you what, we need hunters everywhere in Unit 23 on beavers. We need hunters everywhere. Any question to Dan.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: So you're covering all, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 on your report?

MR. LAPLANT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Under the Federal.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Some of them are informational?

MR. LAPLANT: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

MR. LAPLANT: The first one is the proposed rule on review of rural determinations.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

MR. LAPLANT: That's on Page 46.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: 46?

MR. LAPLANT: Yes, 46 of your book. The Federal Subsistence Board is seeking Council recommendations and public comments through October 27th on a proposed rule that would change the rural or non-rural status of several Alaska communities. There are no changes proposed for communities in Northwest Arctic Region, so this might not be an item of high interest to you, but they are proposing several changes in other areas.

The Board is going to make their final decision on the rural at a public meeting in Anchorage December 12th through the 13th. Public testimony will be taken at that meeting and all Council chairs are invited to attend that meeting in Anchorage.

And I'm not going to read through this whole briefing for you, again because there's no changes proposed for the Northwest Arctic region, but there's criteria identified in here as to what the Board uses to make rural and non-rural determinations.

And then on Page 47 it identifies the changes throughout the state that they are proposing to make. For example, they're proposing the Prudhoe Bay area be changed from rural to non-rural. Point McKenzie outside of Anchorage, they're proposing that that be grouped with Wasilla and Palmer and be changed from rural to non-rural. And a couple communities around Homer and Kenai, Sterling are on there. Adak, they're proposing that Adak be changed from non-rural to rural. That's the

only one that would be going in the rural direction. Kodiak, the City of Kodiak and the areas around the City of Kodiak, Mill Bay, the Coast Guard station, Women's Bay, Bell Flats, those areas are being proposed to be changed from rural to non-rural. And then some areas out side of Ketchikan.

So anyway, Mr. Chairman, those are what the Federal Board has proposed through this process. This process started several years ago, and it's required under Federal regulations that these be reviewed every 10 years following census reports. And again, the final decision will be made in Anchorage December 12th through the 13th, and Council Chairmen are invited to attend.

And then following on Page 49 is the Federal Register notice that notices that proposed regulation that they'll be taking action on at that meeting.

Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Any question to Dan from Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's.....

MR. LAPLANT: Okay. The next item on the list is Council composition update. And these are just provided for your information only. And again I won't read through these in detail. You've had an opportunity to read through them. But this just pertains to the issue that I know you're all aware of, this 70/30 Council composition rule that the Board has been following here in the last few years.

There's been a lawsuit and the courts have stated to the Federal Board that the 70/30 rule, they have concerns about it not being implemented through the rulemaking process, and that other alternatives were probably not adequately considered. So the Board has decided to take some steps here to address that, and those steps are listed in these three bullets.

They're going to publish a 30-day notice in the Federal Register that explains the current situation and the rationale for the 70/30 rule that exists right now. Again the 70/30 rule is 70 percent

subsistence representatives on Councils, and 30 percent commercial/sport. But go through the explanation of why that rural is in place and then ask for alternative plans or alternative ways to obtain a balanced representation on the Councils.

Okay. We'll be going through the steps and coming back to the Councils in your March meeting with recommendations or an opportunity for the public and the Councils to provide recommendations to the Board.

So that's just an update to let you know what's going on with that issue. Any questions on that.

(No comments)

MR. LAPLANT: Okay. The next item on the list, on Page 58, a draft closure policy. The Board was working on a policy that addressed when some of these closures to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users that we have in regulation, when they would be reviewed or when they would be even implemented. And as I mentioned before when we reviewed the one on muskox in Cape Krusenstern, the bottom like is that the Board has not adopted a policy yet. They brought a draft policy before the Councils here at the winter meeting last March and received comments. Also received comments from the State and comments from the Solicitor's Office. And the bottom line is the Board is still working on that policy. So we don't have a policy to provide to you or let the public know about at this time.

Any questions on that.

(No comments)

MR. LAPLANT: Okay. The next item is the draft subsistence use amounts protocol. And this draft protocol was brought before the winter Council meetings last March, and many of the councils raised some serious concerns about some of the State's amount necessary for subsistence numbers and the implementation of using those numbers for management. The Federal and the State agencies have been discussing this further. But at this time we've kind of reached an impasse, and we haven't gotten any further guidance from the Board as to where to go with this amounts necessary/use amounts -- subsistence use amounts is the term, with where to go with that protocol. So we have nothing further to report, just other than to say that we don't have a new draft for you

since the one you saw last March.

And then the final item here is the draft customary and traditional use policy. The purpose of this policy is to develop a clear written explanation of the Board's C&T use determination process. In recent years the Department of Fish and Game has expressed concerns about some of the Board's C&T findings, and that they could create a larger pool of users, which could restrict non-subsistence users. So the Staff has been examining various options in developing this policy. The goal is to have a policy ready for review by the Councils during the winter of '07 meetings. But in route to doing that, there's been a lawsuit that we've received from the State of Alaska concerning some C&T findings that the Board adopted for Unit 12 for moose C&Ts for the Chistochina and Mentasta area. And this has complicated the process of developing the policy. We have put together some records and some C&T decision files, and submitted them to the Ninth Circuit Court for this lawsuit, and that's where we stand with that. So the development of that policy is sort of put on hold until we see where this lawsuit is taking the issue. So we don't have anything to report there either. So that concludes that item.

And I think the final item on the list here is on Page 59, the Secretarial position (sic) on hunting licenses. Secretarial, excuse me, petition on hunting licenses. And this is from the Southeast Council.

The Federal Subsistence Board approved distributing a petition from the Southeast Council to all the other Councils regarding the requirement that subsistence users use a State hunting license. And the Southeast Council is recommending to the Secretaries through this petition that the rule be changed and require a Federal hunting license instead of a State hunting license. And so they've asked the other Councils to comment on their petition to the Secretaries.

And so the letter that explains this, their petition, and their logic for the change is contained on the following pages. Hopefully you've had a chance to look at this, but they would like you to comment an they will include your comments in their petition to the Secretaries.

The Secretaries are the ones that have to

make the decision on this. It's a rule that's contained in subpart (a) of the Federal subsistence regulations. So the Federal Subsistence Board doesn't have the authority to make this decision. It has to go to the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Interior.

So they're requesting that again the rule that requires a State hunting license be removed and that a Federal hunting license be issued. And I'd just welcome some questions, and ask you to provide a comment that we'll carry back and provide to the Southeast Council for them to include into their petition.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: So I need some clarification on this hunting license for the State and Federal. Now, my question would be, is there any conflict between the State and the Federal if Federal takes over the hunting license? I mean, what -- I mean, I need some clarification. How are they going to work that out?

MR. LAPLANT: Well, that is good question.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: I mean, the State decide to turn it over to the Federal?

MR. LAPLANT: That is a good question, Mr. Chairman. As we see it, if a Federal hunting license was required, it would only apply to Federal lands, so a hunter would have to have a.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: On Federal land?

MR. LAPLANT: .....would have to have a Federal hunting license when hunting on Federal lands.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Otherwise you will have two hunting license, one in the State land and one in the Federal.

MR. LAPLANT: That's correct. You'd have to have two hunting licenses.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: And that would cost more money. Let's say $20 for this one on the State and $40 on the Federal? That's how it's going to work?

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yep. That's right.

MR. LAPLANT: That's possible. It depends on what decision the Secretaries -- if the Secretaries decided to issue a separate federal hunting license, and whether they would charge for that or not, that's the decision they would have to make. But it would have to -- it would require then that you would have to have two hunting licenses if you're going to hunt on both Federal and non-Federal lands.

Now, this isn't probably such a big issue in Southeast Alaska, because most of the land there is Forest Service land.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Forest Service, yes.

MR. LAPLANT: They have corporation land, so there are private lands there, but by far the majority of their lands down there that's they're subsistence hunting on is federal land. So that's the way they're viewing it. But I think it would -- personally I think it would be more of a problem for other regions of the State.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Moto.

MR. MOTO: One thing I know about is the concern about getting the State license. I know that if they show just cause why they should have to pay minimal amount, say 50 cents, 75 cents for a hunting license, if they have -- if they meet the guidelines, they could get that, and I don't see why a hardship would be on getting their license like that. Because if you're going to go out and buy a pack of cigarettes for $7, surely you could afford a 75-cent hunting license if you show just cause on why you need to get that license. I know that there are some people that I know that's got their license for 50 cents because they qualified for it. State license, you know. And I'm trying to figure out why they would -- maybe they are not -- they don't know about this, but I know that the -- that's how it -- and I know most of the people, if you're an elder, you can get one for free for life after that, you know. I've got one. And I hope to be able to use it for another 40 years. But, you know, this is something that I have kind of a hard time figuring why -- where it would be such a hardship on it. Because you've got to have a hunting license anyway if you're going to hunt on State lands.

MS. ARMSTRONG: But you'll also need to carry a Federal license. That's two license that you have to mess with.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Now, on these hunting license, of course, we all know the State issued a permanent hunting license to any thing that -- if you're over 60. Now, would that also work with the Federal the same way? Let's say I'm 60 years old, 65, do I get a permanent hunting license from the Federal, if I wanted to hunt in the Federal land?

MR. LAPLANT: Again, Mr. Chairman, seeing the Secretaries haven't received this petition yet, and they haven't given any consideration to even developing a Federal license, there's been no rules established as to how it would be applied, how much it would cost, you know, how long it would be good for. So none of this has been worked out yet.

So if you wish to make some comments as to whether, if it does pass, it should have some specific guidelines, or some specific rules, I'm sure they would welcome those comments. but at this time, you know, there is no Federal license requirements, so there are no rules or process in place.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: In the future on this, having two hunting license, it's going to be very, very complicated and it's going to be confusing, I can see it already. Now, if the Federal and the State want to have two separate license, I think the State -- or the State or Federal should go there and put them boundary lines so we'll know which is State and which is the Federal. Otherwise I might my moose within half a feet away from the State line was close -- or half a feet away is open. So otherwise that would be a very complicated issue in some rural areas that's not aware where the lands are at, the State is here and the Federal are here. So, you know, to me, it's going to be very confusing for a while unless somebody put some identification in these lands, like put a big mark or something saying that, hey, you're on the State land. Right now you're at the Federal lands. It would be nice to know where you're at so we don't get into trouble.

MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman, from my knowledge most of the other regions that have commented on this have had the same concerns that you're expressing right now, that it would be much more complicated to have

a separate Federal license for those reasons where we have a mixed land base in the region. The argument I think for maintaining a State license is that again it addresses those concerns, plus the revenues that go to the State, the Department of Fish and Game uses that money for wildlife surveys, for research, for management, and that benefits subsistence users, Federal -- people that are hunting under Federal regulations are benefiting from that money as well. So most Councils have already commented that they agree with your position that the State license is the way to continue, but again the Southeast Council's a little bit different situation. They appear to have a different opinion on this.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes. They've got the Forest Service.

MR. LAPLANT: And they'd like to hear from the other Council.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes. Any further -- Attamuk.

ATTAMUK: And it wouldn't make -- yeah, if there's a license for both State and the Federal, it will make it a hardship on everyone. The cost of everything is increasing, and another hunting license. There's also some people in the villages that don't understand English very much that's going to get confused and have to have this here, two license, State and the Federal. Personally I will oppose this proposal. And in the future, they need to go to practically every village if there's a regulation that they might say, this is -- the Congress might say, this is the regulation we have in mind to set in place in the future. That way they could inform all the villages, because we might run into -- just like this where we have to license our boat. It's going to get complicated again, and there are going to be a lot of natives cited. Personally, I'm going to oppose this proposal, number 5, the one you're talking about for hunting license, you know, in our region. Each reason on their own outside, they could decide what they want to do, but for my people, I'm going to oppose this strongly.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Is that a motion?

ATTAMUK: And if need -- like Barbara say, if need to I could put it in a motion that I'm going to oppose number 5 to go from our Council here.

MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chair. I would recommend that you put your position in the form of a motion and pass something.....

ATTAMUK: So move.

MR. LAPLANT: .....like that to express your opinion.

MR. BALLOT: Second.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's your motion now?

ATTAMUK: Yes.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Second by Percy. Any further discussions. For opposing it?

ATTAMUK: Opposing it. Number 5.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further discussion.

MR. MOTO: Question.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: We're still on discussions.

MR. BALLOT: Question.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Did you call for question?

MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. The question's been called for. All in favor of opposing the two hunting licenses signify by saying ayes.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion carries. So on this thing, like we've seen the Council oppose having two separate license, the Federal and State land.

MR. LAPLANT: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will pass that message on to the Southeast

Council, and they can include that into their -- whatever they want to do with it on their petition to the secretaries.

Thank you. That's all I have under the Fish and Wildlife Service OSM reports.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you very much then.

MR. LAPLANT: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: On our agenda right here, like I say, we've been moving pretty fast. Now we're down almost to the end of our -- unless you guys want to work to get this done before lunch, so have a longer day? I know the report won't be long on some of the agencies. So if you guys want to work through lunch, it's just 11:00 o'clock now. Take an hour to go, I think we'll be done by then.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: And we'll work through the lunch if we have to. Okay. Okay. We go down to -- yeah.

MR. BALLOT: In the village we eat any time we're hungry. We do that here.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

MS. AYERS: Mr. Chair, Tina Moran and Patrick Snow will be presenting the refuge report.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Would you get to the mic there? Okay. Thank you. Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

MR. SNOW: Do you want to go first?

MS. MORAN: I can go first. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. I'm the wildlife -- my name is Tina Moran. I'm the wildlife biologist at the Selawik Refuge, and I just wanted to give you a short update of a couple of the things we talked about in the spring, some of the projects we did with the avian flu.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

MS. MORAN: Yeah, that's if you'd like to hear that. This summer we had three projects that the refuge was involved with sampling for the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus. We sampled 300 white-fronted geese on the Seward Peninsula, and about 120 tundra swans that were sampled from the Noatak River, the Kobuk Delta and the Buckland area. Also we sampled about 50 pintails down in the Copper River area near Buckland. We were hoping to get about 200, but unfortunately the birds were pretty late this year and some didn't even show up. The Buckland folks, especially Percy Ballot was especially helpful with us in working on that project this year.

I was hoping to have the result for those specific projects for you today. Unfortunately they still haven't got the results to me, but so far statewide we've collected 15,000 samples. 12,000 of them have been analyzed that we know of. None have had the one that we're concerned about, the highly pathogenic H5N1. We've had about 150 of other types of bird flues that are the lower risk that usually are not problems for humans or for chickens and that kind of thing, so we're not concerned about those. So far the good news is that the virus hasn't hit us that we know of. And it looks like.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. The good news. So these results.....

MS. MORAN: Yes, go ahead.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....that you get will be publicized on the radio, KOTZ radio and the Arctic Sounder and newsletters? So I know a lot of people are very concerned of the product that you're doing.

MS. MORAN: Yes, exactly. Right. Well, that's exactly it, and I'm waiting to hear the final results for our area for sure. We have a fact sheet that I put on the table, and I'll also hand these to you. This is the most updated fact sheet that we have. It does include some of the results. And I'll hand these out. And we're -- so far that I've heard, the plan is to hopefully have a statewide report of all the projects and the results hopefully by November. We're supposed to have everything in by the end of October, so hopefully by November or December, and I'm saying hopefully, we will have the large report available to everyone. And I plan to have a report I know the -- just specifically for the

pintails, there will be a swan specific report for this region. So we'll have those available, and we'll definitely get the word out. And I'm hoping to visit some of the villages as well to talk about that.

Is there any questions on that specific.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, I don't have any question myself right now when you say we've got at least some, you know, decent good news about the birds, you know. That's -- it's the stuff where all of us are very concerned ever since a year ago now up to date, you know, like I said. If you publicize the results of what you learn from the birds publicly on KOTZ radio or newspaper or Anchorage paper, Fairbanks paper, anywhere, it would be very, very honor I think to all of us, and not only in Game Unit 23, all over the State.

MS. MORAN: Right. And they've tried in the national papers and Anchorage Daily News and locally we've tried to get the word out for the statewide results. Like I said, I don't have the local ones that we've done, so I don't want to do speculation until those are final. and then I will -- the minute I find them, I will definitely get them out. I'm hoping they're good. So far it looks good.

Secondly, I wanted to address we finished sampling for pike this summer. We're working with the contaminant division at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service looking at mercury. And we sampled in I think six or seven different areas, in the villages of -- near the villages of Kiana, Noatak, Selawik and Buckland, and I might be missing one. But we're hoping to get that analysis done by the spring. And that we will also be talking with the villages as well about the results for that. So I wanted to inform you of that.

And in your packets there is our moose survey results from our Kobuk survey. And next spring we're looking to work again with -- did I for -- with BLM and Fish and Game to survey the Selawik drainage, including the Selawik River, Tag River and the Kok River. So that's what we'll do probably in March.

And so that's all I have for now, if there are no questions.

MR. BALLOT: Next year? When was that?

MS. MORAN: That's going to be in March. Probably middle or end of March.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: You may continue.

MR. SNOW: Mr. Chair. Patrick Snow, assistant manager, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. I'd like to give a brief summary of the seasons activities on the refuge, mainly during September.

The Selawik National Wildlife Refuge issued special use permits to air transports, air taxi operators. Conditions of each permit stipulate that client numbers, transport dates, locations and game animals taken need to be reported to the refuge by November 1. Although numbers aren't currently available, we suspect activities by non-local and non-resident hunters on the refuge were lower in 2006 than in recent past years. The refuge's largest air transporter for the past several seasons was restricted largely to wheel access sites in 2006. And that's we believe that there are fewer non-local, non-resident hunters on the refuge this year.

There's only one permit issued to big game guides on the Selawik Refuge, however, there has been no activity reported for the past three seasons by the current permit holder. The Selawik Refuge will likely advertise for new applications before next season.

The Selawik Refuge and surrounding areas had a large law enforcement presence from late August until the end of September. The refuge provided logistical support to State and Federal officers. The Fish and Wildlife Service efforts consisted of three officers performing patrols on float-equipped planes and one officer performing ramp checks at the airport. From those efforts, there were 22 hunter contacts and two camps observed although there wasn't -- they were unsuccessful at contacting those two camps. Five violations were issued, one for transfer of antlers before meat, one for hunting without a license, two for not having metal locking tags, and one air taxi operator for violating conditions of their refuge special use permit. That violation was operating without insurance.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's this season?

MR. SNOW: This season's. The operator

was actually based out of Galena and operating on the south and far eastern part of the refuge.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Operates out of Galena?

MR. SNOW: Yes. That concludes my summary, if you have any questions.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: You said you had two guys in wildlife refuge this season?

MR. SNOW: We had -- of our own Federal Fish and Wildlife Service agents, we had three of them operating on float-equipped aircraft, and then there was one officer that was left over at the ramp doing ramp checks. So four total, and three of them were on floats.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. The results of these guys you'll get later on from these guys that were in that Selawik Valley?

MR. SNOW: Yes, we have -- basically pamphlets or forms to fill out every time a law enforcement officer goes out. It usually gives us location, dates, and the like, and they're being entered into a data base as we speak, but they haven't been summarized yet. So I can provide those to you if you'd like.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Any questions from Council to the National Wildlife Refuge, Selawik. Attamuk, questions?

ATTAMUK: No.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you very much then.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Could we get a copy of that, or are we going to get that in the winter meeting of what you just said?

MR. SNOW: Oh, if you like, I can have the information sent out to you, to all the Council members, or anyone who -- Does everyone want a copy or just Mr. Ballot?

MR. EVERETT: Yes, please.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

MR. SNOW: Okay.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Before you go, I certainly want to thank both of you and your agency on a job well done in the wildlife refuge, and I give you a lot of credit for that. I know it was a pretty large area you guys been covering. But thank you for, you know, monitoring and then keeping track of all the guides and outfitters in that area. Thank you so much, you know, for our report.

MR. SNOW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MS. MORAN: Thank you.

MR. BALLOT: Well, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted -- I worked with Tina. I wanted to say I enjoyed doing a little work and the kids were stopping by, and we did some cultural stuff and they saw what we were doing. They were interested. and it was good.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's great.

MR. BALLOT: And no tags were caught, and so you left, too, by the way on the verge.

MS. MORAN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy. Okay. National Park Service. Of course, you know, Ken, the question was asked about the transporters, or subcontractors, you know, for transporters. The question came up. And I know you'll, or the superintendent, you know, we'll get some brief information on mainly the subcontractors for transporters. You may resume.

MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Stoney. Superintendent Helfrich is more familiar with the actual day-to-day law enforcement program this summer and the outcomes of some of that, and so he's probably better prepared to give you information on some of those topics than I am, and will. I'll just offer a couple observations I guess.

First, just to give you an idea of some of the things, and we don't have a lot of numbers yet, we're still crunching those, working up the results and things. But hopefully we'll have that kind of biological information for you maybe the next time around. But just some of the activities that we've been involved in.

A lot of cooperative work with other agencies, the State, BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, the refuge, but we participated in the Kobuk River moose census work. We also worked with ADF&G in moose census work on the northern Seward Peninsula. We also worked on sheep surveys throughout part of the Brooks Range and part of the Noatak area.

We did muskox and composition and population level work at -- in Krusenstern. Again, I don't have all the numbers and everything, but basically what it looks like is the population just within Krusenstern is down a little bit. There are some holes in the age structure. And production maybe have dropped off a little bit right within the monument, but survivability from say last year looks good and so forth. So overall there's nothing that gives us concern to, you know, reason why we should change our strategy for the hunt in Krusenstern, so we plan to continue. And we'll issue two permits again for bulls this year. I can have more detail, biological information maybe the next time around.

We also worked with ADF&G and others in some muskoxen composition work on the Seward Peninsula, and also with the University of Alaska Fairbanks in collecting some sample, urine samples this winter aimed at trying to kind of pioneer a new method off assessing body condition for ungulates through looking at nitrogen content in the urine samples. If that turns out to work, it may provide a fairly effective, cost-effective way of going into like especially where you have muskoxen that are fairly sedentary in the winter, collecting samples and getting a pretty fair idea of what kind of body condition they're in. And then you can use that to maybe look at factors related to reproduction and so forth, so hopefully that's going to turn out, and that will be a couple, three year project going down the road.

I already mentioned the moose, the muskoxen. So that's pretty much it from the biological standpoint I think, unless you have any questions on any of that.

MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman. Are those urine samples similar to the ones they conduct on bison with ketone analysis? Do you know? Or are they just testing for protein breakdown? I'm just -- it's just a matter question, curious.

MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, as far as I know, it's basically looking at nitrogen, but I can get more information for you as we get further along.

MR. EVERETT: That will be interesting. Thank you.

MR. ADKISSON: Apparently it's not something that's been done lots of places elsewhere, so I suspect that it may not be that closely related to the bison, but I can check.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions to Ken from the Council before we go to the superintendent.

(No comments)

MR. ADKISSON: If there are no questions on that, I'd just offer a couple of comments before turning the mic over to George, to Superintendent Helfrich, that, you know, my impressions from this summer is, is that we're actually making progress on dealing with the transporter issues. We had a fairly active protection program this summer. A lot of progress was made I think in standardizing and working inter-agency-wise in terms of observations, reportings, some of which have already been mentioned to you.

The other thing I would mention is we've committed pretty much to looking at our transporters for the Park Service in light of doing a new 810 subsistence impact analysis on the transporters that hopefully well be done sometime next year. But we're still looking at numbers and trying to figure out where we're going with it, but we've committed to doing one.

The 810 that we've currently relied on in the past is the one that was originally done for the 1980s general management plan, so it is old, it is dated, and we've just agreed that it's time to relook at the issue and do another one.

That's all I've got on that, and will let George speak about his activities with the big game transporters, Big Game Guide Board that he just came back from a meeting with them, as well as this summer's activities.

MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. George.

MR. HELFRICH: Let me start off by referring back to the minutes of the March 7th, 2006 meeting. And those appear on Page 11 in your booklet.

When I spoke on March 7th, I started off by talking to the construction of the new Northwest Arctic Heritage Center, which is where the former -- which will be built where the former NANA museum stood. And you can see that we do have the pilings in place now. When I spoke on March 7th, I said that we hoped that the building would open in 2008. Because of some design considerations, I now have to change that date to 2009. But I believe that we'll come out with a contract next year, perhaps begin construction next year, continue construction through 2008 and open in 2009. I note that the heritage center has been an aspiration both of the region and of the National Park Service for years now, and I'm looking forward to this opening.

Also during the March 7th meeting I mentioned that we were going to have a number of research projects going on in the National Park Service managed areas during the summer of 2006. That is this summer that just ended. Among those was a project looking at the accumulation of lead and zinc along the haul road in Cape Krusenstern National Monument, particularly whether that lead and zinc is getting into the food chain. We conducted that survey this past summer, and I hope that we will have results by the spring, at least preliminary results by the spring.

As you'll recall, earlier we had done a project just looking at whether lead and zinc was accumulating on the vegetation, and we found that it was. Now we are looking at whether lead and zinc is actually getting into the vegetation and thus getting into the food chain. And I think that this is one of the more important research projects that we've done in recent years.

MS. DOWNING: Would you hold just a minute while I change tape? The left side of my machine is on strike.

(Off record)

(On record)

MR. HELFRICH: Also last March I mentioned that we were going to do two archaeology projects over in Cape Krusenstern. Well, excuse me, one in Cape Krusenstern, one in Noatak. We completed that project in Noatak. It was at the confluence of the Noatak River and Myumerak Creek. It went very well. We started the project in Cape Krusenstern. It's a multi-year project.

And I would just like to thank all the private property owners, all the people who have allotments over in Cape Krusenstern for letting us conduct research on their property. We hope that they find it interesting, and it is certainly beneficial to us as we try and understand the history of use at Cape Krusenstern. Pre-history use at Cape Krusenstern.

If you skip down to that third paragraph in the March 7th minutes, I said that we, the Park Service, are concerned about wanton waste, and as part of the solution, we were focusing on two things. First on education, and then on enforcement. So I'd like to talk about our 2006 activities.

First as far as education. The chief ranger, Lindsey Russell, met with the three companies that have sport hunting concessions, Top (ph), Raginsite (ph) and Noatak, to discuss operating requirements and user conflict issues. She also met with the seven companies that hold commercial use authorizations to transport sport hunters into the field. And again she spoke with them about operating requirements, user conflicts, and particularly ways that they could help reduce the conflicts between them and their clients and subsistence users.

Particularly we asked them to distribute this site bulletin that we created called hunting in Noatak National Preserve. We gave these to the transporters both for their own use and for their clients use. And this site bulletin has six topics. First, there's some general information about Noatak National Preserve. Then there's some information about respecting local traditions. Proper care of meat. Respecting private property rights. Leaving no trace of one's camp. And how to get additional information.

So those were the two focuses of our education program. First to meet with the guides, then to meet with the transporters, and finally to get some

information out to their clients. And we hope to affect some changes in the behavior of the people when they're out in the field.

Then the second focus as I said was enforcement. We had four protection rangers, commissioned protection rangers out in the field this year, and also one non-commissioned protection ranger. They were doing patrols by a plane on floats, a plane on wheels, boat and for at least part of the season by helicopter. The first patrol went out on August 31st, and the last went out September 23rd. In all they contacted over 70 camps and 140 hunters in the field. Though they did some problems, the rangers did not issue any citations while they were out. In general they found clean camps and properly handled meat.

We plan to continue this education and enforcement in our -- as part of our protection program into 2007 and beyond, because we remain commit to cutting down on this conflict between sports hunters and subsistence users.

Finally, let me respond to Mr. Everett's question about subcontracting. There were a couple transporters who did not have commercial use authorizations to operate inside Noatak National Preserve in 2006. What those companies did was enter into contracts to provide transportation services to some sport hunters, and rather than provide those services themselves, they subcontracted those services out to a company that did have a commercial use authorization to operate inside the preserve. This was a large frustrating loophole for me in particular and for the staff in general that wants to appropriately regulate commercial use.

I talked this over with our solicitor at length. He said that this contract/subcontract arrangement was legal under Federal law.

So what we want to do between now and 2007 is to determine some way that we can tighten up our control, and thus not have companies that don't have permits to operate inside the National Park Service area entering into contracts to take clients in to those area.

Mr. Stoney and I were recently at a Big Game Commercial Services Board meeting, and I brought

this issue up there. And I would say that the Big Game Commercial Services Board found the situation just as frustrating as I did.

So, Mr. Stoney, that concludes my report, unless members of the Board have any questions.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Karmun.

MR. KARMUN: Yeah. You used to have a biologist on staff here. Are you looking to get one in the future back on your staff?

MR. HELFRICH: We used to have a couple biologists on our staff. Brad Schultz still works for the Park Service, although his office is in Fairbanks now, and Peter Nightlick still works for the Park Service, his office is in Washington. But, Mr. Karmun, your point's well made. We need a biologist here in Kotzebue, and we're going to hire one this coming hear.

MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

ATTAMUK: On your biologist here, my question, are you just going to be a biologist or are you going to have one for fish, too?

MR. HELFRICH: We would -- I'm glad that you asked that question, Attamuk. We would like to hire a general biologist who has quite a bit of knowledge in fisheries management, because we realize that's a hole in our staff.

ATTAMUK: The reason why I asked that, like I told you earlier that I do have concern about the fish, and this is not only just one fish.

MR. HELFRICH: Right.

ATTAMUK: Also, this is more like your information. Nobody mentioned it, but when I do go to camp, I do look around, even on top of the mountains where I'm at. You know that mountain right next to me. It's more of a hill than anything. I climbed up and I moved some rocks around. I never seen so much grasshoppers so big in my life, and some kind of bugs up there. I not only hunt, I watch. I was taught by my grandfathers what to do, not just hunt, you have to watch. And I saw grasshoppers. And I measured one of them, well over an inch. I couldn't believe it, on the

top where it should have been cold.....

MR. HELFRICH: Right.

ATTAMUK: .....where they shouldn't have anything like that, and the grasshoppers down there, down below my camp, right around my camp also was pretty much -- I was amazed that they were smaller down low than on top. I've always had grasshoppers in mind since I was a kid, but I was watching -- there's other, them little bugs, what I also watch, too. They're there, but they were bigger in size on top than lower.

MR. HELFRICH: Right.

ATTAMUK: I couldn't believe it.

MR. EVERETT: So we need an etymologist on staff, too.

MR. HELFRICH: We need an etymologist on staff. There was a professor from the University of Oregon here this summer, and he was looking at global climate change, and particularly what sort of environmental changes people who spend a lot of time in the field, like you do, have noticed. And perhaps that, Attamuk, is one of those changes, because of the apparent warming, that insect patterns and behaviors are changing in response.

ATTAMUK: Yeah. I went to a terrestrial workshop that happened in Fairbanks, and this is where the Park Service invited -- there were mainly scientist, and I was probably the only non-scientist in there. And there were concerns of what's happening in our land in northwest, in the Federal lands. You probably know about this. But the concerns I brought in was the drop-off hunters by transporters and outfitters, or just fly in, and then they graded them, this graded number 1, concern versus erosion, sickness and other stuff that's happening in the migration of caribou, the Red Dog, dust and stuff like that. This came on top of the list. I came in with something like 20 of my concerns, and 12 of them pretty much graded pretty high. And that's what they would like to watch, because they could do more damage than anything else.

But I'll tell you one thing, this is the first time in Aggie I did not pick up any trash. I was up there. First time I did not pick any.

MR. HELFRICH: As I said, we contacted over 70 camps, and many of those were along the Aggie. We saw a lot of use there this year.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. Are the hunters reporting.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Wait, Percy. Wait. Mr. Everett had his hand up there. We'll get to you, Percy.

MR. EVERETT: Sorry. I'll go quick. Just a couple things. I would like to thank all the agencies for reporting back from the meeting in March, last year, so well. I'd especially like to encourage all the agencies, and I know it's a big headache, but to continue to use as many of the local kids to participate. I've had reports back from students who participated in the archaeological dig, and I noticed -- I actually knew some of the kids participating with Selawik National Wildlife Refuge on their it looked like cloacal sampling, and I think that that's a big concern of mine that we have a lot of elderly people involved and concerned about the situation in our region, but we're losing more and more kids. Fewer and fewer kids are subsisting and hunting and being involved, and I think this is a great way to continue that work between the agencies and the community. So if I can do anything to help with that, I would be more than happy to. And I know it is a big headache rounding the kids up and getting them to where they're supposed to be and participate the full time, but it is appreciated. And they do come back and tell great stories, and it gets other kids interested.

But, let's see, I wrote down a couple things. Just thanks to involving them, and then the reports back on all the things that you said you would do and the follow up on that.

Thank you.

MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Everett, it can be hard to round up these kids, but it's worth it.

MR. EVERETT: Yeah.

MR. HELFRICH: We really like to get them involved in projects. We've done that successfully in our archaeology field work, and we'd like to do it in some of our biology field work.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Yes. I like that idea, too.

MR. HELFRICH: Yeah.

MR. BALLOT: Keep it up, everybody. I was just wondering about the 140 hunters that you -- were they all sports hunters or subsistence hunters or was there a ratio there?

MR. HELFRICH: A combination.

MR. BALLOT: Combination?

MR. HELFRICH: Mostly sport hunters, but certainly we talked to some subsistence hunters especially when we were doing boat patrols.

MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh. Good. I was just wondering.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions to the Park Service.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: You know, that's very much, and I'm very pleased with what you've done in a season for that many people involved out in the field. It is a great honor, you know, to learn from the Park Service that they were out on patrols about every direction with aircraft, wheels, helicopters, boats. And I want to thank you and your staff doing a job well done again on Game Unit 23 to monitor these sport hunters and transporters and local subsistence users. Again, I know like with all the work that you've done, I'd like to say thank you and then continue your good work for Game Unit 23 as a superintendent at the National Park Service. Thank you so much, both of you, Ken.

MR. HELFRICH: Well, Mr. Stoney, thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We're rapidly -- it seems like we're going to be done by lunch. So we go down to the Bureau of Land Management. BLM.

MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman. Council

members. Good after -- good morning. I'm used to speaking in the afternoon, but we're going through really quickly. My name is Kyle Joly, I'm a wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks.

Just to give you a quick overview, Randy Meyers is going to be talking about guides in the Squirrel River. I also have to report that this is her last RAC meeting as a BLM employee. She is retiring this January, so get your last comments in to her officially here.

Shelly Jacobson, sitting to my left, is the manager of the Central Yukon Field Office, which includes this region, and she can update you on the Kobuk/Seward planning process.

And also Chuck Ardizzone is here with us. He used to be with the Office of Subsistence Management, but he's move over to BLM, and he's now replaced Taylor Brelsford as our subsistence coordinator.

One of the projects that we worked on this spring, we cooperated with the moose survey in the lower Kobuk, and that went really well, and we'll be working with Selawik Refuge and Fish and Game to do another moose survey again this March in the Selawik, Tagawik and Kok River areas.

On Page 70 of your booklet there's a summary of results from our vegetation work that we conducted in the Buckland. As you can see, we noted large declines in lichen cover in that region over a 25-year period. It's pretty rare to have long-term vegetation projects, so we're pretty happy to report our results. During this same time period, we saw large increases in grasses, sedges, and shrubs.

This past summer we went back out to the Seward Peninsula in the McCarthy's Marsh area and we had eight more transects out there, and the results showed similar trends to the Buckland. Grasses and sedges are up over 100 percent over a 10-year period. Shrubs have increased 30 percent during that time frame while lichens have decreased by about 50 percent. Lichens in the McCarthy's Marsh area were higher than the Buckland in general. We think that's probably due to less grazing pressure in that region than Buckland. Buckland's been a consistent area where the caribou have gone in year after year, and they haven't used the McCarthy's Marsh area as

much.

Interestingly, we did see a similar trend in lichens there. They were declining, and that in combination with seeing that areas that burned 34 and 29 years ago also declined in lichens. They only had about three and a half percent cover 10 years ago and now they're down to one percent cover. So an area that wouldn't see caribou use, these burns, still showed decline. So we're thinking that not only is caribou use causing a decline in lichen over large swaths of the winter range, but also that probably climate change is a driving factor as well.

Next summer we hope to get out to Imuruk Basin to Nimrod Hill. There was a fire in 1977 there, and a researcher was lucky enough to put in some vegetation transects prior to the fire and then has been able to follow up on that and watch the regrowth. That was a pretty severe fire, and it was last revisited in 2001, so we hope to get out there next year.

And that's all I have. Randy, do you want to talk about SRPs?

MS. MEYERS: Sure. Good morning Council members and audience. This is Randy Meyers from the BLM office in Kotzebue.

And I just wanted to -- you've got the full report in your hands about hunting activity in the Squirrel River this fall, so I'll just hit some of the highlights.

One unfortunate thing, we were planning to have Mimi Thomas, our new ranger from the Fairbanks office, come out and fly with me. And so she came out here on the 7th of September, and she arrived that morning, and we were having a great fall storm. It was just, you know, 30 and 35 knots, the rain was horizontal, and it was real low visibility and low clouds, and so we were hoping that, you know, maybe in the afternoon it would clear up and we could sneak out for a few hours, and it never did. Hageland Aviation, Rick Sieh, was going to take us out, and he called up and said, we're going to have to cancel. We just can't fly in the Squirrel River under these conditions. So the next time that he had free was a week later on the 14th. And so I signed him up right then to take us out on the 14th. And unfortunately Mimi Thomas had a real full schedule for

the rest of September, and she wasn't able to come back to Kotzebue.

But on the day that she was in my office, we spread out maps, we looked at the Squirrel, we talked about, you know, where the different camps usually were for our special recreation permit guides, and where some of the other interesting sites are in the Squirrel, and talked about the issues. So she is going to come back, we're not quite sure when, but at least that gave her a little bit of an introduction to the Squirrel. And she's got a big area to cover.

But I did get out and fly on the 14th, and spent most of the day out in the Squirrel. We landed at four different camps of our special recreation permit guides, so I talked with each of them. And the fifth camp we couldn't land at, because the winds were too strong, real strong cross winds and very turbulent.

So a little bit of -- we saw 18 hunting camps, and talking with the fellows in camp, some of the guides knew exactly how many people they were going to have, even though that they hadn't shown up yet, and others weren't quite sure how many total hunters they would have. And also, you know, some game had been taken, but they still had, you know, another six days at least to go in the moose hunting season, and then more if they stayed later to get caribou or bear. So the numbers that I show in here are still not final. But at that point, in mid season, our five special recreation permit holders had guided 62 clients, and they had brought in also 22 drop-off clients that they don't provide guiding services to.

And I should mention that we do have nine special recreation permit holders who are legal to operate in the Squirrel, but this year only five of them were active. And each year it's similar to that, that not everybody exercises their right, you know, to guide in the Squirrel on any particular year.

So of those people, we h ad a total of 84 hunters that were associated with the BLM permit system. Approximately 82 caribou were taken, eight grizzly bears and one wolf. And no moose had been shot yet, but they did have some moose hunters in camp. And one guide said that the moose that they were seeing were right around the 50-inch legal limit, maybe a little below, maybe a little above, and so they were being real cautious. They

didn't want to shoot any for -- you know, they didn't want to get in trouble, so they just figured they'd be conservative.

About the four-wheeler issue, three out of our five active guides this year used one or more four wheelers, mostly to haul meat and supplies.

And then one guide did mention that they were out, you know, hunting and they found an old camp that had trash and had an old stove that was all rusty. So he said they went back to camp and got their four wheeler and got a trailer, hooked up the trailer to the four wheeler and hauled that trash out. And then they burned some of it, and they'll haul the non-burnables out. But I thought that was a good use for once for a four wheeler.

And then two of the other guides were -- said that it was not part of their approach to hunting to use four wheelers and so they never will use four wheelers.

A little bit looking on how this year stacked up with other years. From 1994 through 2006, the average number of guided hunters that our special recreation permit holders have taken out has been 45. And so you can see that this has increased over time. A four-year average from 2003 to 2006 is 56 hunters. And so things are moving up.

And then the transported clients. We don't have -- we didn't -- like back in '94, I didn't even know to ask these guys if they in addition to their guided clients, if they were taking in drop-off hunters. And I think back then it wasn't as common a practice as it can be today. So my figures are pretty spotty for that. So my average now from 2001 through 2006 is 16 additional drop-off hunters for the Squirrel that are being brought in by our guides.

And then I did not contact directly any of the transporters, and they're not required to get any permits from us. But basically talking with Eric Sieh who flies all the time and flies -- some of our guides have -- are not pilots, and so he flies them in and he flies other clients in. So he talks to a lot of the transporters. And he said that he knew of four different operations that were in the Squirrel, and that makes sense with what I have known from previous years.

And then actually one of our special recreation permit guides who normally has a base camp in the southwestern of the Squirrel did not guide any hunters this year, but he was active in the Aggie river transporting hunters, but he wasn't working in the Squirrel. So that's kind of a different pattern for that particular guide.

So any questions.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Randy, you said you had these permit holders. They operate on their own aircraft, but no subcontractors?

MS. MEYERS: Some do and some don't.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Now, if you were a holder, are you required to hire a subcontractor to help this person's clients?

MS. MEYERS: No. No, if you are a guide who has a special recreation permit from us, and you don't happen to be a pilot, and you don't bring in another pilot who lands at your base camp and takes your hunters out, some of these people just -- some of the guides operate strictly on foot, and one of our guides told me that his motto was float or feet, that he didn't need a four wheeler, and he actually was not a pilot himself, but he had someone working with him who was a pilot. So it's kind of like having an assistant guide working with you or you've got a pilot working with you or you have someone who cooks in your camp. So.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Any questions for BLM. Mr. Karmun.

MR. KARMUN: Yeah, on these lichens. It looks like all of them are down. Are these the fast growing or the slow growing lichens, do you know?

MS. MEYERS: Yes, they're all categories, but Kyle looked at the ones that are more favored by caribou, and those tend to be the faster-growing lichens, so they were declining as well. The reindeer lichens. Yeah.

MR. KARMUN: That's -- grasses and sedges. Which is their priority, lichens or grasses and sedges?

MS. MEYERS: For caribou?

MR. KARMUN: Yeah.

MS. MEYERS: Oh, it would be lichens.

MR. KARMUN: Be lichens?

MS. MEYERS: It would be lichens, yeah.

MR. JOLY: During the winter.

MS. MEYERS: During the winter.

MR. KARMUN: Yeah, I can see during the winter, but like right now.

MS. MEYERS: Oh, yeah. Right. Well, you know, I think they eat lichens all year round, but it's pretty much exclusive in the winter, because they're easy to digest. And so in the summer they'd be eating the stuff that's most nutritious at the time. Grasses and sedges.

MR. KARMUN: On some of the transects, had there been a fire in the past sometimes that went through there?

MR. JOLY: We had a mix. We have been doing some other research where we're looking at areas that got burned, and we'll have transects inside the burn and outside the burns. We have paired transects. We can look at how vegetation is under, quote/unquote, normal conditions and versus the burned. So, for example, I mentioned that we had fires that were 34 and 29 years old. Inside the burns 10 years ago there was about three and a half percent lichen coverage, but, you know, outside in the paired transect, it will be up around 20 percent.

MR. KARMUN: Is this drop in lichens, is some of it due to overgrazing possibly? Could it be?

MS. MEYERS: You wouldn't probably call it overgrazing. It's just the normal course of caribou grazing on the lichen, yeah. Yeah.

MR. JOLY: They'll tend to go into one area and, you know, graze a lot, and then they'll, you know, move to another area, another area, another area.

MR. MOTO: Well, on Victor's question, the last significant fire we ever had in that area, our area, was late 70s, early 80s when the fire went from Krugururok all the way to almost Imuruk Lake and back to Deering. I know that fire, because we followed it. We were supposed to fight it, but they told us to follow it, so we followed it for a month and a half. But that was the real significant fire we had.

And on this lichen thing, what significant thing did it -- really I didn't quite hear the answer about the decline of reindeer there that, you know, used to -- because it seems like when there are reindeer around, there are more lichen.

MS. MEYERS: Well, that's interesting observation.

MR. MOTO: There haven't been reindeer study on that?

MS. MEYERS: Generally reindeer tend to graze a little bit more intensively and stay in an area a little longer than caribou. Reindeer certainly will follow in the spring when the snow is melting, they'll follow that melting snow line, because there's real nutritious grasses and sedges there.

MR. MOTO: I'm also wondering about the correlation between a lot of snow and less snow, to have the ground damp so the lichen can grow. What effect would that have? It seems like when you have more snow and stuff, you have -- the plants get more water and all the stuff. But we -- the last four or five years in that area, we saw a less amount of snow, and trying to figure out what the correlation between that and the feed is, you know.

MR. JOLY: There's been a couple studies out showing the trends in global warming would be higher temperatures and drier conditions, and they've shown that that would be detrimental to lichens. And then we've seen that in our results, too, that even in areas that haven't received very much grazing pressure, that there's a decline in lichens and so that could be due to less snow, so warming and drying conditions.

MR. MOTO: I forgot to mention the significance of that fire that time, it got rid of most of the shrub, and then the reindeer will be able to get

to the lichen better. Would there be too much shrub now? Maybe there should be a fire started or something to clear it off or what, you know. I know I'm talking to BLM about this, but, you know, I don't want you to get the idea if there's a fire I started it, but.....

(Laughter)

MR. JOLY: We'll be looking for you.

MS. MEYERS: That's right.

MR. MOTO: But, you know, that was the rationale they gave us for following the fire that time. They said that it would get rid of the shrubs, the willows, some of the small willows, and then have more land for the lichen to grow on and the reindeer to, you know -- this is something that we thought -- a couple times we talked -- we talked about it a couple times, you know, and getting to Percy's area, you know, where -- and did they ever do anything about -- I saw the comment here about Buckland River drainage, declines in this transit of the lichen decline. Is there any significance to why they're not getting as many caribou in that area as they used to? They used -- they still -- I think they used to winter there sometimes, but they don't, and they go further west now.

MS. MEYERS: And that may have something to do with a lot less lichen available for them there, heading onto the Seward Peninsula where there is more lichen.

MR. MOTO: Yeah. We're getting a lot of half reindeer and half caribou, you know. We call them caribous -- carideers or.....

MS. MEYERS: Reinbous.

MR. MOTO: Reinbous. But the thing about it, it seems like these half caribou, their rib cages are huge now, and they're heavier, more fat on them than what they use to have. I know we commented a couple times, when they brought a couple of carcass. I used to be able to lift. Now it has to take two of us they're so heavy. But did they ever find out what significance something like that would have on caribou herd or if it's going to be, you know -- there's, what, almost 500,000 caribou now. Where do they all range in the winter? On the Seward Peninsula or do they go further south, too?

MS. MEYERS: Their range in the wintertime is getting a lot bigger and, you know, people aren't sure why, but it could be partially food related.

MR. MOTO: I would like to get the caribou, because they might one day decline, and they told us they were not very many caribou that time. Then two years later it jumped almost triple. So I asked, did they have triplets or what.

MS. MEYERS: He really did.

MR. MOTO: But, you know, I guess it go through a cycle like that sometime.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. Where's Mike's Marsh -- I mean, McCarthy's Marsh?

MR. JOLY: McCarthy's Marsh? It's just south of the Bendeleben Mountains, kind of northeast of Council.

MS. MEYERS: And north of White Mountain.

MR. BALLOT: Oh, okay. Yeah.

MS. MEYERS: And it's the Fish River Flats. That's another name for it.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further discussion to the BLM? Is that your report there, Randy? Or you've got more?

MS. MEYERS: No, no, no. That was the end of my report.

MR. BALLOT: I had one more, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: I know that -- before we go any further, I said earlier that we've still got two more agency to report, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and also Northwestern Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. Now, you guys, you know, we're going to be done very shortly. Want to work right through lunch and get it done? It's up to council.

ATTAMUK: No, we're going to order pizza and charge it to the Chairman.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We'll continue on through lunch and we'll get done very shortly.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I had a question.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else from the BLM.

MS. MEYERS: Yes, I do have.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Right. Okay.

ATTAMUK: He's still got a question over here.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Mr. Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Thanks for the report on the Squirrel River. I'm just wondering if you had any activity in regards to that within the Buckland/Deering area in regards to transporters/guides.

MS. MEYERS: We didn't have anybody guiding in the Kok River area this year. And we -- you know, one potential, even if we don't have somebody guiding on BLM lands in the Kok River or down near the head waters of the Tag River, would be to fly and to just see if there are any camps and to make a tally of that, and to land where we could. And we did not do that this year.

MR. BALLOT: Isn't there BLM lands farther up the north fork of the Buckland River, too?

MS. MEYERS: Yes. Yes.

MR. BALLOT: That's BLM lands. There's no activity up there?

MS. MEYERS: Yeah, and we just.....

MR. JOLY: That's closed hunting now.

MS. MEYERS: Oh, that's right. That's right.

MR. JOLY: I believe that was closed to

hunting this year.

MS. MEYERS: To moose.

MR. JOLY: To moose hunting.

MS. MEYERS: Yeah. Yeah, so there were a lot less use. in there.

MR. BALLOT: Yeah, that's right.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

MS. MEYERS: Do you have a.....

ATTAMUK: I've got a question. Are you going to keep doing more studies here on the lichen in the future, or is it going to end if your funding ends?

MS. MEYERS: No, it's going to be done in pulses. Like Kyle said, we'll do some work at Imuruk Lake and look at an old fire. It will be 30 years after the fire when we look at it next summer. But the Buckland River studies that we did, and the McCarthy's Marsh studies that we did just in the last two years, we'll repeat those, but because lichen grows so slowly, you know, like this much a year, we won't go back for, you know, five, 10 years, and than at that point we have to start getting aggressive and asking for funding. But like Kyle said, because it's a long-term study, BLM put out some of the transects in 1981, so it would be recognized at our BLM offices statewide that this is an important project and deserves to be funded when we try to do it again the next five to 10 years.

MR. JOLY: Also -- oh, excuse me.

ATTAMUK: Okay. I'm sorry, but you're -- let me rephrase it, the plot that you're doing on your lichen, not only just in Buckland, the one at Noatak and other areas, are you ever going to go back to that in the future, because you'll be able to see the change in trend.....

MS. MEYERS: You bet.

ATTAMUK: .....whether you say they're growing here and there, declining in growth after a while.

MS. MEYERS: That's the plan, to go back and keep checking.

ATTAMUK: Because I was trying to talk to the forestry in Fairbanks to -- and when they have hot fires versus cool fires, to do a study, see if it will increase the growth or not. Because if they're burning it too hot, it's going down, and it's melt -- you know, it's just melting the permafrost.

MS. MEYERS: Yeah.

MR. JOLY: Yeah, we've definitely seen differences in severity with fires and how the vegetation will return. And the one at Nimrod Hill that we're going -- hopefully going back to this summer was a very hot one, so it actually had different trajectory, different vegetation coming in, so we're interested in see how that looks 30 years after. And we also have another project that we hope to get funding for, but we're not sure about yet, is to expand -- put additional vegetation transects into the Nulato Hills where the caribou have been spending a lot of time in the last few years. So hopefully we can kind of expand the project. Right now we've got something in Buckland, something in the Seward Peninsula. Hopefully we can expand that and get some transects out in the Nulato Hills where caribou's spending a lot of time the last few years.

ATTAMUK: Okay. Thanks.

MR. MOTO: One more question. You also said in this minutes that you were going to bring the findings to Canada, find out what was the response on their lichen thing?

MR. JOLY: Yeah, I went to Jasper. There was a North American Caribou Workshop there, and it was a real big meeting. Caribou biologists from all over the world showed up, and gave a presentation. Page 70 is the abstract of the talk that I gave. It was really well received. There's going to be a proceedings of the conference, and hopefully the paper that I presented will be accepted, and if it is published, I'll be sure that everyone gets a copy of it.

MR. MOTO: Yeah, I was wondering, because I was kind of wondering when I read that first at home, what the findings were on that.

MR. JOLY: Yeah.

MR. MOTO: You know, I bring up issues that I think about, you know, but people also ask me if I'm going to be home before they go to meetings. If I say, no, they say, well, be real quiet then.

MR. JOLY: Hopefully the proceedings will be published next year, so maybe by this time next year or the following March, 2008, I'll have a manuscript that I can give to you, a final copy, so -- but there was a lot of people talking about forest fires and how that affects caribou, especially in Canada, but also here in Alaska, so it's a topic that a lot of people have interest in.

MS. JACOBSON: Okay. I'd like to thank Mr. Stoney, the Chair, and the rest of the Council for the opportunity today to update you on our Kobuk/Seward resource management plan that we're about -- I guess we're a little probably more than half way through. I passed out a copy to each of you on the schedule. And it might change again, but as of the 10th of October, our plan is as follows. We've got the draft resource management plan that was released for public comment on April 28th, and the comment period was originally supposed to last 90 days. That was going to go from May 5th until August 4th, but we got a number of comments, particularly from this region, and agreed to extent the comment period through September 15th. Then right now we've received about 170 letters and e-mails with one or more substantive comments, and we've received about 632 individual comments, and about 3800 of the kind of two e-mail form letters that often come when we have a plan. The one letter was originated from the American Campaign for Wilderness, and we're not sure where the other one originated from.

So right now the field office is currently reviewing those comments, and we should be -- complete the review by November 1st. We're asking our specialists to go back into the document and look to see if we an address the comments. Some of them are grammatical, some of them require quite a bit more work, but when we're done with that, we'll have our state office look over our response to the comments and the draft RMP will be modified based on those comments. The BLM will provide an updated preferred alternative to create the proposed resource management plan.

Once that's complete, the BLM will coordinate with the State of Alaska and the Northwest Arctic Borough to get additional input and to update the alternative, the preferred alternative. After the coordination, any additional changes will be made and it will go to the BLM state director for approval. And after that, if the state director approves it, it goes to our Washington Office for approval, to print it. The proposed RMP and final EIS will be printed and distributed. Notice of availability for the resource management plan and final EIS will begin a 30-day protest period, and there's a 60-day governor's consistency review that's required. And we expect that to happen mid March right now. So the final record of decision will be issued after that, so tentatively scheduled for July 2007.

And if we have more changes, we'll keep you updated, but we appreciate the comments we've gotten from the region, from Maniilaq and the Borough and the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, and individual comments. We've received a lot from this area and appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: With that many comments and the e-mails, it seems like a lot of people are very interested all over the state.

MS. JACOBSON: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's -- whatever.

MS. MEYERS: The Lower 48, too.

MS. JACOBSON: Yeah. We've gotten comments from people -- there's one sort of notorious character, I can't think of her name, from Ohio that routinely writes in, and she's commented on our plan as well, so we weren't left out by that woman from Ohio.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Moto.

MR. MOTO: One other thing I wanted to bring up since you're here. You know a lot of times when the State and Park Service and them close some areas to recreationists, but then BLM on their lands, they opened it up to certain types of recreation that's already closed. And do they have a better biology study on some of this, like fish or sports hunters to go hunt on BLM land, or fish on BLM lands? That's what we're always

wondering. I though I'd bring it up. Somebody might be angry at me, but.....

(Laughter)

MS. JACOBSON: Well, I'm not sure exactly where you might be talking about. You know, we certainly have different regulations, but we try to coordinate I think, you know, the best we can, and we're certainly hoping to coordinate with the Park Service and Fish and Wildlife.

In our preferred alternative, one of our key issues that we need to address is the user conflict issue, and we're hoping that we can get a group together to work cooperatively with us, and I know it's an issue that the Park Service and Fish and Wildlife are wrangling with as well as we are, so it would be great, and even with the State DNR, if we could develop a plan that everyone could support. That's what we're hoping for.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions from Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: If not, thank you very much for your report.

MS. MEYERS: Okay. Thanks.

MS. JACOBSON: Thank you.

MR. SNOW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: You guys continued for so long on this thing. I think it's great excellent work, and I thank all of you. Thank you.

Okay. Next, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Do we have anybody from Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I know from the last several months, you know, Jim Dau -- it seems like Jim does so much work for your staff and all of us here. It gives an opportunity what's going on, and like to see your reports.

MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman. Jim Magdanz with the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, and Jim Dau with Wildlife Conservation is

here.

I'm going to start out today. I want to say that I appreciate the Council's support for the research that we've done up here,and your vote today on the patterns and trends study that we've proposed with Maniilaq. I think that will be an interesting report, and I do appreciate your support.

I've handed out two sheets. The one with the slides summarizes a presentation that we did in Buckland on the 18th of September. It's part of an FIS project that Amy Craver talked about earlier exploring approaches. It's intended to gather a village's opinions about how we should do harvest assessment in the NANA Region. And what this summarizes is what we know about subsistence harvest in the community of Buckland. And we're doing a presentation like this for each community in the region, showing the community the data that we have for that community, and we're talking about how we do harvest assessment work, and then we do a little survey that we hand out to the audience and ask people to fill out to give us information about what they would like to see us to do, how they think we should go about doing our business.

We're going to visit every community here over the next year. We've one Noatak, we've done Buckland. We hope to get up on the upper Kobuk within the next month or so. And so we will be coming around to your village soon, if we haven't already been there.

This also includes the first report of the survey that we did in Buckland in 2004, and our estimate of harvest there were about 630 pounds per person, which is very similar to what we see in other communities. So subsistence harvests are certainly a big contributor to the economy of Buckland.

The next thing I have to hand out, which is the four charts, the pie charts. One of the consequences of the enforcement effort here this fall was that two people in Kivalina were cited for fishing without a license, using a rod and reel. And in some parts of the state, rod and reel is legal subsistence gear for State-managed lands and waters. For Federal waters in this area, well, statewide, rod and reel are legal subsistence gear. But in State waters in Unit 23, in the Kotzebue district, at the moment rod and reel are not legal gear, and so when Kivalina -- the City of

Kivalina sent us a letter and asked us, invited us up there to a meeting, and asked us what could be done about making rod and reel legal gear for subsistence in the Kotzebue district.

So we did a little -- we went into our data base first of all, and what I've done here is what we would show the Board of Fisheries about rod and reel use. It shows that in the surveys, comprehensive surveys that we've done in figure one, the rod and reels have accounted for about 10 percent, one out of 10 -- one pound out of every 10 pounds of fish caught for subsistence is taken with rod and reel. Of those, about six percent are trout and about three percent are sheefish. For salmon, where we have more extensive data, we have salmon data for every year for six communities, rod and reels take about three percent of the salmon harvest, which is what you would expect.

We will be bringing this up at the advisory committee meetings and we will encourage Kivalina to submit a proposal to the Board of Game. The regulatory fix for this is relatively simple. We already allow rod and reels to be used from Cape Espenberg to Cape Prince of Wales as a result of a proposal from the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee a couple of years ago. So if the Kotzebue Committee or the Kivalina/Noatak Committee or an individual submits a proposal, to make it legal in the Kotzebue district, we'd only have to change Cape Espenberg to Point Hope, and that would fix it. So it's a two word change in the regulation.

The Department in the past has been neutral about this, so I don't think it's going to be a difficult proposal. I've already talked to the people in sport fish about it, so I think this is something that we can change and make rod and reel legal gear for subsistence. It would mean you wouldn't need a sport fishing license to use a rod and reel any more.

So the bad news is that it might be three years before we actually get the deal done, because the Board of Fisheries is meeting in January, and the proposal deadline is about four months behind us, and they're on a three-year cycle. So if an agenda change request is a possibility, we'll pursue that, but otherwise it will be a while before we can get this fixed, but we are aware of it and working on it.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Jim, before you go any further, I'll ask you a question on rod and reel. Why is this illegal to subsistence fish with rod and reel? Why that?

MR. MAGDANZ: It's been that way since before I started working for the Department, for 25 years.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Before even subsistence word was pronounced, right?

MR. MAGDANZ: .....it's been that way. It predates the subsistence law, but I don't know the history of it. But people do use rod and reel for the same purposes that they use subsistence. And the main concern the Board has had is just -- is conservation.

One of the wrinkles on the State side, the reason it's more difficulty for the State side is that under State law all Alaska residents qualify as subsistence users. On the Federal side, that's not true. Just local rural residence with customary and traditional use. So if the State -- if the Federal adopts a rod and reel provision, only residents of Unit 23 can use rod and reel in Unit 23. Fairbanks hunters and fishermen can't fly up here and use rod and reel for subsistence. But on the State side, that's not the case, because of the McDowell ruling. A Fairbanks hunter can fly up to the upper Kobuk if we make it legal for subsistence rod and reel use. Can fly up to the upper Kobuk and fish for sheefish without a license and call it subsistence, regardless -- you know, catch and release, he can fish all day for catch and release and call it subsistence without a license. So that's the down side on the State regulatory system.

Practically speaking, we don't think that's going to be a conservation problem. We don't think most people from Fairbanks are going to use this to circumvent the regulations, because they're going to fish other places where they do need a license. They're going to buy a license anyway, so they'll have one. And we don't think it's going to be a problem. But it is a problem for local people, and I'm.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: The reason why I ask that question is I think of some villages that the only effort that some of the people have is the rod and reel. they don't have a snow machine, they don't have a boat.

They don't have nothing, only they had the rod and reel and go down to the river and get one salmon for supper. That's subsistence.

MR. MAGDANZ: That's right. No argument. You're absolutely right. It's very efficient when you want a particular species or when you want a small amount.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions to Jim.

MR. BALLOT: So what is the proper tool?

MR. MAGDANZ: The proper tool?

MR. BALLOT: Proper gear.

MR. MAGDANZ: Well, certainly most forms of nets, most forms of traps that people up here would use, like burbot traps, are legal gear. Spears are legal gears. There's a list of legal gear, but I think that except for rod and reel, anything that you're likely to do is legal. Rod and reel is the only limitation that affects you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for Jim there before we go to Mr. Dau.

MR. MAGDANZ: I have a couple more things here.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

MR. MAGDANZ: But just -- well, I have one more thing. The Park Service has been real supportive of our work over the years. They supported the Buckland work. And we just signed an agreement with the Park Service to do another comprehensive survey in the region. We try to do one every couple years. And we hope to be able to do this in Kiana. We have no lower Kobuk studies yet. But we'll be going out to Kiana in the next month and discussing this with the government in Kiana and asking them whether they want to participate in this. And if they do, we'll probably be in Kiana in February or March with a comprehensive subsistence survey there. And we'll sign a cooperative agreement the IRA to hire local people as we do in our survey work. And so that one's on our plate.

So that's all I have there, Mr. Chairman,

thanks.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Mr. Dau.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead.

MR. BALLOT: I had one last follow up.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Mr. Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Have you shared this with Buckland, or are you going to get there sometime?

MR. MAGDANZ: We were there on the 18th of September, and we went to the IRA annual meeting. There were about 200 people there. I passed -- I did a presentation that showed all of this. I passed this out and I also passed out some more detailed harvest information. Percy, I believe you were in Anchorage that week.

MR. BALLOT: Yeah. That's right.

MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah. Thanks.

MR. BALLOT: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you very much, Jim. We'll go to Mr. Dau.

MR. DAU: Well, I'm Jim Dau, Fish and Game, Kotzebue.

You will be glad to know that I don't have a presentation. So if there's no questions, we can all go to lunch.

Actually I came down -- I thought this was a fish meeting, so I really don't have a presentation for you. I came down because Jim called me about an hour ago and said there had been some questions come up about vendors or muskox or harvest levels or something.

So the one thing I will mention, all the other Federal agencies have mentioned the lower Kobuk moose census that we did. I don't think anybody mentioned that we did another census in the upper Kobuk last spring. We worked with Gates of the Arctic National

Park staff there. And the results were identical to the census we did three years ago. Moose density was real low, 0.2 moose per square mile. A modest number of calves per 100 adults. It's nothing to write home about. But it was really interesting, having just finished the lower Kobuk moose census and then go to the upper Kobuk, if you -- going from west to east, the further up river you go, the fewer and fewer moose you see. The most moose in that whole drainage are right over here on the Kobuk Delta. And the most calves per cows is right over here in the Kobuk Delta. You get to the headwaters of the Kobuk, and it's hard to find a track in March when it's complete snow cover. So no change in the upper Kobuk on moose.

But I'm also here just to answer questions. If you've got questions, I'll.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for the department, State Fish and Game. Attamuk.

ATTAMUK: I've just got one quick one, probably a simple one. Is there more wolves up the river than down here?

MR. DAU: In the Kobuk?

ATTAMUK: Yes.

MR. DAU: Yeah, that was real plain. It was interesting last spring doing the spring surveys for a couple reasons. There were lots of wolves. We based out of Dall Creek. There were like nine or 10 people in camp. We were, you know, talking at night cooking. We heard a wolf howl right outside of camp at Dall Creek. I think every plane on the survey saw wolves at least one day. Many of us saw wolves almost every day. But lots of wolves in the upper Kobuk.

But the interesting thing was when you got more than about 15 miles out of Kobuk or Dall Creek, you quit seeing snow-go tracks. And it wasn't just in the upper Kobuk. In all the villages around here last winter, I've never seen so few snow-go tracks when you get more than about 15, 20 miles out of the village. I think this eight bucks a gallon gas is killing people. And I think it really comes home when you start talking about, you know, the few guys that hunt wolves and really get out and range. I'll bet that our wolf harvest is going to be down, and not just in the upper Kobuk, just

all over. And it's gas.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions to Jim Dau.

MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I've got one, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Just now you guys flying around, did you guys see any little people?

(Laughter)

MR. BALLOT: I've been hearing stories from my village.

MR. DAU: I'm a towering 5-5.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's him right there.

MR. DAU: I mean, do I qualify?

MR. BALLOT: I hear it from up the river, I hear it from Deering. And I thought, wow, Jimmy must know I'm going to ask him when he come over here.

MR. DAU: No, I haven't seen any little people.

ATTAMUK: No relatives.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Ballot and myself, I waited, I was looking for the same question that you asked. Any further question to the State Department of Fish and Game from the Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further reports from the Fish and Game.

MR. DAU: I could say one thing, that, you know, in all my career here, this is probably the first year where I think numbers of non-local hunters has actually gone down a little this fall.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

MR. DAU: I've talked to some other guys around town, pilots, but for me flying around and talking to the enforcement guys, over all I think we had fewer visiting hunters here this year than in the past. Now, maybe it just plateaued out, and maybe I'm all wet. Maybe it's gone through the roof, but I don't think so. But, you know, some of the big volume operators last fall. We all know the turbine Otter on floats. well, he was back, but he wasn't on floats. And he got here late He left a little early. The father/son guide operation that's large volume, they weren't here at all. So I don't think -- you know, we can congratulate the Board of Game that, you know, they've solved our problems by reducing, you know, the non-resident caribou bag limit to two. I think the effect was mostly just a couple of key high volume operators, you know, showing up, you know, in a reduced -- at a reduced level.

But the one hot spot, you know, late in the season -- I don't think I had hardly any complaints at all until the final week of September. And then it really tough up for Noatak, and Joe Arey can tell you more than I can, but, you know, caribou are still slow coming off the Slope. everybody's had a tough time getting caribou. People in all the villages were going far to get caribou, and people in Noatak were going above the controlled use area. It went away. And the transporters were having a hard time getting caribou, too. And so for the first time in years, I would say that the hottest spot in Unit 23 for conflicts was in Noatak the last week of the season.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Moto.

MR. MOTO: One comment. You know, what -- a lot of times we get contractors that come to our village, and then after they work there for 30 days, they try to consider themself citizens of that area. They still have to get special permit to hunt, right, in our area, or do they have to -- or what do they have to do to be able to hunt? A lot of them have been hunting after they've been there for -- get some people concerned that they might get too many moose or stuff like that, you know.

MR. DAU: That's a good question that comes up every year. For the State, to be a resident, you've got to live in the state for a year. On Federal lands, you'll have to ask one of the Federal Staff. They can tell you better than me what it takes to be, you

1 know, a qualified resident of Unit 23. I'm not real
2 sure.
3
4 But also, you know, there's lots of
5 native lands around, and you've got to be a shareholder,
6 so it has nothing to do with, you know, where you live or
7 how long. Yeah.
8
9 MR. MOTO: Most of land around Deering is
10 owned by the corporation, State or Federals, you know.
11 And quite a bit of it -- we're not too far from the
12 Federal park, you know. And, yeah, this has got us
13 concerned, because they have to get special permit from
14 NANA to hunt, but if they're not residents or they won't
15 allow them, but now we're still figuring out way to get
16 tougher, you know.
17
18 MR. DAU: Yeah, there's no simple answer
19 to your question, Calvin. You know, it's all this
20 patchwork quilt of land, and, you know, you live a
21 certain place, you can follow one set of regulations,
22 another place, it's another. And that's -- you know,
23 some people play that to the hilt, and -- but it confuses
24 everybody.
25
26 MR. MOTO: I thought I'd ask you that,
27 because some people are concerned about that.
28
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions
30 to the State.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it for your
35 report?
36
37 MR. DAU: That's it.
38
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you very much,
40 gentleman. You know, I thank you again for all the hard
41 work you guys have been doing the last several years, and
42 I know we had a pretty good, busy season for the State
43 everywhere, so thanks for both of you very much.
44
45 Okay. We've got another agency which is
46 the Northwestern Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. Mr.
47 Caleb, this is the first time that the Northwestern
48 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group gave me this paper
49 here, that from today, Mr. Pungowiyi, I will see that the
50 agency be put on this, you know, information for RAC

meetings. So this is the beginning of it, so I'll make sure that you're in this packet on next year's meeting. We'll invite you in.

Caleb Pungowiyi is I believe the coordinator for Northwestern Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group which was formed in probably 1997. Welcome, and give us a report on this working group up to date, Mr. Pungowiyi.

MR. PUNGOWIYI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like you say, my name is Caleb Pungowiyi. I'm the coordinator for the Western Arctic Working Group.

A very few short comments just to update you on activities of the working group and where we are and what we have looking into the future.

First of all, we did submit comments on the Bureau of Land Management's resource management plan that they're developing for the area, that 13 million acres of land that was in this area and also in Seward Peninsula. One of the things that we did first was in our first meeting in July was to ask for an extension of the comment period which was to end August 4th, 2006. We asked for an extension to November 15th, 2006 to allow for more people to comment on the plan. And also for an opportunity for this group, the RAC to play a part in that. Under the law any plan that's being developed that's going to affect subsistence has to have consultation process with the Advisory Councils. We felt that the Bureau of Land Management did not meet that goal of consulting with the Regional Advisory Council on the effect it would have on subsistence resources within the plan. And that simply giving a plan to the Chairman was not part of the consultation process.

Our comments primarily were on the effects on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the insect relief area, the calving lands up on the North Slope area, and also on the winter range down in Nulato Hills. We felt that those areas needed special protection, and that the plan should address to make sure that those areas are protected. We also included the key migratory routes that were -- Jim Dau provided the group with the migration routes. We recommended that those also be included in protected areas for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

We also commented on the Squirrel River special recreation management area, that the Bureau of Land Management plan for a five-year plan was too long, that the situation up there needed immediate attention, especially with the user conflict that's going on between the subsistence hunters and the sport hunters.

We also commented on the fire management plan. You heard from Kyle that there is an effect from fires, and that the aggressive -- that there should be an aggressive response to any fires, especially in the wintering range so that the lichen is protected under the plan.

We felt that missing from the plan was the effects on climate change. The plan was completely silent on any climate change issues, but we know that like from what Kyle has just reported, that there are some effects that are happening from climate change, and that the plan should address the effects from climate change.

We're in the process of transferring some money from the working group to BLM for winter range studies, $20,000 that was in the budget for winter range studies. It's in the process of being transferred to BLM to continue their winter range studies.

We also felt that on the permits that are issued by Federal agencies, whether the Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, that any user permits should go through an 810 analysis. In other words that if there's going to be subsistence effects from the permits issued by the agencies, there should be an analysis to study the effects that it's having on subsistence uses, and that these studies should be cumulative, not just agency-based, because right now they're agency-based studies, and that they should be an overall look at the effects it's having on the total region.

And that's pretty much it as far -- well, our next meeting is going to be January 23rd and the 24th here in Kotzebue. If there is some conflict with some of the other members, the alternate dates for that meeting will be a week earlier, January 16th and 17th. And from there it's going to be -- the annual meeting of the working group, we'll have all the members. We're also soliciting or trying to get North Slope Borough to be a party, or participate in the working group meetings, so

we hope that with the new director that we'll have participation from the North Slope Borough in the working group.

That's all I have for now, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Pungowiyi, you said something about the wintering range of the caribou herd from Northwest in Nulato hills. How long has that been going on? Have they been continually migrating easterly from that -- I'd say from Mekoryuk area and heading easterly towards the Nulato Hills? Is that their wintering ground now?

MR. PUNGOWIYI: Right. Some of that area is already protected in the previous land that was developed by Bureau of Land Management. And we're suggesting that the protected area be extended further south, because the herd is wintering further south into the Nulato Hills. And some of the protection that is proposed by Bureau of Land Management regarding mining activities, oil exploration activities is not adequate to protect the wintering range, and therefore that we're recommending that they have stricter guidelines or stipulations for protecting the winter range.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Mr. Pungowiyi, on your January meeting, you said January 23, 24, are you going to invite most of the agencies for a full report to this working group?

MR. PUNGOWIYI: Yes, we'll have all the agencies there, and also we're in the process of perhaps at the suggestions of the members, other people that we want to invite at the meeting, whether it's going to be concerning climate change or elders, we've always had elders before at the meeting. And the meeting's going to be here in Kotzebue, so we'll have somebody from local.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Any questions to the caribou working group from the Councils.

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Buckland is supposed to be the winter grazing grounds of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, but BLM in the summer of those fires, they just allowed it to burn. It's not a high priority. I

wonder if that's something that we need to kind of consider or look at during your January meeting.

MR. PUNGOWIYI: We definitely could, yes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any other questions to the caribou working group coordinator from the Council. If not, then, Mr. Pungowiyi.....

ATTAMUK: To answer Percy, when I used to be in Caleb's shoes, when I went to the villages, it was in the fall that, that the people in our region didn't want to have fires in our region just to protect the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, because there was some people preferred, and all the villages prefer not to have, except for upper Kobuk, controlled fire by the forestry, due to that they need to save the grazing for the caribou. And it was -- and this came out from the hunters themselves, from the villages. Just for your information.

MR. PUNGOWIYI: Uh-huh. Okay. Yeah, I think we're seeing from other studies that fire just is a definite -- has a definite impact on the winter ranges, so we're asking for more aggressive responses to any fires in the wintering areas.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, Mr. Pungowiyi, on behalf of the RAC, I certainly want to give you a big thank you, you know, for being the coordinator for this working group. You know, it's very interesting to all of us, that all of us that monitor and manage 490,000 animals. You're doing a great job, Mr. Pungowiyi, continue your good work, and that we'll be working with you very closely. Thanks again, Mr. Pungowiyi.

MR. PUNGOWIYI: Well, thanks for the kind comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Good. I know we're all getting awful tired, but I know it's way past lunchtime. We've just got one more presentation here from it says Mr. Thomas William Smith on Squirrel River designation. We'll give you approximately 10 minutes at the most, Mr. Smith, and give us a presentation of your

interest in the BLM designation.

MS. DOWNING: And give me two seconds to change the tape.

(Off record)

(On record)

MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you. For the record, my name is Thomas William Smith. I am the adopted son of Agnes and Duffy Smith of Kiana. My parents are Clarence and Susie Arnold of Kotzebue. I was adopted at the age of two days, so I grew a Kiana person.

Just in the last nine or 10 days or so a lot of people here Kotzebue have expressed I think the right word might be some resentment and anger as to their freezers not being full, and they attribute that to the sport hunters changing the migration route of the caribou. Ever since I was a kid, I lost my father before my 11th year. It was my adoptive mother who had to teach me how to hunt. And not only from her, but a lot of the elders, they always said, let the first ones go. They lay the path down, and the rest of them follow the scent.

And this issue has arisen over the last three to five years or so, and we know that it's over the number of hunter drop and pick up, even as high as 200 and 300 in some seasons. It is though people that live in high city life. They've got very well high-paying jobs and they can afford to come out here and take their pleasure. They do not realize the impact on the local residents.

Subsistence hunting not only preserves the culture, it ensures that food is on the table for their family and their young ones. And over the last nine or 10 days I've been here, just word of mouth throughout the street, you know, man, we go out how many times, and nothing out there, and it's draining their piggy bank, you now. We're not as well off as a lot of folks. The majority.

And I've heard that, and I could say I saw this coming when the Squirrel River issue first came.

Now, there's a loophole in the user

situation up there. The Squirrel River area was treated as a wild river. It is not officially designated as a wild river.

The question I have is, on the horizon, is the designation of that area going to be changed to three, wild and scenic? And if so, how much time do we have left on that? Because I had heard from one reliable source if there is no opposition, it will be designated as such and it will open up to sport hunters, canoers, rafters, pleasure. So I would like to say that it's a concern of mine, because I life in this area. I just want to bring that to you attention, and if so, how much time do we have left in that three-year time before it is officially designated, because I had been told, if there is no opposition, then it will be designated as such.

With that, I thank you -- oh, one more. To the question of wildfire, the Alaska Bureau of Land Management fire is a natural process of the earth, and if it does not threaten any communities or anything, they let the fire go to replenish itself. Down in the Lower 48, they're about 30 years behind Alaska's we could call it maybe expertise or just experience, but that's why they're in the situation they're in now. They suppress, suppress, suppress, now they're at the danger level down there. And they're about 30 years behind us.

So with that, that's all the comments I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Smith. We've got the person up from BLM will respond to your question. It would be Randy Meyers from BLM will give you some information and answers for your question. Randy.

MS. MEYERS: To respond Thomas Smith's question, the designation for the Squirrel River was considered whether to change it from its current state, which is.....

MR. SMITH: Undesignated.

MS. MEYERS: Undesignated, to designated wild and scenic. But to allay your fears, we went through the whole process of public meetings and having that plan written out and people commenting on it. And the groundswell of opinion was, no, we don't want to designate it as a wild and scenic river. And so that

package did -- it went through our governor, and it went to the legislators in.....

MR. SMITH: Yes. Okay.

MS. MEYERS: .....Washington, D.C., and it actually -- you know, so Congress has it right now. And the three years that you're talking about is in effect right now.

MR. SMITH: Okay.

MS. MEYERS: And as of November '07.....

MR. SMITH: One year plus.

MS. MEYERS: Yeah. They're considering the no designation decision.

MR. SMITH: How about designated officially as wild, is that under consideration?

MS. MEYERS: No, that's not in consideration at all.

MR. SMITH: Thank you.

MS. MEYERS: What they are considering is to just accept.....

MR. SMITH: All right.

MS. MEYERS: .....the recommendation from BLM to not designate the Squirrel River as wild and scenic.

MR. SMITH: All right. Okay. Acknowledge the loophole, but don't close it. Thank you. I've gotcha.

MS. MEYERS: Yeah. So it's not, you know.....

MR. SMITH: I won't take up too much time with this here. Okay.

MR. MOTO: I have.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Moto.

MR. MOTO: You made a statement that subsistence is a preservation of culture. What you should have said is it's a preservation of life.

MR. SMITH: Exactly.

MR. MOTO: Because subsistence is survival, you know. Without subsistence we wouldn't have survived, so if you want -- cultural preserving is like story telling and dancing and stuff. That's my definition of subsistence is survival and the preservation of life or a life style.

MR. SMITH: Well, if you want to come hot and heavy, that's exactly what it is.

MR. MOTO: So when you go home, you change.....

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

MR. MOTO: That's the only thing I had to say to you to try to let you know.

MR. SMITH: Thank you. Exactly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Thomas.

MR. SMITH: Thank you very much, and thank you, gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, you know, that so far we're doing very great, you know, like I said, moving pretty fast, so I know that, gosh, it's been a long three, four hours, but that's what we have to do to get it done.

We'll go down to item number 15, the time and place for our next meeting. I see down at (A) it says for March 8 and 9, 2007 in Kotzebue. Is that what it is, Barb?

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: And you want action, motion action on this confirmation date March 8 and 9?

MS. ARMSTRONG: Just confirmation. If

there isn't any request for changes, then it's okay if it's left. You don't need to take no action. But you do need to establish a new -- establish a date and location for your fall 2007 meeting. And I handed out a calendar of the current one.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: For the confirmation date, just.....

MS. ARMSTRONG: The current meetings that have already been set is like August 28 and 29th, 2007 is Barrow. September 25 and 26 is Cold Bay -- I mean Kodiak/Aleutians. October 1 and 2 is Bristol Bay. October 4 and 5 is Y-K Delta, and October 10 and 11 is Seward Pen. So any other dates there are open.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: What's the wish of the Council on the dates and the location.

ATTAMUK: Are we talking about the one in March or August? October I mean.

MS. ARMSTRONG: This is the fall.

ATTAMUK: Fall?

MS. ARMSTRONG: Fall 2007 meeting window.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's right after the quarterly meeting?

MS. ARMSTRONG: No, this is the fall.

ATTAMUK: She's talking about the fall. That's what I just follow.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. It's the fall.

MR. BALLOT: (In Native)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: What's it say right here? For March.

ATTAMUK: Yeah, that's what I was going through.

MS. ARMSTRONG: That's your winter meeting. That's your winter meeting.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, winter meeting's

okay.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Your mid winter meeting is March 8 and 9.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. That's in Kotzebue.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, that's Kotzebue.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Now we're going to establish another one for the fall meeting.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, we try to set up a year ahead of time.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. You want the option on this?

MS. ARMSTRONG: No.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: It's been official, right?

MS. ARMSTRONG: It's okay.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We're on B, right, establish the date and location fall.

MS. ARMSTRONG: March is good.

MR. BALLOT: March is good.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: As you know, we've been trying to go to some rural villages, but we were unsuccessful. I know it is very expensive to try to go to some villages. So what's the wish of the Council for fall of 2007? Where do you want it at? When?

ATTAMUK: About this time a year from now, if I say so, is fine. But for people that's out of the village.....

MS. ARMSTRONG: You've got to not conflict with Seward Pen and North Slope, because some of the Staff do attend North Slope and Seward Pen.

MR. EVERETT: What about mid week October

17th. It doesn't conflict with hunting as much.

ATTAMUK: Yeah, that's what I was -- okay.

MS. ARMSTRONG: October 17th?

ATTAMUK: You guys don't mind travelling on late Fridays, you guys from Anchorage, is really what I'm saying.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's the thing we talked about in Anchorage yesterday, you know. The question, you know, that we talked about in Anchorage yesterday, I asked the Staff.

ATTAMUK: It's the only time they can come here.

MR. BALLOT: The 17th area is good.

MS. ARMSTRONG: October what?

MR. BALLOT: September.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Oh, September?

MR. BALLOT: Is that September?

MR. EVERETT: No, October.

ATTAMUK: He mentioned October 17.

MR. BALLOT: October 17.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: October 17. We don't know when AFN is going to be opened.

MR. EVERETT: That's true.

MS. ARMSTRONG: AFN is always the week of like 21, 22.

ATTAMUK: Right.

MR. EVERETT: I was just thinking something early -- or late enough that it doesn't conflict with good weather and fall hunting.

MR. BALLOT: I like September 20, 21.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's your -- in September?

MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

MR. BALLOT: I'm just recommending. I could swing around, but that's what I'm recommending.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: What's the wish of the Council, September or October?

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. You have two dates. October 17 and September 20 and 21.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: September 20th and 21. Is that it, Percy, September?

MR. EVERETT: September for me is not as good, because of sports and regional play offs for cross country, district cross country, which some of our villages are getting more and more -- Buckland kids going to State and Kiana and Noatak. I don't know, that's usually the week of like region or district championships.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

MR. EVERETT: And then the next two weeks would be State, so the first week in October is usually when they have the state meet. And I know that we had probably our highest number of kids participating at state this year since I've been here.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

MR. BALLOT: Okay. You talked me into it. October 17 and 18.

MR. EVERETT: Or what's the 19th? Oh, I guess it has to be closed by then, right?

MS. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. So October 17.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

ATTAMUK: October 17 is fine with me.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

MR. MOTO: Yeah, I like the idea of October, because that's beginning of fiscal year. That way we know we'll have enough money to travel.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

(Laughter)

ATTAMUK: That's way to look at it, Calvin.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: What's the wish of the Council, October 17, 2007.

MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay. October 17.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any objection to it?

ATTAMUK: Now we've got to confirm this or what?

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Do you need proper action on it?

MS. ARMSTRONG: No. No. Just the date.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. What's the wish of the Council. If there's no objections, we're naming October 17th, 2007. In Kotzebue? Or Hawaii?

(Laughter)

MS. ARMSTRONG: I wish. Kotzebue.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. If that's the wish of the Council, that's what you've got. Mr. Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Yeah, just that remember what we were talking about. We were supposed to be in Shungnak this year, but we never make it. But I'd like to see us do something in a village in the future.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: We'd like that.

MR. BALLOT: And if we have to do this two years ahead of time, we'd better start thinking.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Any other comments from the Council before we adjourn.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: If not, I certainly want to thank all the Council members that are here. We've got a number of people that were absent, you know, for medical reasons, you know, but we give them a credit for that. But I certainly want to thank all of you to participate in this meeting today. I know it's very difficult for you guys to come up here, and to come here. This is -- we're late fall, you know, for hunting, but I give you guys good credit for being here today. And for the Staff and the entire Staff, like the BLM, National Park, Wildlife Refuge and everybody, and all our staff, you know. I want to thank all of you that came up here and participated in this meeting. Again, thank you very much, especially the National Park Service superintendent. I worked with him for a number of days, and all week, and have been all over this region here. I want to think him for a job well done. And thank you very much.

And do I hear adjourn?

ATTAMUK: So move.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Moved by Attamuk. Second by somebody.

MR. EVERETT: Second.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second by Robbie. Any more business want to be done. Otherwise the meeting is adjournment exactly at 12:50. Meeting adjourned. Thank you so much.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of October 2006.

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Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08