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NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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ALASKA TECHNICAL CENTER

8

KOTZEBUE, ALASKA

9

JULY 29, 1998 - 1:00 P.M.

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11

12 Members present:

13

14 Willie Goodwin, Chairman

15 Bert Griest

16 Walter G. Sampson

17 Percy C. Ballot, Sr.

18 Wilfred Ricky Ashby

19

20 Coordinator - Helga Eakon

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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(On record - 1:00 p.m.)

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, this is Willie Goodwin, the
6 Chair of the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council and I'm
7 going to call this meeting to order. Helga, would you call
8 roll call, please.

9
10 MS. EAKON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Willie Goodwin.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Here.

13
14 MS. EAKON: Walter Sampson.

15
16 (No response)

17
18 MS. EAKON: Bert Griest.

19
20 MR. GRIEST: Here.

21
22 MS. EAKON: Ricky Ashby.

23
24 MR. ASHBY: Here.

25
26 MS. EAKON: Percy Ballot.

27
28 (No response)

29
30 MS. EAKON: Raymond Stony.

31
32 (No response)

33
34 MS. EAKON: Stanley Custer.

35
36 MR. CUSTER: Here.

37
38 MS. EAKON: A quorum is established, Mr. Chair.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Here.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: For the record, Walter Sampson came
43 in late.

44
45 MS. EAKON: Okay, cool.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Helga would you introduce the on-
48 line participants.

49
50 MS. EAKON: Yes, Mr. Chair. In addition to Stanley

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1 Custer, Council member from Shungnak, on-line are Warren Olsen
2 from Anchorage. He will testify. Matt Wolf with North
3 American Wild Sheep Foundation in Kenai who will testify. We
4 have all members of the Staff Committee on-line. Tom Boyd
5 who's the Chair. Sandy Rabinowitch, National Park Service. Ida
6 Hildebrand, BIA. Curt Wilson, Bureau of Land Management. Ken
7 Thompson, Forest Service. And Tom Eley with Fish and Wildlife
8 Service, Taylor Brelsford and Rosa Meehan. And Elizabeth
9 Andrews with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau. And
10 that's all I have.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Those of you that are line, can you
13 hear what she's saying?

14
15 (IN UNISON - AFFIRMATIVE)

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Did we miss anybody?

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, Rachel Mason is with us
20 in Anchorage and we are able to hear you loud and clear.

21
22 MR. OLSEN: Warren Olsen in Anchorage, I can hear you
23 loud and clear.

24
25 MR. WOLF: Matt Wolf in Kenai, I can hear you loud and
26 clear.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Here in the room we have other
29 people. We have Donna Dewhurst who's the Staff person from the
30 Subsistence Division, Fish and Wildlife Service. We have
31 members from the Northwest area, Park Service. We have some
32 people here from Kotzebue who are ready to testify. And we
33 also have the biologist from the Park Service here. If you
34 want I can go over their names, but in light of everybody on-
35 line, I think we'll ask if they are going to speak, to identify
36 themselves and that will save us some time.

37
38 This meeting was called and convened for Special Action
39 98-4, a request to establish a sheep harvest season, harvest
40 limits and harvest maximum in the Baird and Delong mountains
41 and close the area to non-Federally qualified subsistence
42 users. If any of you that are Staff members or biologists that
43 want to raise a point as these reports are given, identify
44 yourself and let me know. I'll withhold any public testimony
45 until after the biological analysis and the overview of
46 procedure has been identified and gone through by the Staff
47 members here.

48
49 MS. EAKON: This is Helga Eakon. The Northwest Arctic
50 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council has convened for the

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1 purpose of taking action on a recommendation to the Federal
2 Subsistence Board on Special Action S98-4, which is a request
3 from this Regional Council to establish a sheep harvest season,
4 harvest limits and harvest maximums in the Baird and Delong
5 mountains, and to close the areas to non-Federally qualified
6 subsistence users.

7
8 I will now do the overview of the procedure to be used.
9 First we have the biological analysis by Donna Dewhurst who is
10 the wildlife biologist working out of Fish and Wildlife
11 Subsistence Management Office in Anchorage, at which time I
12 would suggest that if there are any questions to ask of her to
13 do it at that time. Then we will open the floor for public
14 testimony. And so far we have Warren Olsen on-line from
15 Anchorage and Matt Wolf from Kenai. I just heard a couple other
16 people come in on-line; please identify yourselves? Is there
17 someone who just now telephoned in?

18
19 Okay. After which there will be an opportunity for
20 Federal agencies to comment, after which there will be an
21 opportunity for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to
22 comment and then the Regional Council will advance to their
23 discussion and the formulation of their recommendations to the
24 Board and their justifications. And that is the agenda, Mr.
25 Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Helga.

28
29 MS. DEWHURST: One correction, Mr. Chair. I think
30 Rachel should follow, she's replacing Helen, and most of this
31 proposal is dealing with c&t so I'll give a very brief
32 biological background and then Rachel, hopefully on-line, can
33 fill in the justification on the c&t.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Donna.

36
37 MS. DEWHURST: Okay, a quick background for those that
38 might not be familiar with it, the sheep harvest in this area
39 that we're talking about, the Bairds and the Delong mountains,
40 is basically assumed to have peaked in the 1980s and started
41 declining around 1989. People started noticing the numbers
42 starting to go down and continued through the 1990s. In '91,
43 the Bairds were closed initially on the seasons. In '93, the
44 Delongs started to be, well, restrictions be put on it and then
45 they were subsequently closed in '95. So both seasons have
46 been closed for a period of time.

47
48 It was decided -- well, talks started last year,
49 primarily from the State, when the numbers started to come back
50 up, in the 1997 survey, the numbers started popping back up --

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1 not back to the 1980s level but they were much better than they
2 had been in a number of years. The most promising thing was
3 lamb production was up. So people were starting to talk at
4 that point about the possibility of a hunt. A number of
5 meetings have taken place since then, including, probably most
6 importantly the State Game Board meeting last fall that talked
7 about determining subsistence need or the amount needed for
8 subsistence I should say, and also talked about methods and
9 means or if there was a hunt, and that's where the number 20
10 first came out as far as talking about 20 animals -- 20 sheep
11 being taken from the two mountain ranges. Since then, this
12 summer there was a meeting in June but it was decided at that
13 meeting, public meeting here in Kotzebue, to hold off until we
14 get the 1998 census which occurred in mid-July. The 1998
15 census showed continued improvement in the populations very
16 much following 1997. So then there was also a public meeting
17 in the end of July talking about this issue and that's where
18 this special action basically came from.

19
20 This really isn't a biological issue in the fact that
21 everybody has seemed to agreed that 20 sheep can be taken from
22 both populations, the Delongs and the Bairds, but that for the
23 best interest of the population it should be old rams only,
24 full-curl or larger rams. And the reasoning for that is there
25 was a number of years in the 1990s where there was virtually no
26 lamb production and that created some weak cohorts. The
27 numbers -- the middle aged sheep were -- they're not missing,
28 but they're not as well represented as the older and the
29 younger sheep. So based on that, the non-even population
30 distribution by age. Everybody's agreed that the population
31 could withstand a full-curl ram hunt or older ram hunt. We're
32 talking eight, nine years old or older. So that's pretty much
33 in agreement, that isn't the issue so much of the special
34 action. The real issue of the special action is who gets to
35 take these sheep, it's not whether or not 20 sheep can be
36 supported. So really this isn't so much a biological issue as
37 much as a social and political issue. And from there I'll hand
38 it off to Rachel Mason.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you Donna. Rachel.

41
42 MS. MASON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. The
43 Northwest Inupiat who have lived in and near the Brooks Range
44 have hunted sheep in Unite 23 for many centuries often as an
45 alternative to caribou meat. And most recently in the recent
46 decade sheep have been harvested in Unit 23 by the residents of
47 Ambler, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik,
48 Point Hope and Shungnak; those are all Unit 23 communities as
49 well as by Point Lay in Unit 26((A)). And those 10 communities
50 also have a positive c&t for sheep.

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1 Testimony from Point Lay residents indicates that sheep
2 hunting has been done historically as well as today in the
3 Delong mountains, but it's unclear for how many years or in
4 what years sheep have been taken. However, Noatak remains the
5 most active sheep hunting community in the region and that's
6 primarily due to its location near good sheep hunting areas.

7
8 The local rural residents in Unit 23 who have harvested
9 in the Baird mountains have mainly been from Noatak and
10 Kotzebue. A lot of our information for this comes from a study
11 by Georgette and Loon that was published in 1991. And that
12 study estimated that subsistence sheep harvest, since about
13 1970, were under different conditions than they are now and
14 there may be increased interest in the Delong mountain hunt in
15 this year.

16
17 Over the years there have been a number of hearings on
18 the sheep issues and the most recent meeting was held in
19 Kotzebue on July 20th, 1998. It included people from Kotzebue,
20 Noatak, Kiana and Kivalina, and there was also consultation
21 from Point Lay by phone. And the local opinion expressed at
22 that meeting was to support the finding estimated harvest for
23 the Bairds and the Delong mountains because people felt there
24 would be hunters who would travel to the Delong mountains to
25 take sheep more than might do so otherwise. The total harvest
26 estimated in Georgette and Loon's 1991 study were combined, it
27 would be from 20 to 56, which the additional Point Lay harvest,
28 this number could be brought to 58 in the 40 harvestable sheep
29 recommended for both the Baird and Delong mountain harvest.

30
31 There is an unknown element in this analysis and that
32 is what will happen if a sheep season is opened with a limit of
33 20 in the Delong Mountains and 20 in the Baird Mountains with
34 the 10 c&t communities which have not been able to hunt sheep
35 -- and some of the questions that no one has answered are if
36 Noatak is not able to take enough sheep in the Bairds, would
37 they decide to travel to the Delong Mountains? Would more
38 hunters hunt the Delong in 1998 if the Baird hunt were limited?
39 So these are questions, at present, no one has any answers for.
40 But if the weather conditions were appropriate, there might be
41 more hunters traveling to the Delong Mountains than the
42 estimated harvest of 11.

43
44 So our conclusion was to adopt this special action.
45 The justification can be summarized as the conditions for the
46 harvest upon which this analysis has been based is not
47 consistent with the conditions today. With a harvest of 20 in
48 each of the mountain ranges and past harvest of 18 to 43 in the
49 Baird Mounts, it is feasible to assume that some of the Noatak
50 and possibly the Kotzebue hunters will shift their hunting to

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1 the Delong Mountains. It is difficult to predict what the
2 impact will be on local hunters since the season has been
3 closed for seven years. So given those conditions, it may be
4 likely that 20 in each of the mountain ranges by hunters could
5 shift.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. You got anything else to
10 add, Donna?

11
12 MS. DEWHURST: No. I guess we should probably clarify
13 one thing. I should have clarified it up front, the issue of
14 the special action basically boils down to the State was
15 proposing to have a harvest before this action took place, that
16 it was going to allow a Tier I hunt in the Bairds of 20 sheep
17 and then a combined Tier I and drawing hunt in the Delongs
18 which would have nine Tier I -- or excuse me, 11 Tier I and
19 nine drawing permits, I believe.

20
21 The issue was whether, you know, whether or not to
22 close Federal lands to non-Federally qualified users which was
23 the nature of the special action. And that would, basically
24 null and void the State hunt. And the hot issue is the fact
25 that the drawing permits have been announced, but they have not
26 yet been issued but they have been announced. The other issues
27 that have been brought to the table besides just the nature of
28 the special action, as written, and will probably be discussed
29 today are; if this would go forward, I mean would close Federal
30 lands, whether or not we can and would want to put a
31 restriction on aircraft use. The second issue was whether or
32 not we'd want to put a restriction on devaluing the trophy
33 value of the horns. Somehow taking away the trophy value of
34 the horns by cutting off a portion of the horn or there are
35 other means. And then the third thing was whether or not to
36 require hunters to bring back the horns with the meat. Right
37 now it's not typically a requirement of a hunter. But that
38 would provide a means for biologists and managers to check the
39 horns and be able to age the animals to get an idea of what the
40 composition of the harvest was.

41
42 So those are three new issues that are not addressed in
43 the analysis but have come up in the last several days and I'm
44 assuming will probably be a topic of discussion also today. So
45 we have -- the first topic of discussion, of course, is the
46 special action itself. And then there's these three subsequent
47 add-ons.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Donna. Anybody have any
50 questions to the Staff on the reports here? Walter, do you

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1 have any questions?

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Nods negatively.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Stanley, you have any questions to
6 the Staff reports?

7

8 MR. CUSTER: Yeah. This is Stanley Custer. The only
9 one question I got is, how are we going to monitor 20 from
10 Baird and 20 from Delong that they were getting those 20 sheep
11 limits -- how are they going to monitor it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: The Park Service basically will be
14 doing the monitoring, the registration and monitoring. I'm
15 going to ask Ken to go ahead and kind of explain that a little
16 bit. Ken Adkisson from the Park Service. Ken.

17

18 MR. ADKISSON: My name is Ken Adkisson, I'm with the
19 National Park Service, Western Arctic National Park lands. The
20 Park Service will be the key agency actually distributing the
21 permits and the hunt will be monitored primarily through the
22 reporting requirements on the permits. Individuals will have a
23 short length of time basically after a successful harvest to
24 report it. We'll probably be working with individuals in the
25 villages and stuff to setup a process by which, you know, we
26 can get that information on a timely basis.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Did you get that Stanley?

29

30 MR. CUSTER: Yes, thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: A couple of things I guess I should
33 point out. You know, I've been involved in these meetings here
34 this summer as far as where we are right now. On the late June
35 meeting, the Department of Fish and Game and the Park Service
36 called a meeting of the advisory group for the State Fish and
37 Game and also I was invited. But at that meeting we decided
38 locally that there would be no decision made whether or not to
39 have a hunt until the survey numbers came back from the Park
40 Service and Fish and Game, who were doing the survey. So the
41 numbers came back in July, we had a meeting on the 20th, that's
42 when the discussion came about as far as allocation of the
43 harvestable levels; 20 from the Delongs and 20 from the Bairds.
44 However, I disagreed with the numbers that were going to the
45 Delongs, the subsistence level was zero to nine; I disagreed
46 with that basically because I knew that Kotzebue hunters also
47 go to the Delongs and hunt. So I combined the need levels for
48 both the Baird and Delongs and that's why we asked for all 40.
49 The 40 still doesn't meet the subsistence needs of the region.
50 Even though I still think that they're kind of low, these are

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1 the ones that are documented by the Department of Fish and
2 Game. And as a result we had another meeting on the 21st with
3 some members of the Regional Advisory Council, and decided to
4 ask for a special action to close all of the hunting except for
5 subsistence for the 40 rams. And that's where we're at right
6 now.

7
8 I'd like to point out also that since the sheep
9 hunting's been closed in the Bairds since 1991 our people have
10 been very patient and have been waiting for the populations to
11 come up so that we can hunt. We've also been patient in the
12 Delongs since they've been closed. So it's basically a local
13 -- it was a local consensus decision not to hunt and not to
14 have a season until we're comfortable with the numbers for the
15 population to come up and that's when they -- the figure that
16 was being used was between 450 to 600 sheep, if the population
17 got to within that that a hunt could be proposed.
18 Unfortunately the State decided to publish a hunt because they
19 were at a borderline of 450, and that's where we're at. The 11
20 permits were drawn. But I still think that under 804, my
21 feeling is the sheep numbers are too low and the priority
22 should got to the subsistence user.

23
24 We're going to be deliberating this and I'd like to
25 point this out right now that what the issue on hand is what
26 ANILCA provides for us. I'm not going to have any other debate
27 with the disagreements with ANILCA or any lawsuits that might
28 be pending, but with the issue on hand of who gets these 40
29 sheep. And I would appreciate all the people that are
30 testifying to stay within that bound.

31
32 For the record, I'd like to announce that Percy Ballot,
33 a member from Buckland also just came in. Welcome to the
34 meeting Percy, we're at the public testimony portion. And what
35 I'll do is I'll go from those people that are on-line to one
36 that's local here because I know some people -- one guy told me
37 he had an appointment to go to and then get back to the people
38 that are on-line to be fair to both sides. If there aren't any
39 other questions from the Regional Advisory Council we'll go
40 ahead and hold the public testimony portion now.

41
42 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, this is Taylor in
43 Anchorage.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

46
47 MR. BRELSFORD: We have one other public member who's
48 trying to sign on and get on-line in order to offer testimony,
49 it's Mr. Jake Jacobsen. I don't believe that he has signed on
50 yet, I'll go verify again and see what the delay is. But he is

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1 anxious to participate in the meeting and to have an
2 opportunity to testify.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Taylor. If he doesn't
5 get on, you know, there is the Board meeting which he will have
6 an opportunity to testify in if he doesn't get on here; that's
7 scheduled on Friday at 10:30 in Anchorage.

8

9 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. Okay, I'll go try and verify
10 what's the delay.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: First I'll go to Mr. Warren Olsen
13 from Anchorage. Can you state your name and whatever you want
14 to introduce yourself as.

15

16 MR. OLSEN: Yeah, I'm Warren Olsen in Anchorage. Do I
17 address you as Mr. Chairman of the meeting?

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

20

21 MR. OLSEN: Okay, Mr. Chairman, the first question I
22 want to know is there going to be a tape or a transcript from
23 the meeting available?

24

25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

26

27 MR. OLSEN: Okay, very good. I've just got a few
28 questions, I've been heavily involved in the subsistence area
29 for a long, long time, and I just want to verify some questions
30 here. Who's responsible for licensing individuals and
31 protection out in the field for this sheep hunt? I believe the
32 State of Alaska is; is that correct?

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ken.

35

36 MR. OLSEN: Okay, is that answer yes?

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: This is Ken Adkisson with the National
39 Park Service again. It will be a Federal subsistence hunt
40 basically administered by the Federal agencies. Hunters will
41 be required to have a State licenses, the permits themselves
42 will be issued by a Federal agency.

43

44 MR. OLSEN: Is this determined by the U.S. Wildlife
45 Service or the National Park Service.

46

47 MS. DEWHURST: Federal Subsistence Program.

48

49 MR. ADKISSON: It's the Federal Subsistence Program.

50

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1 MR. OLSEN: But which agency is going to be licensing
2 and/or handling the permits?

3
4 MR. ADKISSON: Well, we don't license the hunters, the
5 State -- the hunters are required to have State hunting
6 licenses, and that's a Federal requirement.

7
8 MR. OLSEN: Okay.

9
10 MR. ADKISSON: The Park Service, because most of the
11 lands under question are managed by the Park Service and
12 because we're the basic agency on-site, we'll probably be
13 carrying out most of the work to issue the permits and track
14 the hunt. We'd be glad to have participation by other Federal
15 agencies in the Kotzebue area if they would like to
16 participate.

17
18 MR. OLSEN: Okay. Will the state be responsible in any
19 way for protection or infractions of hunting?

20
21 MR. ADKISSON: I don't see anyone here from the State
22 to really answer that question, and you know, I don't think
23 that I should be answering for them. But I mean basically if a
24 violation of some kind occurred on State or private lands, the
25 State would be essentially responsible for enforcing that. If
26 an infraction occurred on Federal public lands it could go a
27 number of different ways.

28
29 MR. OLSEN: Okay. So you don't know clearly who's
30 going to handle infractions or violation of regulations? You
31 know that the Park Service is that -- will the State be under a
32 cooperative agreement to also handle that?

33
34 MS. DEWHURST: Dave, what's the jurisdiction in the
35 Park? Does State have collateral jurisdiction?

36
37 MR. ADKISSON: The jurisdiction under most of the
38 Federal lands is proprietary.

39
40 MR. OLSEN: Mr. Chairman, I believe we got some
41 interference on the teleconference.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Go ahead, Ken.

44
45 MR. ADKISSON: I was saying that the Federal lands that
46 are basically under question are under proprietary jurisdiction
47 so you know, the State would retain some jurisdictional
48 authority.

49
50 MR. OLSEN: Okay. Is the State also responsible for

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1 seasons and bag limits?

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: The seasons and bag limits for the
4 Federal hunt are being determined through the special action
5 process and will be determined by the Federal Subsistence
6 Board.

7

8 MR. OLSEN: Okay. So the Federal Subsistence Board has
9 removed that authority from the State on seasons and bag
10 limits; is that correct?

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That's why we're asking for the
13 special action.

14

15 MR. ADKISSON: Well, we're not removing it from the
16 State, you know, we're applying it to our -- you know, with our
17 legal responsibilities. I mean the State still retains their
18 authority to do what they want to do on State and private
19 lands.

20

21 MR. OLSEN: Well, on these particular lands we've
22 pretty well have stated that it's Park Service Federal land
23 that's involved here. And I just -- you know, I -- okay, the
24 next thing I want to know is under means and methods. Is the
25 State participating on this in cooperative management as well?

26

27 MR. ADKISSON: Again, there's no one from the State and
28 I don't feel like I can speak for, you know, what level of
29 participation the State is or is not going to do. I do know,
30 you know, that we have talked about it and very likely there's
31 a possibility that a result of what happens here today will be
32 recommendation for the development of a cooperative management
33 plan for sheep. But you know, what's going to happen for this
34 year's hunt I can't say in terms of, you know, what the State
35 will or will not do.

36

37 MS. DEWHURST: Is Elizabeth on-line?

38

39 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

40

41 MR. OLSEN: Okay.

42

43 MR. ADKISSON: Elizabeth Andrews is on-line and maybe
44 she can address some of those points for you?

45

46 MR. OLSEN: Well, I'd rather.....

47

48 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chair, this is Elizabeth Andrews.
49 And if there is only a Federal hunt for Federal subsistence
50 users on Federal lands and those lands are closed to non-

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1 Federally qualified subsistence users, there's nothing for the
2 State to enforce because we would not have any season in there.

3
4 MR. OLSEN: Well, let me go -- let me go on record as
5 opposing the State's position on that. Because there are State
6 residents hunting on Federal lands and the State has authority
7 on that.

8
9 Let me ask a couple more questions, Mr. Chairman, with
10 your patience please.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Warren, if it deals with the
13 question on hand, yes, I'll allow it.

14
15 MR. OLSEN: Okay, very good. Under the situation, it
16 appears to me that the local advisory committee would strive to
17 increase those sheep where everybody has an adequate and
18 equitable share of those sheep. And I am disappointed that I
19 feel the numbers that are harvested from a minimum herd benefit
20 no one, for all users. Has there been any consideration on
21 that? I know that you've been -- I know, Mr. Chairman, that
22 you've been patient for three or four years, but in a sense,
23 we're all patient in particular situations around the State to,
24 you know, increase these herds to a particular number where we
25 can all share in their use.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Warren, we are at this point --
28 about half-way through the highs of the populations of the
29 sheep were historically. So we know there's a shortage of
30 sheep. We know that we've been waiting patiently for the
31 population to come up. But the biologists, both State and
32 Federal, that have been monitoring the sheep and doing the
33 surveys reported to us that there are some rams that are of old
34 age, at full-curl or better that are probably going to die of
35 natural causes anyway. Twenty in each range, that will not be
36 a detriment to the population. It's not going to hurt it. So
37 we're using the authority under section 804 of ANILCA to
38 implement this portion of the hunt and that's what we're asking
39 the Federal Board to do.

40
41 MR. OLSEN: Mr. Chairman, those may be just reasons for
42 that particular regional area, but the situation is that, you
43 know, those sheep absolutely belong to you as well as all your
44 neighbors throughout the State. And the fact is that we should
45 strive -- in my backyard I have a park -- a State park and
46 every one of the residents of your particular region have an
47 opportunity to access and harvest from that park. And I feel
48 it's fair and equitable. But in this particular case we're
49 dealing with minimum numbers and I'm not sure we're being good
50 neighbors about this, Mr. Chairman, but that's my personal

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1 opinion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Warren. I did ask the
4 State and Federal -- Park Service here to implement a
5 management plan, to get started on it so that we don't get in
6 this dilemma again. That a management plan can actually give
7 us guidance in harvest levels and who should get the sheep.
8 Once that gets started, of course, there will be ample
9 opportunity for public testimony from elsewhere. So we are
10 trying to get at what you're saying Mr. Olsen.

11

12 MR. OLSEN: Okay. Well, I just want to go on the
13 record, there's police powers here that the State of Alaska is
14 totally responsible for. And as far as I'm concerned as an
15 Alaska resident, these police powers, not necess -- speaking in
16 the sense of common property and trust property, I don't feel
17 that the State is doing an adequate job to represent me on
18 harvesting sheep in that area. And I thank you very much Mr.
19 Chairman for my participation.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Olsen. Now, I'll
22 call on somebody from the local area here. Enoch, you had an
23 appointment later on.

24

25 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Come over to the mic, state your
28 name and who you are affiliated with.

29

30 MR. SHIEDT: My name is Enoch Shiedt. I'm with the
31 Maniilaq Subsistence Coordinator. I am in support with our
32 local Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
33 for the subsistence use on taking the rams, for the ones on the
34 -- the older ones. As a local hunter from Kotzebue, I can't
35 see us taking, you know, too many old ones otherwise where are
36 we going to see it go from there? We would like to keep it
37 increasing, we waited this long, to build more -- wait or see
38 -- the numbers go up, I don't mind waiting a little bit longer.
39 It's going to be short because I got to get to the hospital

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Enoch.

42

43 MR. SHIEDT: Okay, thanks.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Mr. Matt Wolf from the North
46 American Wild Sheep Foundation.

47

48 MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is Matt Wolf with
49 the Foundation North American Wild Sheep. I have questions
50 being that in the information that I've received was brought up

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1 about the non-reporting of sheep harvest. At this time has
2 anything been done to bring that reporting under control?

3

4 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Mr. Wolf, with this hunt they will
5 be required to report if they do harvest a sheep. They'll be
6 registering with the Park Service if it passes through the
7 Federal Board.

8

9 MR. WOLF: So this also will be carried on for the
10 subsistence people?

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

13

14 MR. WOLF: Okay. In the future, under your statement
15 the Federal program -- management plan is an issue to be
16 addressed on what type of percentage numbers would be allowed
17 for sport hunting?

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Those certainly will be considered
20 once the need level for subsistence use is reached.

21

22 MR. WOLF: Is there any idea on percentages at this
23 time?

24

25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No, we don't. This is a one time
26 opportunity hunt for the rams that have been identified by
27 biologists that do the surveys and that's why we're discussing
28 them and who should take. And I feel that since this
29 subsistence level is not met yet, with this low number, that we
30 should take all 40.

31

32 MR. WOLF: I see. Mr. Chairman, let me go on the
33 record at this time at opposing this SA98-4. Basically I'd
34 like to reiterate Mr. Olsen's concern, common property and
35 public trust.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Wolf.
38 However, like I said, we are operating under 804 of ANILCA
39 which gives a priority to the subsistence user when there's a
40 shortage of animal.

41

42 MR. WOLF: Yes, I understand. Mr. Chairman, thank you
43 for hearing my concerns.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Okay, who wants to go
46 next from Kotzebue? Can you come over here?

47

48 MR. WALKER: My name is John Walker. I'm a resident of
49 Kotzebue here. Traditionally I've taken dall sheep for the
50 meat and I'd just like to let you guys know that I'm for the

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1 subsistence hunt. And I'd like you guys to consider not
2 restricting the use of aircraft. It's a lot easier to go way
3 back in the mountains than with a boat. And I know there's 40
4 available and hopefully the numbers will increase because all
5 the sheep hunters are having children of their own and maybe a
6 couple of those kids will want to hunt, too, so I know the
7 numbers after this year will probably increase and hopefully
8 we'll get to take more.

9
10 So I guess that's all.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, John. So basically
13 you're in favor of what we're doing?

14
15 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Letting the subsistence users take
18 the sheep first?

19
20 MR. WALKER: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you, Johnny.

23
24 MS. EAKON: Mr. Chair, I'm wondering if Jake Jacobsen
25 of Kodiak was able to get on-line. Are you on-line Mr.
26 Jacobsen?

27
28 MR. JACOBSEN: I got on about 10 minutes ago, yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. At this time I'll call on you
31 Jake, I didn't know you were on-line.

32
33 MR. JACOBSEN: That's okay, I appreciate the
34 opportunity. I got the tail end of Mr. Olsen's comment, so I
35 heard Mr. Wolf and Johnny Walker there, so I'm a little bit
36 behind on what all has already transpired there. But there's
37 some observations that I had made. Number 1, as I understand
38 it and please correct me, Mr. Chairman, if I've misinterpreted
39 this.

40
41 As I understand it, the Game Management Unit 23 was to
42 be managed in subunits, namely the Baird Mountains, the Delong
43 Mountains and the Schwatka Mountains. And what I have read,
44 trying to catch up on this situation, the biologists have
45 decided that they can take out 20 old rams from the Bairds, 20
46 from the Delong and nothing from the Schwatka. And based on
47 Subsistence Division's collection of oral histories and so
48 forth, a maximum of nine rams had been taken by subsistence in
49 the Delong. And that was to be honored at its maximum number,
50 this nine subsistence rams set aside for the Delong and then

00017

1 the drawing for the 11 non-subsistence permits. And it would
2 seem to me that if this was to have been questioned or if there
3 was a difference opinion on this it should have been aired will
4 prior to the time that it was, after the drawing and issuance
5 of those non -- those sport hunting tags. Any comment on that,
6 sir?

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes, we were under the impression
9 that we would not make any kind of decision unless the numbers
10 came up on the sheep survey. So we were under that as of last
11 fall and we were hoping the State would do the same thing, that
12 the local advisory group decided that unless the numbers were
13 between 450 and 600 that they wouldn't consider a hunt. So we
14 were operating under that. But when the State came with the
15 hunt and register, of course, it caught us by surprise when I
16 saw the names published and then we didn't even know if we were
17 even going to hunt.

18
19 But as far as managing by districts, I can't find any
20 management plans in the area, both State and Federal
21 government, that says the sheep are going to be managed as
22 such. I know there have been harvest levels recorded from
23 different ranges.

24
25 MR. JACOBSEN: Do I have the floor again for a minute?

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

28
29 MR. JACOBSEN: Okay. Well, there again, Mr. Chairman.
30 It would seem that it was a most equitable allotment of the 20
31 rams in the Delongs, giving the maximum subsistence number of
32 nine to be held for subsistence pursuit. And once again, this
33 was published, I believe, it was first discussed -- it was
34 first discussed last fall and then certainly published prior to
35 the solicitation of applications for permits by the State.
36 Number 1, I think that the State needs to honor these permits
37 now that they've been issued.

38
39 And the other thing is that I'm concerned about, Mr.
40 Wolf, asked you, what about percentages of harvest in the
41 future after subsistence needs are met? But my understanding
42 is that the subsistence needs figures were all gathered in oral
43 history evidence by via the Loon/Georgette study in 1991. And
44 again, correct me if I have not got this straight? And it
45 would seem in a study like that since there is no legal record
46 of any of those things, those figures are to be sure, self-
47 serving and they're hearsay. Furthermore, they're based on
48 illegal harvest. And yet they're given full credence as if
49 they were fact or the same as if they had been collected on
50 harvest reports, and I have a problem with that.

00018

1 Go ahead.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Maybe I'll ask Susan if she wants to
4 make a comment with regard to the survey that you did. Susan
5 Georgette is here.

6

7 MS. GEORGETTE: This is Susan Georgette. I work with
8 the Subsistence Division with the Department of Fish and Game
9 and I participated in that study we did around 1990 about
10 subsistence use of sheep in the region. And it is true that
11 many of the sheep that are taken by people in the villages of
12 rural Alaska are not reported through the Department reporting
13 system and there are a lot of reasons for that that I think
14 most people are familiar with, and we recognize that those
15 aren't reported. And so what we do in some of our work, when
16 we document subsistence practices is try to get a sense of what
17 harvest levels people are taking. And one way I see it
18 sometimes is that even though it looks like really different
19 methods, a harvest ticket is basically asking people what they
20 took that year. And the work we do is asking people what they
21 took last year, too, except we're asking people in person
22 instead of through a reporting system. And so I don't really
23 consider what people tell me in person to be hearsay anymore
24 than what people tell the Department on a harvest ticket.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Susan. Go ahead Jake.

27

28 MR. JACOBSEN: Okay. Well, that's -- here again, I'm
29 saying that the evidence is gathered in entirely different
30 ways. And as I understand State law, had it not been reported
31 on harvest tickets it would have been judged illegal. But
32 maybe that's not the point now. It does lead to concerns on my
33 part about the validity of that high number of, I believe it's
34 58 sheep, culturally and traditionally taken for subsistence
35 purposes in that area; I question that, and in particular, the
36 way it was arrived at.

37

38 More to the point now, though, I guess my main concern
39 is that as a subunit basis by mountain range was setup for
40 management of the sheep population, now, after issuance of the
41 permits, it would seem that those permits -- that system of
42 those permits should be honored. And I don't need to belabor
43 the point any further.

44

45 Thank you very much for your time and I'd like to
46 listen in on the rest of the meeting, thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Jake. Anyone else here
49 from Kotzebue?

50

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1 MR. ITO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name's Gordon
2 Ito. I guess I'm a sheep hunter here and a resident of
3 Kotzebue. First off I'd like to thank this Council for giving
4 me this opportunity to testify before you and everybody else, I
5 guess. And I would, first off, like to reiterate, Mr. Goodwin,
6 that we fully stand behind your decision of the 40 sheep for
7 the subsistence hunters in this area.

8
9 Number 1, being, we have been shut down for seven years
10 and there are quite a few sheep hunters here that haven't had
11 their fill of sheep. And under ANILCA, since we're working on
12 Federal lands -- or I should say we're hunting on Federal
13 lands, I think it's pretty much cut and dry. I don't see no
14 argument. I don't see where the State's getting involved here
15 aside from using their numbers. I know our numbers, as we've
16 been hunting for years past are a little higher than the
17 numbers they have come out with with the sheep numbers of the
18 40 that are on the table now. But I think 40 would be a start
19 for this year.

20
21 I feel very uncomfortable that we're going up and
22 taking the rams, and the old rams, number 1 being everybody
23 says well, they're going to die in two years anyway. I feel on
24 the other hand there's a little bit more to it than a ram
25 getting to its ripe old age and then just passing away. One
26 being I don't quite understand why we had such a drop in the
27 sheep. The sheep numbers have come down so far as to where we
28 can't even hunt them for subsistence. Is it the wolves? Is it
29 just natural starvation? These things we don't know. But as
30 for the wolves, the wolves have to have something to eat, too.
31 Now, when a sheep gets to the age that it's just going to drop
32 off and die, I would assume that would be more food for the
33 wolves up there in the mountains. I'd rather them be taking a
34 young yearling or a ewe rather than an old ram that's just
35 going to die and pass away.

36
37 Excuse me?

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Did somebody have a question in
40 there? No, go ahead, Gordon.

41
42 MR. ITO: Thank you. I think at this point in time we
43 feel that -- I would like to use aircraft also. Under the
44 current law, as a subsistence user under ANILCA, I don't feel I
45 should be restricted to my mode of transportation; whether it
46 be a snowmachine, a boat, an aircraft. I mean if you're going
47 to start restricting aircraft and such, well, you might as well
48 start restricting the caliber of bullet that I'm going to use.
49 When I look at an animal, when he's going to drop I use the
50 best equipment that's possible -- that I'm able to get my hands

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1 on. As a subsistence user I like to prepare my meat very
2 quickly, take it home, put it away and I'm very proud of that
3 hunt that I go on, aside from going out and taking the horns.

4
5 The horns to me are -- I don't carve, I guess I should
6 say that first. Second off, I have no use for the horns if I
7 don't carve except for hanging on my wall as a trophy. And
8 most of my trophies are left in the field. Thank you, Mr.
9 Goodwin.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Gordon. Let me ask you,
12 I know it's been a concern with some people and some hunters in
13 Noatak with respect to restricting aircraft. What would be
14 your thoughts? There were some numbers that were shown to me
15 that the sheep that were taken, 68 percent -- as high as 68
16 percent were taken by aircraft and the rest by snowmachine or
17 other. Do you feel that 70 percent allowable by aircraft would
18 be sufficient?

19
20 MR. ITO: Those numbers, I'm not very familiar with at
21 this point in time, Mr. Goodwin. I think if I did take a look
22 into the numbers, I guess -- I guess if they were up to 68
23 percent that would be alarming to me. But also you have to
24 take into consideration that when they did all these
25 subsistence surveys and such, I know the person that was doing
26 the subsistence surveys, they didn't go to the people that used
27 aircrafts so those aircraft numbers aren't actually in your
28 survey. If you go to Nelson Walker.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: These were harvested reports.

31
32 MR. ITO: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

35
36 MR. ITO: They were harvested reports back into -- I
37 mean what are we going back, 10 years or.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'm not sure what -- when were those
40 numbers, Ken?

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: Brad could probably give you the full
43 range in there.

44
45 MR. SCHULTZ: Around there in '89 or '90.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: 1989/90.

48
49 MR. ITO: Okay. We're going back, you know, roughly
50 that.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: When the sheep numbers were high.

2

3 MR. ITO: When the sheep numbers were high. Yeah, I
4 remember I used to follow the old man up here and I'd go get
5 some sheep with my aircraft and such. With all the people with
6 these subsistence surveys that were done by the State, I don't
7 see these people their -- your dad, in fact, Leon Shellabarter
8 (ph), I've seen Leo Schaeffer, all these number of pilots that
9 were up here harvesting sheep, we're going back to 1990, that'd
10 be eight years ago, '89/90, which is in its peak.

11

12 I feel very uncomfortable with the State's numbers, as
13 we put it, there should be more on the table at this point in
14 time. I would have some questions for the State but I see the
15 State isn't represented here at this point in time. So I think
16 that's where I would stand. Did I answer your question, Mr.
17 Chairman?

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes. Thank you, Gordon.

20

21 MR. ITO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman

22

23 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anyone else?

24

25 MR. JACOBSEN: Comment, Mr. Chairman, this is Jake.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let me get all the testimony first
28 here, Jake.

29

30 MR. JACOBSEN: Okay.

31

32 MS. EAKON: This Helga, I'm wondering if the Alaska
33 Outdoor Council in Fairbanks ever logged on? Hearing no
34 answer, I guess not.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Victor, were you going to testify?

37

38 MR. KARMUN: I'll just pass for right now, maybe a
39 little later.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thanks. Anyone else here in the
42 room wanting to testify? Jake, you had a comment?

43

44 MR. JACOBSEN: Okay, hey, thanks. Listen I didn't get
45 logged on until 1:35, I called in at five to 1:00 and there was
46 a fowl up getting me patched through, I guess. I'm wondering,
47 Willie, if you could see to it that I get a copy of the minutes
48 of this meeting, I'd sure appreciate it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes. And if you could give your

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1 address or do we got it Helga?

2

3 MS. EAKON: No, we don't have your address, Mr.
4 Jacobsen, please give it to us.

5

6 MR. JACOBSEN: It's P.O. Box 1313, that's Kodiak 99615.

7

8 MS. EAKON: We've got it, thank you.

9

10 MR. JACOBSEN: Yes, thank you. That's all I have.

11

12 MR. OLSEN: Mr. Chairman, Warren Olsen.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

15

16 MR. OLSEN: Mr. Chairman, just very briefly, I want to
17 address once again my concerns about minimum numbers. You
18 know, I'm a 40 year resident and I've seen Alaska and its
19 increase in people and so forth and I think all of us can agree
20 that new comers have much less expectations from the land than
21 the people that have been here for quite a while. Talking
22 about this minimum number and the fact that we can harvest
23 these sheep this year, we're going to take these mature rams
24 and if we look at the biological studies by Wayne Heimer, the
25 biologist from Fairbanks we're absolutely -- have facts and
26 figures that say that these mature rams are the ones that are
27 going to take care of your breeding responsibilities and are
28 going to be the most proficient and most efficient on getting
29 your ewe stock breed. And once again, I want to go on record
30 as very concerned about keeping minimum standards, minimum
31 numbers in harvesting these mature rams amongst those minimum
32 herds.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, very much Mr. Olsen. I'm
35 going to call -- since this question keeps coming up, I'm going
36 to call Brad Schultz, the biologist from the Park Service to
37 give us some response on that.

38

39 MR. SCHULTZ: I think I can address that a little bit
40 Mr. Olsen. Between '86 and '90 we saw the heaviest harvest up
41 here that's ever been reported. And that harvest varied
42 between 36 percent and 72 percent of the standing legal rams a
43 year. The high was in 1990 when we harvested 72 percent of
44 those legal rams. At the same time that was going on that
45 population was growing at nearly 20 percent a year. We saw the
46 largest lamb crops that we've ever seen. They were the highest
47 proportion of the standing females out there. And right now
48 what we're proposing to do based on that is a very conservative
49 harvest of 25 percent of the full-curl rams out there as a
50 percentage of the 7/8th's and larger for comparison, farther

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1 back, it's a lot lower percentage. So I think we're on pretty
2 safe ground there, even based on the work that you reference.

3
4 MR. OLSEN: Well, if I could return a question, Mr.
5 Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay.

8
9 MR. OLSEN: '86 to '90, what was your gross number of
10 herd at that time?

11
12 MR. SCHULTZ: It was up to almost a thousand sheep.
13 I'm not sure what the mean number is for those years, I could
14 give it to you if you want to know.

15
16 MR. OLSEN: Yeah.

17
18 MR. SCHULTZ: But the mean numbers of sheep were real
19 high over that -- that was the largest growth period in the
20 population. And you got to remember we didn't start doing
21 rigorous surveys that were comparative until about 1986.

22
23 MR. OLSEN: Okay, Mr. Olsen again. My.....

24
25 MR. SCHULTZ: I can answer that. The mean number of
26 sheep counted between 1986 and 1990 which was the pre-crash was
27 about 769 sheep. And right now, since the crash, we've been
28 averaging about 405.

29
30 MR. OLSEN: Okay, my response to that, Mr. Chairman, is
31 that that is extremely recent data from 1986 forward. And I
32 firmly believe that those sheep numbers might possibly have
33 been higher substantially then, the thousand or 1,100. And
34 once again, I'm expressing concern about efficiency of breeding
35 and I know how these sheep run and I know how they get the job
36 done.

37
38 MR. SCHULTZ: I might address that, too, based on our
39 productivity numbers. Prior to the crash in those years when
40 the population was growing like mad and we were harvesting
41 those huge percentages of what would be considered the prime
42 adults, lambs are 32 percent of the ewe count, which means they
43 were reproducing at a pretty high rate. Right now, post-crash,
44 in the last three years we're seeing a mean of 36 percent. So
45 every female out there is -- we obviously have high pregnancy
46 rates, what we don't have is real good recruitment. And I
47 guess, you know, that's debatable, but I'd say we're on the way
48 low conservative side on the harvest.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you Brad. Anybody else with

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1 to testify? We're going to go into deliberation here for --
2 pretty quick here.

3

4 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman, this is Elizabeth Andrews.
5 I will have some Department of Fish and Game comments after the
6 Federal agency comments.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Hearing any other here in
9 Kotzebue, I'm going to call on the Alaska Department of Fish
10 and Game for their comments. Who's speaking? Liz, go ahead.

11

12 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman, this is Elizabeth Andrews
13 in Juneau. And I'll start and offer some comments and then if
14 people have questions on the biology or the customary and
15 traditional use patterns, I understand LeeAnn Ayres and Susan
16 Georgette are there for the Department.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Go ahead.

19

20 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman, and Council members, thank
21 you for the opportunity for our Department to participate in
22 this Council meeting. We certainly have no interest in
23 jeopardizing the sheep population.

24

25 I wanted to provide a little more background
26 information than was conveyed in the draft Staff analysis. I
27 think that there were some misstatements there as to what
28 transpired at the Board of Game meeting in October and also
29 what Board of Game's procedures were. Let me just say, as many
30 of you know, and in last October our Board of Game had a
31 meeting in Nome for the purpose of taking up all of our
32 Northwest Arctic Region proposals and the Department had that
33 meeting there at the request of the Board of Game because they
34 wanted to have more local input from the public and also be
35 accessible to the other agencies that had an interest in game
36 management in the Northwest and Arctic regions.

37

38 I just wanted to also mention that the Board of Game
39 was particularly concerned about the potential overharvest of
40 sheep when this hunt reopened. And for that reason, the Game
41 Board took up the question of Unit 23 sheep in anticipation
42 that in the coming years, whether it was this summer or next,
43 that there might be an allowable harvest of sheep. And they
44 wanted to restructure their hunting regulations for that area
45 to avoid any overharvest of sheep in those areas. There's a
46 couple of things to keep in mind that the Board considered last
47 October. And one of those is management of the sheep
48 population. And it was mentioned earlier that we do manage the
49 sheep population in Unit 23 on a hunt area basis. That's a
50 little different than subunits which are identified or at least

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1 outlined by the Board of Game. But we have, since Statehood,
2 managed sheep populations there as three separate populations,
3 the Delongs, the Bairds and the Schwatkas. And for that
4 reason, when we get to looking at what is an allowable harvest,
5 the Department identifies to the Board what the allowable
6 harvest for each of those populations are, not all of Unit 23
7 sheep in the aggregate. And following from that, in order to
8 apply the State subsistence statute, the Board has to consider,
9 well, what are the subsistence use patterns of each of each of
10 those sheep populations. And in doing so, they identified
11 those patterns, they heard from the public, both through
12 advisory committees as well as public that were at the meeting
13 as to what the pattern of use was for each of those
14 populations.

15
16 Following that then, the Board had to identify, well,
17 what amount of sheep are necessary to provide for that use
18 pattern. And that use pattern that was identified in part of
19 the area, particularly the Delongs, did not include the use of
20 aircraft as being part of the customary and traditional use
21 pattern. And for that reason the amount necessary for
22 subsistence in the Delongs was identified as being less than
23 what you see for the sheep population in the Bairds.

24
25 Following that then, the Board had to say, okay, if
26 there is an allowable harvest that provides for subsistence and
27 there's an allowable harvest that exceeds what is necessary for
28 subsistence, how will we allocate the remaining animals that
29 could be harvested after providing for the subsistence
30 priority. And that's where the Board determined that when you
31 reach a certain point and it was after nine in the Delongs and
32 higher in the Bairds, then there could be other uses provided
33 for. And that's the structure of the hunting regulation that
34 the Board adopted last October.

35
36 Now, the Board also mentioned that when the censuses
37 were done of these sheep populations and we knew that was going
38 to be happening this summer, then they would meet with the
39 public which the Department did and determine if there are --
40 if there's any allowable harvest and if there is, what amount
41 needs to be allocated to subsistence and the Board identified
42 what those amounts were, and if there was still an allowable
43 harvest beyond subsistence needs, to make provision for the
44 other use that the Board identified and that was a hunt by
45 drawing. And that's why you see that it was published and that
46 a drawing hunt and names were drawn is in the event that
47 additional animals could be taken after providing for
48 subsistence.

49
50 So there's a key point there when you come up with the

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1 question of how are you going to allocate 40 sheep? The Board
2 considered how do you allocate 40 sheep by looking at how are
3 those sheep populations managed and that's by each of those
4 separate populations that I mentioned. The -- so that's the
5 action that was taken. And at this point we certainly are not
6 going to do anything to jeopardize those populations. We're a
7 bit concerned that the Federal Board had an opportunity to
8 discuss and review what the State Game Board -- and if there
9 was going to be some other types of allocations developed, our
10 Board and the Federal Board didn't hear any information that
11 another allocation scheme was being proposed by the public
12 until where we are now which is several days before a proposed
13 hunt. So we do have some concerns about the process given that
14 the Game Board met in the local region last October and could
15 have considered other information had it been brought forward
16 anytime between now and when we had the proposed hunt published
17 and certainly could have had an opportunity to work with the
18 Federal Subsistence Board for a joint hunt.

19
20 But be that as it may, I just wanted to mention that if
21 you do have some questions about the biology or the management
22 of these sheep populations as separate and distinct populations
23 or the subsistence use patterns that the Board identified, we
24 have Staff there in Kotzebue that would be able to answer those
25 questions.

26
27 So thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to
28 offer these comments.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Liz. I'd like to point
31 out that when we had that July 20 meeting, nobody had
32 considered the whole subsistence -- combining both numbers for
33 the subsistence need in Unit 23. That's why, I think, where a
34 lot of the disagreement is coming from. But on the Federal
35 side here we don't have a c&t determination for sub-districts,
36 we have a c&t determination for the whole unit and that's why I
37 am asking that we use the high number as what our subsistence
38 need is. Also I'd like to point out, Liz, that I do know that
39 the Kotzebue people hunt in the Delongs. And the subsistence
40 numbers that are being used right now, zero to nine, is only
41 from Kivalina and Noatak and I think it's wrong. And if the
42 Kotzebue numbers were put in it would be much higher.

43
44 Anyway, thank you, Liz. At this time I'm going to call
45 on any other Federal agencies that have any comments. I
46 apologize for skipping you. You guys still on?

47
48 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, we are indeed here in
49 Anchorage, there is no comments from the Staff Committee
50 members around the table.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Well, you're ready to go to bat for
2 us, uh?

3
4 MR. ITO: Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes, one more comment here.

7
8 MR. ITO: My name is Gordon Ito, again, and I have one
9 slight comment here, I guess, I'm just a little bit unclear
10 here. When I was listening to the State c&t findings on sheep
11 hunting and they decided against aircraft when I believe I
12 heard you, a couple of minutes ago, that 68 percent of the
13 sheep were taken out of the Delong Mountains with aircraft.
14 Did this information get slid aside or does the Federal
15 government have a different avenue for their information? I
16 think I'm a little bit unclear here that states subsistence was
17 not taken with aircraft for the State of Alaska saying that
18 everybody walked up in the mountains and took their sheep or
19 was it selectively done on their survey, this S.Georgette and
20 H.Loan at the time they were doing their survey.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Donna, can you -- or Ken would you
23 respond to that, on that 68 percent number.

24
25 MR. SCHULTZ: That data is for actual -- that data was
26 taken directly from the State of Alaska harvest summary
27 booklet.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: That.....

30
31 MR. SCHULTZ: And that's one year, it wasn't meant to
32 be indicative of every year. It's one year as an example of
33 aircraft use for Unit 23 totally for successful hunters only.
34 So every -- 68 percent.....

35
36 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, Brad Schultz is breaking
37 up, could he step up to the microphone please?

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Brad.

40
41 MR. ITO: I think you guys will answer my question,
42 thank you much, Mr. Chairman.

43
44 MR. SCHULTZ: That number is one year only is taken
45 from the State statewide harvest summary booklet. It was for
46 Unit 23 as a whole and it was for successful hunters only and
47 it was one year and I believe it was '89/90, and it was only
48 used as an example of the aircraft use which probably didn't
49 vary much over those years.

50

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1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Susan.

4
5 MR. OLSEN: Mr. Chairman, Warren Olsen.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'm going to call on Susan Georgette
8 from the State here first.

9
10 MR. OLSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11
12 MS. GEORGETTE: This is Susan Georgette with Division
13 of Subsistence. And my memory is that in that nine number that
14 that report says for the Delongs, that we did include people
15 that hunted by aircraft in the Delongs who reported. It's true
16 that we only used the reported harvest because Kotzebue is kind
17 of a hard place to get a handle on. And I didn't really feel
18 like, you know, I could really -- I feel sort of uncomfortable
19 calling people and saying -- to tell me something that they did
20 that wasn't legal really and whether people would tell me or
21 not and so that's why I don't call around to hunters and say,
22 well, did you really take one last year? But I think there's
23 some number like one or two or three or four in different years
24 that were reported. So we did include the airplane Kotzebue
25 based harvest that were reported in that nine.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you. Any other Federal
28 agencies who wish to make a comment? If not, shall we get
29 right into deliberation Council members or what is the wish?

30
31 MR. GRIEST: I think we're about ready for that.

32
33 MR. OLSEN: Mr. Chairman, point of order, Warren Olsen.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Mr. Olsen.

36
37 MR. OLSEN: Mr. Chairman, the public today is taking
38 their time, you have some very serious participants here that
39 have a long, long time use. I would you asking the Federal
40 agencies once again to go on record as to their policy, their
41 cooperative management plans on the questions that I have
42 asked. And I would appreciate these agencies getting on board
43 at this hearing in this transcript and see what their intent
44 and how they're going to do this.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We have one participant coming to
47 the table.

48
49 MR. SPIRTE: My name is Dave Spirtes and I'm
50 superintendent of Western Arctic National Park lands. I guess

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1 about 99 percent of the land in the Bairds and about 95 percent
2 of the Delongs is Federal public land, the vast majority of
3 which is in Noatak National Preserve. And I have a few
4 responsibilities for those areas, one of which is to provide
5 for a healthy population of sheep. And both State and my Park
6 Service and Federal biologists have convinced us that the
7 harvest of 20 full-curl rams from the Bairds and Delongs is
8 consistent with a healthy population. And that being the case,
9 I also have a responsibility to provide an opportunity for
10 subsistence and sport hunters to take animals that are
11 available. And so what we tend to do with the RAC, we try to
12 defer the actual allocation decisions to the RAC provided that
13 they make those in accordance with ANILCA. And so in this
14 particular case, we've come to the RAC here to seek advice on
15 the best means for fairly allocating this. It appears in this
16 case that some valid issues have been raised about the full
17 subsistence need not being met and as such, that's the reason
18 this action is before us today.

19
20 We are, in the long-run, have been requested to produce
21 a management plan for sheep which in the long-run will address
22 the issue of population numbers and hopefully the State will
23 join with us in collaboratively producing such a plan so that
24 we can make a longer term decision and not be caught in the
25 situation like we are today in making an emergency decision.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Dave. Shall we move
28 forward with the agenda? Okay. Any of the Council members
29 have any questions to ask any of the people who have spoke
30 before us or any points you want to raise? Bert.

31
32 MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman, I got one regarding the
33 aircraft use.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Can you state your name please.

36
37 MR. GRIEST: My name is Bert Griest. I'm a member of
38 the Regional Subsistence Advisory Council representing the
39 Selawik area. The question I have is basically a clarification
40 of what enabling legislative language of Noatak National
41 Preserve say about aircraft use for subsistence purposes and
42 possibly probably included in Title VIII,.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ken.

45
46 MR. ADKISSON: This is Ken Adkisson with the National
47 Park Service. I won't go into cite all the regulations and all
48 of that, but let me just say that the general management plan
49 for Noatak National Preserve and adequate other documentation
50 provides for the use of aircraft in National Preserves for

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1 subsistence purposes. Consistent with other rules and
2 regulations such as that you don't violate the Same Day
3 Airborne regulation and so forth like that. But I can provide
4 documentation if you want it, but it's in there.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ricky.

7
8 MR. ASHBY: Yeah. Wilfred Ashby, Northwest Arctic
9 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council member. I have a
10 few things here, first of all that number 9, it's kind of a
11 real conservative for Noatak, even for just Noatak. But it's,
12 as I understand it was for the Unit 23?

13
14 MS. GEORGETTE: The Delongs.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Delongs.

17
18 MR. ASHBY: Okay.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: North of the River.

21
22 MR. ASHBY: It was on your official records?

23
24 MS. GEORGETTE: This is Susan Georgette. In that
25 report that Hanna and I did in '91, that was what the estimate
26 was for how -- of the sheep that Noatak and Kotzebue and
27 Kivalina take, how many were coming from the Delongs instead of
28 the Bairds. Because most came from the Bairds and then some
29 came from the Delongs. So that was based on what people told
30 us about their own harvest.

31
32 MR. ASHBY: Thank you. I just wanted to kind of
33 clarify that before I say anything. For the last -- maybe
34 since the '90s we've been really trying to follow the
35 regulations so that the sheep can climb up back.

36
37 I remember when the sheep used to go to the canyon
38 right on the river, that's where we used to get, at least, in
39 my family, two sheep per spring season, June -- starting from
40 June. And then in the winter time we might get, one, two,
41 three, that depends on if there's lots of caribou or less
42 caribou. And also since we've been not really hunting each
43 family, it used to be they'd get some this year and maybe next
44 year they wouldn't get -- but now it's been how many years and
45 we haven't been really -- everybody hasn't really been hunting.
46 So I think that 40 is conservative for the whole Unit 23.

47
48 And to what I am thinking, the subsistence should be
49 first for the residents of Unit 23 rather than doing the sport
50 because it'd be like wanton waste. Thanks.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Anybody else? Well, the question
2 before us then now is to act on the proposed regulation if
3 there isn't anymore comment. Let me make a few comments myself
4 here. You know, Section 804 grants a priority for subsistence
5 uses and this priority is permitted over other uses when it's
6 necessary to restrict the taking of subsistence uses to protect
7 the continued viability of game populations or to continue
8 subsistence uses. You know, just based on what the biologists
9 have told us, I think this should come in, Section 804. We
10 have a customary and direct dependence as a mainstay of
11 livelihood. We have a history of hunting sheep that goes back
12 culturally for hundreds of years. The local residency, of
13 course, we meet, it's all of Unit 23. As far as the
14 availability of alternative resources, most of us know that in
15 the winter time, in fact, myself, I trapped in the Aggie area
16 or between Noatak and Kiana for about 15 years. And I used to
17 see caribou winter up there but I haven't seen them winter
18 there in about 15 years. So I know the caribou migrations or
19 wintering areas aren't always in the areas that are where the
20 sheep are. I know they're sometimes around the Red Dog area
21 but most generally they're south of Buckland. so the other
22 resources thing comes into play here.

23
24 You know, the uses of the sheep, of course we take the
25 meat. A number of people that use the horns for arts and
26 crafts. I certainly want to keep up with the traditions of
27 teaching my grandsons to hunt sheep. And all of the cultural
28 uses are covered here in Section 804, so I think the use of
29 this section in ANILCA is applicable in this case. And I think
30 that we should get all 40. And until our subsistence needs are
31 met, then other uses can be considered as far as ANILCA is
32 concerned in the Federal lands in our area.

33
34 Any other comments or questions anybody might have here
35 in this room? Jonas, can you come up and state your name.

36
37 MR. RAMOTH: My name is Jonas Ramoth. I'm a
38 subsistence liaison for the National Park Service. First I
39 will speak as an elder, and I was impressed with your meeting
40 in June, was it, and you come to the consensus that you were
41 aware that subsistence needs must be met, and your decision
42 there is supported by your culture. Where when you're a hunter
43 you are also a biologist in your own right. You know your
44 animals. And when you're a hunter you will know that some
45 animals get few. And when your forefather sees that, that some
46 animals are few, they will talk about it in their circles.
47 That if you're hunting -- if you have a choice to leave this
48 animal alone, do so. And that's their own conservation method.
49 And that goes way back. And I'm glad that you're under this
50 understanding.

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1 Now, as a Park Service liaison, there was a little bit
2 of a clarification needed on the use of airplanes for
3 subsistence use. ANILCA 804 states that subsistence use of
4 airplanes is prohibited in the Parks, in the Monuments. And if
5 you have an allotment in any of these public lands and if it's
6 the only way that you can get to your allotment and if we use
7 airplane, you use airplane to get to your allotment. Also you
8 can do incidental hunting with it. But the only thing about
9 the airplane -- otherwise there's no sports hunting in the
10 Parks or Monuments, Preserves is where the sport hunters do
11 their own thing. We don't worry too much -- as a subsistence
12 liaison, I don't worry too much about these sport hunters when
13 I try to explain the right to do subsistence hunting in the
14 Parks, and I always mention that. The sports hunter can afford
15 to miss while you can't.

16
17 And that's the reason why, if the animals are going
18 down, then if they have to close hunting the only ones that can
19 remain open to hunt are the subsistence users. And then when
20 it comes to closing it, hunting at all, people will talk about
21 it and meet just like you're doing now, and thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Jonas. I guess a point
25 of clarification also is that we were told by other Park
26 Service employees that aircraft can be used in the Preserve and
27 I think that's an issue that I think we should discuss right
28 now. That's an issue that was brought before us. The other
29 one was the trophy value of the horns. Why don't we get some
30 discussion going on the aircraft use.

31
32 A couple of things, one, I am concerned because of not
33 allowing aircraft use. Mainly because I think we're going to
34 be in we're going to be in worst condition than we are right
35 now if we do not allow aircraft use to reach the number of
36 sheep that can be harvested for subsistence. I think we should
37 give every opportunity to our people to get the sheep. And I
38 realize also that because of the availability of aircraft here
39 in Kotzebue, that there's a possibility that the hunters in the
40 villages might not be able to get a sheep if all of the sheep
41 or most of the sheep are taken by Kotzebue people. I
42 understand that and I think that we should talk about it a
43 little bit here. I wouldn't be in favor of total ban of
44 airplane use. I think it can be used wholly in the Delongs.
45 Those are more farther away from the subsistence user or with
46 the snowmachines to go and get it. I think that's an option we
47 can consider. Another option we can consider is limiting the
48 number of sheep that can be taken in the Bairds because that's
49 where most of the snowmachine use in the wintertime is used.
50 Snowmachines are used to harvest the sheep and the bears, I

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1 know that. And also save the opportunity or give the
2 opportunity to the people that don't have access to airplanes
3 to be able to harvest some sheep without totalling disregarding
4 those people that are unable to use an aircraft. But also
5 allow aircraft use to harvest the sheep.

6
7 Now, I'd welcome any other comments that anybody has
8 here so we can make a decision or a suggestion to the Federal
9 Subsistence Board through our Staff people here to properly
10 word the regulation. Anybody have any comments to that?
11 Should we leave it open? Ken.

12
13 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Ken Adkisson with the National Park
14 Service again. Just to maybe clarify the question of aircraft
15 use in relation to the National Park Service in general and to
16 support something that Jonas said earlier. Aircraft use for
17 subsistence purposes for access for subsistence is generally
18 prohibited in National Parks and Monuments. That would be like
19 Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National
20 Park. So that's one set of circumstances. On the other hand,
21 aircraft access for subsistence purposes is allowed in National
22 Preserves. And that's essentially what we're talking about
23 here is the Noatak National Preserve. Just to make that point
24 clear because Jonas is correct and the other positions,
25 obviously in both cases are true.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Gordon.

28
29 MR. ITO: Mr. Chairman, yeah, this is -- my name is
30 Gordon Ito again. I believe there is a restriction on aircraft
31 in any Park, but I guess it's -- how it's worded and I
32 apologize for not bringing it here at this time is it states
33 that when subsistence, I guess, animal or such that he cannot
34 be got to any other way aside from with an aircraft, then an
35 aircraft can be used. That's under methods and means, I
36 believe. I had looked that up and I apologize -- I can probably
37 get a copy for each and every one of you that there are
38 restrictions on an aircraft at that time. But as for in the
39 Monuments and such, I feel as a Native person and I was born
40 and raised around here, whether I use my airplane, my
41 snowmachine, my boat, my 300 Weatherby or my 25.06 is not the
42 issue. The issue is I'm going up there for one purpose and
43 that purpose solely is to fill my subsistence needs. And when
44 we start putting restrictions on our subsistence needs, I think
45 it's not called subsistence anymore.

46
47 Thank you much, Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Gordon. I guess what I
50 really worry about is the opportunity for some of the sheep to

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1 be harvested by people that don't have access to aircraft.
2 Bert.

3
4 MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman, basically I heard some
5 testimony that there were residents from Kotzebue that did
6 harvest sheep using aircraft for subsistence. However, I don't
7 hear of any from Noatak or Kivalina. I think the remaining
8 question in that area is if we will agree to recommend that
9 aircraft be used for some of the sheep, then we need to balance
10 out the need between Noatak and Kivalina's needs and other
11 villages and also Kotzebue.

12
13 So the main question then is what percentage of
14 aircraft, I guess. That's kind of the question that I'd like
15 to answer -- have discussed.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Ricky.

18
19 MR. ASHBY: Wilfred Ashby, Northwest Arctic Federal
20 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The way I look at it is
21 if the Park Service worker and the State worker can use the
22 aircraft, if somebody has, you know, an aircraft, it's -- you
23 know, it should be good because who knows somebody from the
24 villages might start using aircraft and we have to be equal to
25 those people as residents. On the other hand we're looking at
26 sport hunting and stuff that allow all over the states on
27 navigable waters and those are, you know, those are open. So I
28 think there's an opening real good with the Federal. There's
29 good statement on the State. I think if we leave it at their
30 -- instead of can't we just like open a can of worms.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So would you rather see aircraft use
33 to go ahead and hunt -- to allow this hunt?

34
35 MR. ASHBY: It's the way it is right now, legal.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What do you think Percy?

38
39 MR. BALLOT: I have no problem.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Walter.

42
43 MR. SAMPSON: Personally I don't have no position on
44 the use of aircraft or not.

45
46 MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman I do -- I think we need to be
47 able to close off aircraft hunting at certain percentages to
48 protect the village values of Noatak and Kivalina.

49
50 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: So you're saying if we got -- I

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1 think most of the snowmachine hunting in there is going to be
2 -- it's in the Baird. The closest access to communities -- I
3 was told by the Kivalina people that the area that they hunt
4 lately haven't had any sheep numbers that they would like to
5 see up there, so they would probably have to go further, you
6 know. So my assumption is that most of the hunting by non-
7 aircraft is in the Bairds. And as far as aircraft use in the
8 Delongs, I certainly wouldn't want to restrict that area for
9 non -- I mean for restricting aircraft up there.

10
11 But if there's some concern in the Bairds area then,
12 you know, I want to hear more, all right. But Ricky doesn't
13 seem to have any problems and he's from Noatak. I don't have
14 any problems with it. But I've heard it as a concern from both
15 the Federal government -- I guess the Federal agencies that see
16 it as a -- as not allowing some people that don't have access
17 to able to get sheep.

18
19 There's one other avenue that I checked into and I
20 think there's -- maybe the Park Service might have some problem
21 with it, but if we see too many harvested out of the Bairds
22 with aircraft then there's an avenue for them to put in
23 emergency closure on access into the Bairds. That can be used
24 as -- if we reach a certain level. But as far as the numbers
25 are concerned here, the only ones that I've seen taken out of
26 -- from any reports or anything is the 68 percent figure that
27 was used earlier. So if we were going to restrict anything, I
28 would suggest it be in the Bairds. But if we're not going to
29 then let's just leave it as is, you know. That's what I think.

30
31
32 Other than that I certainly don't have any problems
33 with airplanes. Because I feel that we should get all 40. We
34 should have an opportunity to get every last one of them.
35 Because I see ourselves getting into a situation where if this
36 same situation comes up again, and if we don't get the 40 this
37 year or get close to it, we're going to have a heck of a time
38 trying to get that number.

39
40 Stanley, are you still there?

41
42 MR. CUSTER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You got any comments with regard to
45 aircraft use? We were just talking about it and I hope you
46 were listening. The consensus here right now is that we -- no
47 restriction on aircraft use to take these sheep. What do you
48 think?

49
50 MR. CUSTER: Mr. Chairman, I don't have anything

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1 against aircraft as long as they don't disturb the animal and
2 you know, take what they get and don't leave anything out
3 there, just bring everything back here, you know. I don't have
4 anything against it other than -- for myself, I'm not a pilot,
5 and the only way I can hunt is to start walking right now and
6 be there when the season is open.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: You got a long walk to the Baird
9 Mountains from Shungnak.

10

11 MR. CUSTER: I don't have anything against aircraft --
12 use of aircraft Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay, thank you. I brought it up
15 because there was a concern that was brought before me. So if
16 that's the consensus, then we can go ahead with the regulation
17 as it is right now without any possible restriction on
18 aircraft.

19

20 The other issue is -- that was brought before us was
21 the value of the horns. And it doesn't make any difference to
22 me if the guy wants to keep the horns or not, you know.
23 Basically those guys are out there to get the meat. I don't
24 think we should worry about the horns. I don't know about the
25 rest of you. Any comments on that?

26

27 MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is Matt Wolf.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah.

30

31 MR. WOLF: Yes, if your Federal law states that you are
32 to hunt a full-curl, then how would you be determining the
33 sheep that is taken if you have no check and balance to see
34 those horns and make positive identification that it is a full-
35 curl?

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Let me put it this way, we're going
38 to make every effort possible to make sure the people get a
39 full-curl or better. And the reporting requirements by the
40 Park Service will note that if some come in with 7/8ths or
41 almost a full-curl.

42

43 MR. WOLF: May I suggest that if you would request that
44 each hunter take a photo of his sheep in the field to be seen
45 by National Park Service that is overseeing this, to state
46 that, yes, this was a legal sheep under the regulation?

47

48 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We can certainly take that under
49 advisement but by golly we want to get the meat, you know.

50

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1 MR. WOLF: Oh, I understand -- I understand that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: And if I get a sheep that has just a
4 hair under a full-curl, I'm going to report that.

5

6 MR. WOLF: But there seems to be no check and balances
7 Mr. Chairman. And just in trying to level the field for
8 everyone, but also to keep in mind the bottom line is the
9 resource.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Here's what we'll do then.
12 The Park Service here has listened to all the comments. They
13 will make whatever necessary registration requirements or
14 reporting requirements with the permits.

15

16 Donna.

17

18 MR. WOLF: Very good, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 MS. DEWHURST: Mr. Chairman, yes it has been requested
21 -- I'm not sure where the original request came from, I think
22 it was ADF&G, but I'm not positive, that the horns be brought
23 out. It doesn't say that they have to bring them to Kotzebue
24 but just brought to their home with the meat so that if an
25 agency biologist, whether it be Park Service or BLM or ADF&G,
26 if they were in that community they could look at the horns and
27 actually age the animal, which you can by examining the horns.
28 And not so much for law enforcement purposes, that wasn't the
29 purpose, the purpose is just to be able to get an idea of what
30 the age structure was. How old were those full-curl. Just
31 because they're full-curl, they could have been eight, nine, 10
32 or older and it's nice to know, well, actually these animals
33 were 12 years old or whatever. But it's nice to know that
34 information. It isn't critical but it is -- like I say, it is
35 nice to know and it gives another tool to the biologists, such
36 as Brad and Jim Dau.

37

38 So it's kind of two different issues. There's the one
39 issue you talked about, about devaluing the trophy, the horns.
40 The other issue is just not -- it doesn't have anything to do
41 with devaluing them it's just the idea that the hunter would be
42 requested on the permit language to bring the horns out where
43 otherwise a subsistence hunter might just leave them in the
44 field.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Donna. Anybody?

47

48 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Victor Karmun
49 here, resident of Kotzebue. The value of the horn has been
50 brought up and I think I should make a comment on this. I know

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1 a young Native that is a recognized Native carver. Sheep horn
2 is one of his most valued renewable resource. Last winter we
3 went up to the Baird mountains or the Mieumruks (ph), off one
4 hill, not to sheep hunt, up one knoll we picked up seven sets,
5 whether they be winter kills by wolves or just from old age, we
6 don't know. But this is just off one knoll.

7
8 My other comment and what I've been hearing in and
9 around town, that this hunt, we were very patient since 1991.
10 And between the three villages or towns, Kotzebue, Noatak and
11 Kivalina, this was a consensus of these three communities to
12 hold off taking these animals since 1991. And it was also the
13 consensus of these three here not too long ago to open it up
14 for this possibly one time hunt and see what happens. I went
15 with the full-curl ram, mainly because my association with them
16 and researching, reading, their genes are already passed on and
17 some of these are going to expire during the winter. I fully
18 support the take and use of these full-curl rams.

19
20 One other clarification I would like to make possibly
21 because I've been being asked this question locally. I'm under
22 the impression that this hunt is for rural residents for Game
23 Management Unit 23 inside the Arctic Circle. That means
24 anybody that is a resident of Game Management Unit 23.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Victor. Donna.

29
30 MS. DEWHURST: I'll clarify that. To hunt in the
31 Bairds and the Delongs within Unit 23, it includes all -- like
32 me mentioned, all residents of Unit 23 north of the Arctic
33 Circle, plus Point Hope and Point Lay. Which Point Hope is in
34 23. Part of the Delongs is also in Unit 26(A), that portion
35 that is within Unit 26(A) is open to all residents of Unit 26.
36 Which it's unlikely most of those residents are going to want
37 to hunt because that also includes clear over to Anaktuvuk
38 Pass. And so it includes all residents of 26(A), 26 and the
39 community of Point Hope. So that's the scoop on who can hunt
40 where.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. So now the remaining
43 question since we're not worried about the horns either unless
44 I have -- go ahead, Ricky.

45
46 MR. ASHBY: Wilfred Ashby again. Since you say Unit
47 26(A), are you just going to add in Point Lay and Point Hope or
48 the whole Unit 26?

49
50 MS. DEWHURST: The c&t has already been determined,

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1 it's already on the books. And the current c&t, it's just for
2 that portion of the Delongs in 26(A). It says any resident of
3 26(A) plus they added, I believe the communities of Point Hope
4 and Anaktuvuk Pass. But Anaktuvuk Pass is kind of on paper.
5 It's unlikely that somebody would come clear over from
6 Anaktuvuk Pass, but Point Hope it's very likely that they could
7 hunt the Delongs. And Point Hope was added since they are not
8 -- Point Hope's that borderline community that we've struggled
9 with in the past where they're in Unit 23 but they're part of
10 the North Slope RAC, so it's confusing. So Point Hope could
11 hunt either one. Bottom line, Point Hope residents could hunt
12 -- Point Hope and Point Lay could hunt either in the 26(A)
13 portion or the 23 portion of the Delongs. The 23 portion of
14 the Delongs then would also be open for all residents of Unit
15 23 north of the Arctic Circle. So Point Hope, Point Lay are
16 the ones who get to hunt the whole thing, all of the Delongs no
17 matter what unit.

18
19 MR. ASHBY: Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Are we ready for a motion?

22
23 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

26
27 MS. ANDREWS: Yeah, this is Elizabeth Andrews,
28 Department of Fish and Game. I just had a question back on the
29 use of aircraft, have you had any discussion about whether you
30 would allow Same Day Airborne using aircraft?

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: No. It's -- I think we're going to
33 go -- you have to stay over night, right, Ken?

34
35 MR. ADKISSON: 24 hours.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah. If you're going to use an
38 airplane you have to stay overnight.

39
40 MR. ADKISSON: 24 hours.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: 24 hours or whatever.

43
44 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45
46 MR. SPIRTEES: Dave Spirtes, National Park Service. One
47 clarification on the horn issue is that if we want to require
48 that the horns be turned in, that action must be taken by the
49 Federal Board. If we want to request or recommend that people
50 do it as an educational process, that's something that we can,

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1 the Park Service, could handle as part of the permit process.
2 But if we want it required, it would take the action of the
3 Board.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I don't think we want to recommend a
6 regulation that's going to require the people to bring the horn
7 in. I mean they can bring them home, but not into turn them
8 in, so to speak, to the Park Service. You're going to have
9 horns all over the place. Well, require to be brought into --
10 yeah, you can have them be required to be brought from the
11 field but not to be turned in.

12
13 Well, we're ready for a motion. Ken, can you give us --
14 so we word this right, the action. Anybody got any
15 suggestions? Go ahead Walter.

16
17 MR. SAMPSON: Let's step down for a second and we can
18 write it out.

19
20 MR. ADKISSON: Can we take a break for a few minutes?

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yeah, let's take 10 minutes.

23
24 MS. EAKON: Please do not hang up your phones, just
25 stay on-line please, thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: We're taking 10 minutes.

28
29 (Off record - 3:00 p.m.)
30 (On record - 3:08 p.m.)

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: I'm going to call the meeting back
33 to order, we're ready to take action on the proposal. Anyone
34 wish to make a motion?

35
36 MR. GRIEST: Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Bert.

39
40 MR. GRIEST: I'd like to move that we approve the
41 Special Action S98-04 proposal as written, along with the
42 justification as written in the Staff analysis and meeting
43 Title VIII of ANILCA subsistence.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Is there a second?

46
47 MR. BALLOT: Second, Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Second by Percy Ballot. Now, under
50 discussion there was some concern with the aircraft use and the

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1 probability of most of the sheep being harvested by Kotzebue.
2 What I think what we'll do is just instruct the Park Service to
3 take appropriate action or necessary steps to monitor the
4 harvest and to take necessary steps if they need to do some
5 emergency action. Would that be appropriate, Dave, is that
6 okay?

7
8 MR. SPIRITES: (Nods affirmatively)

9
10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other discussion on the motion?

11
12 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I may, this is Taylor
13 in Anchorage.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Go ahead.

16
17 MR. BRELSFORD: I apologize that this couldn't be
18 offered just immediately before the break, but Ida Hildebrand
19 and others on the Staff Committee have pointed out that on the
20 question of the horns, the existing regulations already
21 addressed it in a fairly straightforward way. I'll read from
22 the existing regulations and you may decide that no additional
23 action on your part is required. It currently states, if the
24 subsistence take of dall sheep is restricted to a ram, no
25 person may possess or transport a harvested sheep unless both
26 horns accompany the animal. And it would seem that that
27 disposes of the horn question that you previously had discussed
28 without any further action on your part.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Taylor. I think what
31 we'll do is leave that with the Park Service and their
32 registration requirements on the permit. If there's any
33 requirements that have to be met with respect to the horns, I
34 think the permit should be able to address that or monitoring
35 of the permits of the hunt.

36
37 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, that sounds
38 like a good approach.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thanks Taylor. Any other discussion
41 on the motion?

42
43 MR. GRIEST: Yes, one comment, Mr. Chairman, and that
44 is, we basically recognize the past use of aircraft. The basic
45 premise of concern, I think is basically that we preserve the
46 continued preservation of the other uses, the traditional uses
47 and also snowmachine use and also getting the sheep.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Bert. Any other
50 discussion? Any other questions? If not, I'll ask roll call

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1 vote on this, please.

2
3 MS. EAKON: Walter Sampson.

4
5 MR. SAMPSON: Abstain.

6
7 MS. EAKON: Bert Griest.

8
9 MR. GRIEST: Yes.

10
11 MS. EAKON: Wilfred Ricky Ashby.

12
13 MR. ASHBY: Yes.

14
15 MS. EAKON: Percy Ballot.

16
17 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

18
19 MS. EAKON: Stanley Custer.

20
21 MR. CUSTER: Yes.

22
23 MS. EAKON: Willie Goodwin.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes.

26
27 MS. EAKON: Five yes and one abstention, Mr. Chair.

28 The motion passes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Helga. That brings us to
31 the last item and that's adjournment. Any other comments or
32 questions from anybody here? Dave.

33
34 MR. SPIRITES: Mr. Chairman, after we adjourn, our
35 biologists brought some slides of sheep that would take about
36 five minutes to show so anyone who would like to stay we'd be
37 happy to show those and talk about the identification of full-
38 curl rams.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. Anybody in Anchorage is
41 welcome.

42
43 MR. ITO: Mr. Chairman, Gordon Ito, resident of
44 Kotzebue. I'd like to thank you for your current vote on this
45 subsistence issue and I firmly believe and stand fully behind
46 you and every one of the members sitting here at the table.

47
48 There was one question that I wasn't too clear on and I
49 guess it was brought up during break was that 68 percent, was
50 that taken subsistence, sport hunting, everything in one pot?

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1 Because when you get into sport hunting you're looking at 100
2 percent kill ratio, almost. Subsistence, on the other hand,
3 it's a hit and miss deal.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Donna.

6
7 MS. DEWHURST: That 68 was the combination, it was
8 putting them both together.

9
10 MR. ITO: Okay. I just wanted to make that clear. The
11 views of a lot of people here, so 50 percent of that 68 percent
12 -- or 100 percent of that 68 percent was sport hunting. Thank
13 you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you. Any other business?

16
17 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, this is Taylor in
18 Anchorage again, please.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Go ahead, Taylor.

21
22 MR. BRELSFORD: I wanted to make sure that you are
23 going to announce the Board session on Friday beginning at
24 10:30.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Yes, there is a board meeting --
27 thank you Taylor. Friday at 10:30 and I plan on being there to
28 represent our views here. So any questions that the
29 Subsistence Board might have, I'll be there.

30
31 MR. BRELSFORD: And if I may, I must mention again,
32 that it is possible for the public to participate by
33 teleconference again. And anyone who would like to join that
34 meeting by teleconference may call us in the Anchorage office
35 for the bridge number. And they can reach our office at 1-800-
36 478-1456 in order to arrange to participate by teleconference.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Thank you, Taylor. Any other
41 business? Anybody in Anchorage? John.

42
43 MR. WALKER: What's the opening date of the hunt?

44
45 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: What I think I'll do here or what we
46 should do is that make sure that the Park Service is ready to
47 register the people that want to hunt, and we should give them
48 time to prepare those documents and basically leave it up to
49 them to call the date before the 10th; let me put it that way.
50 Get as close as you can get to August 1, that's what I would

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1 say.

2

3 MR. GRIEST: April, through April.

4

5 MR. ADKISSON: Well, we would have to get the permits
6 from the Fish and Wildlife Service, they do the printing job
7 and then we would have to get out to the villages and start
8 distributing them.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Okay. All right, John.

11

12 MR. WALKER: Yep.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOODWIN: Any other comments? Hearing none,
15 we're adjourned. Thank you very much everybody for
16 participating and thank you for being patient with us.

17

18 (Off record - 3:16 p.m.)

19

20 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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22

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:

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11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 44 contain
12 a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC
13 FEDERAL REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, taken electronically by
14 Salena Hile on the 29th day of July, 1998, beginning at the
15 hour of 1:00 o'clock p.m. at the Alaska Technical Center,
16 Kotzebue, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by
20 Ms. Hile to the best of her knowledge and ability;

21
22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
23 interested in any way in this action.

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25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 31st day of July,
26 1998.

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32 Joseph P. Kolasinski
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
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