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NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE

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REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

8

9

Kotzebue, Alaska

10

February 25, 2004

11

8:30 o'clock a.m.

12

13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14

15 Raymond Stoney, Chairman

16 Joe Arey

17 Percy C. Ballot

18 Lillian Johnson

19 Lance Kramer

20 Calvin Moto

21 Walter Sampson

22 Attamuk - Enoch Shiedt

23 Austin Swan

24

25 Regional Coordinator, Michelle Chivers

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 2/25/2004)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I'll call the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting to order. Can we have a roll call, please.

MS. CHIVERS: Good morning everyone. Okay, let's go ahead and start the roll call with Walter Sampson.

MR. SAMPSON: Present.

MS. CHIVERS: Raymond Stoney.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Present.

MS. CHIVERS: Lance Kramer.

MR. KRAMER: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Percy Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Lillian Johnson.

MS. JOHNSON: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Attamuk. I shouldn't probably try to pronounce that, Enoch. He did mention that he was going to go over to his office for a little bit, he might be about a half an hour late, but he is here.

Calvin Moto.

MR. MOTO: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Joe Arey.

MR. AREY: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Austin Swan.

MR. SWAN: Here.

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1 MS. CHIVERS: We have a quorum.

2

3

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Michelle.
4 And welcome to the Council members that are present here
5 today, especially Lillian all the way from Fairbanks.
6 It's always nice to have somebody from long distance to
7 attend our meetings like this for Federal fish and game,
8 I welcome all of you, and the new members to the Council.
9 Anyway, it's something that we always worked on for quite
10 some time now and we're just getting started and it seems
11 like we never get done, never quit learning as we go
12 along.

13

14 I want to thank all the agencies that are
15 here today, from the National Park, State, BLM, from
16 everywhere, welcome to this meeting today.

17

18 Before we get to the agenda, I want you
19 to look at Tab A on your packet, this information is for
20 your addresses, make sure that your names are there and
21 your addresses and your telephone numbers are correct.
22 If you need some corrections, you know, Michelle here can
23 correct them for you.

24

25 MR. SAMPSON: I have one correction on
26 mine, the work number is 442-7207.

27

28 MS. CHIVERS: Could you repeat the
29 number, please?

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: 442-7207, it's our central
32 office here in Kotzebue.

33

34 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further
37 corrections.

38

39 MS. JOHNSON: My phone number in Ambler
40 has changed 2000 -- 445-2000.

41

42 MR. BALLOT: You can add on another
43 number for myself, Michelle, my other fax number at home
44 is 3001 -- 494.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anymore corrections.
47 As you go along, ladies and gentlemen, you know, if you
48 change your address or telephone number, all you do is
49 just use that 800 number and then call Michelle in
50 Anchorage and she'll make the corrections on your

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1 addresses so we can keep track of where you guys are at
2 at all times.

3

4 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, can I please
5 remind everyone to always use your microphone because we
6 are recording the meeting and if you don't speak into the
7 microphone it doesn't get recorded.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We'll get on to
10 the next item, before we get going, before we review the
11 agenda, I think we've got a couple of people that want to
12 leave here shortly, one of them is Walter, for some
13 reasons that he has to go to the airport and do
14 something, and the other person, I think also Percy,
15 right, you've got to go. Would you give us an
16 explanation of about why you're going to take off.

17

18 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 I've got some family issues that I have to deal with at
20 Alaska Airlines, dealing with a death in the family, so I
21 will be out for about a half hour, half hour to 45
22 minutes, and then I'll be back. I'm hoping to leave here
23 about a quarter to 9:00.

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay, thank you,
26 Walter. Percy.

27

28 MR. BALLOT: Yes, I got some housing
29 stuff that I'm doing this afternoon so if we could work
30 on the proposals a little before the reports, I'd
31 appreciate it, for consideration.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Sampson,
34 Percy.

35

36 Okay, Item No. 4, review and adoption of
37 agenda. You've got on your agenda right there, I think
38 it's pretty well up to date, isn't it, Michelle, the
39 agenda is pretty well up to date?

40

41 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, I handed out a
42 new agenda. The agenda in the book, there have been some
43 changes since then so there should be a copy in front of
44 everyone and there's also copies in the back of the room
45 as well.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Like I said
48 yesterday, that I know most of it got reviewed, the
49 agenda for today's meeting. If you go along, you know,
50 with the amendments and the additions, you know, we got

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1 to do that.

2

3

MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

4

5

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

6

7

MR. BALLOT: Could she point out the changes. Do you want to point out the changes real quick on the agenda, they look all the same to me.

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CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Chair, the only changes that were really made is under Item 10 we did add the Inter-Agency Staff Committee comments, that's a new step in our process that was discussed at our last Council meeting. It's a new addition. And then we did add a couple of -- under Item 12, under agency reports, we did add a couple of items, but they're informational only, something for the Council to read.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: If you are done reviewing your agenda, you know, we need to adopt the agenda for today's meeting. A motion is in order.

MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I move for adoption of the agenda with changes.

MR. MOTO: I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion made by Walter and second by Calvin. Any further additions or corrections. All in favor of adopting the agenda today signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay, the agenda has been approved. For your information, for the public, if you want to make some comments, I think there's a little paper you can fill out and then give it to Michelle so you can make your comments or statements or testimony, whatever it is, so we're glad to have you.

Okay, Item No. 5, minutes of October 2003 meeting. So on your agenda you've got, it's on.....

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1 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I move for
2 adoption of October 2, 2003 minutes.

3
4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: There's a motion made
5 by Walter to adopt the minutes of October 2, 2003
6 minutes.

7
8 MR. BALLOT: Second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second by Percy. Any
11 additions or corrections to the minutes of October 2
12 meeting.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further discussion
17 on the minutes.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MR. KRAMER: Question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Question's been called
24 for by Lance Kramer of adopting the minutes of October 2,
25 2003, signify by saying aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The minutes has passed.
34 Okay. Now, we're down, we're moving pretty rapidly here
35 on Item No. 6, the elections of officers. I think that
36 Michelle will explain to us how the procedure of electing
37 officers is yearly; is that correct, Michelle?

38
39 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At
40 this time I'm going to describe what the Chair's duties
41 are and how this whole role works.

42
43 The Chair will serve as Chair for one
44 year so a one year term, and may serve for one more than
45 one term if reelected. The Chair also conducts the
46 Regional Council meetings, attends and represents the
47 Regional Council at the Federal Subsistence Board
48 meetings and is a voting member of the Council. The
49 Chair also signs all the reports, correspondence, meeting
50 minutes and other documents for external distribution.

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1 And at this time I'd like to open the
2 floor for nominations, and there's two ways we can go
3 about this. We can either do -- you can nominate someone
4 just verbally or else we can do it by ballot. I believe
5 last time we just did it verbally, so I'm going to go
6 ahead and open the floor at this time for nominations.

7
8 MR. BALLOT: I'd like to nominate Raymond
9 Stoney.

10
11 MR. SWAN: Second.

12
13 MS. CHIVERS: Are there any other
14 nominations at this time?

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. If everyone's in
19 favor, please all say aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 MS. CHIVERS: Those opposed, same sign.

24
25 (No opposing votes)

26
27 MS. CHIVERS: Okay, so at this time I'll
28 let Raymond Stoney continue with the nominations for the
29 vice Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Michelle.
32 Thank you Percy. This is my second time as the Chair of
33 this group, you know, it's been very interesting and very
34 important to all our people up here in Northwest Alaska.
35 Like I said yesterday this is probably going to be my
36 last term. I've been with this Council ever since it
37 began, I believe, in '93, so I guess it's time for me to
38 step down after my term is completed, in two more years
39 from now. But I will work continuously with the Council
40 and the public and all the government agencies which is
41 very important to all of us concerning subsistence of our
42 species throughout Northwest Alaska.

43
44 Again, thank you, and I'll do the best of
45 my ability to lead the Advisory Council. Thank you,
46 Michelle.

47
48 So at the time we're looking for
49 nominations for vice Chair.

50

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1 MR. MOTO: I'd like to nominate Walter
2 Sampson.

3
4 MS. JOHNSON: I second it.

5
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter Sampson's been
7 nominated by Calvin and seconded by Austin.

8
9 MS. JOHNSON: No, me.

10
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, I'm sorry, Lillian.

12
13 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
14 ask for a unanimous consent on the nomination.

15
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

17
18 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
19 certainly will be looking forward to working with you for
20 this year and certainly something I have an interest in
21 because of the very impacts and issues that are before us
22 for the people of this region. So I certainly will work
23 with you as well as the administration.

24
25 Thanks.

26
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter, now,
28 you're the vice Chair. Now, we're down to Secretary.

29
30 MR. MOTO: I'd like to nominate Lillian
31 Johnson.

32
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Lillian Johnson's been
34 nominated for Secretary.

35
36 MR. SWAN: Second.

37
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second by Austin.

39
40 MS. JOHNSON: I don't know if I'm going to
41 be in the Council too long.

42
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You're still on.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Michelle.

50

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1 MS. CHIVERS: I did discuss with Lillian
2 this morning her term is up this next meeting and she did
3 not reapply. And then she also mentioned this morning
4 that she may be resigning from the Council, so I don't
5 know if you want to just do another nomination.

6

7 MR. MOTO: Okay. Then I retract my
8 nomination.

9

10 MS. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead.

13

14 MS. JOHNSON: I got a family problem right
15 now, this year, that's why I'm moving to Fairbanks and a
16 house, my son living up there now and I'm getting old,
17 and I'm grandmother -- mother, grandmother and I live
18 with my kids, so I can't leave them so I don't know how
19 long yet, that's why I don't want to reapply.

20

21 I like this meeting very much, I enjoying
22 and hear the right, what we use.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: In other words, you
27 want to decline your nomination, uh?

28

29 MS. JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We'll need another
32 nomination.

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I nominate
35 Austin Swan.

36

37 ATTAMUK: I'll second it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Austin Swan's been
40 nominated by Walter and seconded.

41

42 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I'll just ask
43 for unanimous consent of the nomination.

44

45 MR. SWAN: Thank you for the confidence.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Congratulations, you're
48 a secretary now.

49

50 Welcome to the new members here, I'm glad

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1 you guys all arrived here. It's a great honor that I see
2 Joe is here and you're here and, you know, when we sit
3 like this in the Council like this, we're representing a
4 lot and lot of people concerning our subsistence way of
5 life everywhere, concerning not just caribou only, just
6 about every species there is we've used the last hundreds
7 of years here.

8

9

10 So this group takes pretty tough
11 priorities from the Federal Board of Game, we give them
12 recommendations in order to pass the things that we want
13 to be completed, that's what we're here for. Like I
14 said, thank you for being interested in this group and I
15 congratulation being secretary.

15

16 Okay. So myself as Chair, Walter as the
17 vice Chair, and then Austin as Secretary. We'll go on to
18 Item No. 7, Council member reports, village concerns from
19 all Council members. Where do you want to start from,
20 Calvin.

21

22 MR. MOTO: A.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

27

28 MR. MOTO: Okay, I'll start then. Good
29 morning, my name is Calvin Moto, I'm from Deering,
30 Alaska. I've served now for one year. I just got
31 reappointed for three more years.

32

33 And since the last we met I've attended a
34 couple of other meetings on my own. I went to the Eskimo
35 Walrus Commission meeting to find out a little bit more
36 that I could about other mammals besides what we talk
37 about here, and it was very interesting. I went on my
38 own to listen to some of the Fish and Game issues that
39 are involved in Norton Sound. And mostly I've -- I've
40 always been interested in this because I was the Chairman
41 for five years for Arctic Regional Fish and Game Advisory
42 Council which covered Nome, Kotzebue and Barrow. And
43 these fisheries have always been important to me because
44 of the way -- how commercial fisheries affect our
45 subsistence lifestyle. Today it's getting greater
46 because we are seeing less of our resources come to our
47 region because of, what do they call it, catch from
48 someplace else.

49

50 But, you know, I seen in the last year or

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1 so that, like in Deering, especially, we're having a lot
2 of problems with catching our, usually -- usually we get
3 about 15 or 20 oogruks, this is seals that we usually
4 rely on for our main staple of our food because if we
5 don't have seal oil we can't preserve a lot of our food
6 like (In Native) and a lot of different herbs that we
7 preserve in this seal oil. If we don't put it in the
8 seal oil they get rotten, you know. And a lot of times
9 we use seal oil to preserve our meat and our fish so they
10 won't get moldy.

11

12 The seals that we got, the last, about
13 three years ago we got four one time, and this is a
14 village that's used to getting about 20 to 30 seals, you
15 know, and we get -- the year before that we got only 11.
16 This year we made it a point for the younger hunters to
17 get at least one oogruk to each one of the elders in the
18 village and we have obtained that quota. Fortunately
19 some of the other families live with these elders so
20 they're able to get some of those.

21

22 But one of the things that I noticed when
23 we have less whitefish, less herring, seems like we have
24 less seal, less oogruk. Whether that has any biological
25 on how or what, I'm not sure, but it seems to me that if
26 we have less of those fish we have less seals, there's
27 something going on in the ecology. Because you know last
28 year my grandson, he came running into my house, he was
29 all excited, he said there's some funny looking fish
30 floating on the and when I looked they looked they were
31 dolphins. First time we ever seen dolphins in Deering.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Dolphins?

34

35 MR. MOTO: Yeah. And then there was a
36 killer whale out there one time. It stayed out there for
37 about six hours. And, you know, I've noticed in the last
38 two or three years now, we catch a lot of chum salmon,
39 you know, but last two or three years we had to throw
40 some of them away because we cut them open and, they
41 stink, you hang them up and they just rot. We're trying
42 to find out what caused this, you know. And we ask all
43 kinds of questions, we never get very many answers from
44 State, we get answers from a lot of other people but we
45 don't get very many answers from our State because they
46 say they're stretched right now, and I know they have a
47 lot of budget cuts.

48

49 And these are some things that we are
50 really concerned about.

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1 Our streams, some of our streams are
2 getting polluted because the public health service and
3 their great knowledge said that we have to have a garbage
4 dump above this creek here, therefore, we have -- it's
5 been up there for 20 years now and it's really
6 contaminated that water. I remember when my children
7 were about 10 or 12 they used to swim in that creek.
8 Now, if you fall in that creek you have to take a shower
9 otherwise you'll get rashes.

10
11 These are issues that I think that have
12 to be addressed somewhere and we've been trying to find
13 out how do we -- who's attention do we get to address
14 some of these issues. Because one of the things that we
15 see that the creek, that's getting contaminated now,
16 that's where our trout usually go up and when they come
17 out they're not very good. Because every spring we get a
18 nice bunch of trout in the spring time with rod and reel,
19 you know, and -- but these are things that we'd like,
20 somewhere down the road find out a little bit more about
21 what's going on with our, you know, we're always saying
22 we have to get one step ahead, get out of the Third
23 Nation living, but, you know, at what cost? Because
24 we're used to, like myself, I'm used to eating caribou,
25 it took me a couple of years, but I was used to living on
26 reindeer, you know, for a long time, most of my life. I
27 rarely eat moose.

28
29 But when I was a little boy, that was in
30 the early '40s we used to have seal oil about two or
31 three times a day sometimes, breakfast, lunch and dinner,
32 and now we -- you know, we didn't have all the stuff that
33 they have now, you know, and if we didn't -- the only
34 thing we got from the store was to make slabiacks, they
35 call them flapjacks, call them pancakes, you know, now,
36 and that's the only thing we ever got from stores,
37 pancake mix and flour and stuff like that, but, anyway,
38 it's changing.

39
40 And the way we hunt is changing. It used
41 to be, if I was going to go hunt I never said I'm going
42 to go out and hunt a seal. I just said I was going to go
43 hunt something because they said that if you said the
44 name of the animal he wouldn't show himself to you,
45 that's how we used to believe years ago.

46
47 But that's my concerns, right now, are
48 just oogruk. We usually get quite a few in the spring
49 and we're finally starting to get them, but when we are
50 finally able to go out hunting the ice is rotten and thin

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1 so we're trying to find some way.

2

3 That's all I have to say, thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.

6 Percy.

7

8 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just
9 wanted to mention that we got a lot of snow this year so
10 we're expecting to get our caribou. There's a lot of
11 them all around. I guess there's some toward Deering
12 way, toward Koyuk way, toward Selawik way, and even on
13 the coast. So we're expecting to do pretty good.

14

15 We got a lot of muskox permits this year
16 so we're kind of happy with that and we're expecting to
17 get some because all the creeks are full of snow so
18 crossing is good, we're expecting to do better.

19

20 We're concerned on the last report -- or
21 last meeting they were talking about 11 moose being
22 killed in the Kauk River and just wondering what's the
23 latest count there, or out of how many moose was there
24 when they caught those 11. If there's anything left,
25 because I had some guys go by there and they didn't see
26 very many, so we're just wondering how that hunt is when
27 they hunt a certain area, if there's, you know, so much,
28 do they put a quota on what you could get out of there or
29 do you just knock them all off. We hardly got any moose
30 this year. As you all remember that was an issue with
31 us.

32

33 We had a couple wolves come into town
34 and, I guess, they were okay but our hunters got them so,
35 you know, so we'll know better next time, but we have a
36 lot of wolves in the area.

37

38 Hunters are doing pretty good so it's
39 mostly a good report we have. But the only concern we
40 have is what's going to be the latest moose count and
41 when are we going to have the latest moose count for our
42 area.

43

44 The other one is I ran into one of the
45 hunters from Deering and they had that issue at the last
46 report about the muskox knocking over their graves. You
47 know, the grave site is very sacred to us, people,
48 especially where we bury our loved ones and stuff and,
49 you know, we do everything to protect that area there.
50 But I kind of hear that they still have that issue

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1 hanging over their heads and I was just wondering what
2 the update is on that, if we'll get that sometime. I
3 think that what they did was -- what most everybody would
4 want to do, is to protect what's on their burial grounds.

5

6

Thank you.

7

8

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy.

9 Okay, is there any agencies that can answer Percy's
10 question, is there a moose count happening over at the
11 Buckland, Deering area recently? Does any agency know is
12 there any count at all? Could you come up here to the
13 mike please, and Percy go ahead and repeat your question
14 there.

15

16

MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I was
17 just wondering what the latest moose count or when is
18 going to be the next moose count for the Buckland,
19 Deering area, especially the Kauk River. As you know, we
20 had a lot of hunters there and on the last report there
21 was 11 moose killed and it's just a short river, so I'm
22 kind of thinking maybe they knocked them all down or
23 something. So we kind of want to know what's happening
24 there.

25

26

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy.

27 Maybe Randy Meyers can come up.

28

29

MS. MEYERS: Randy Meyers, Bureau of Land
30 Management. I believe that Fish and Game, State, is
31 planning a census on the Seward Peninsula this spring
32 starting in early March. And so you should have some new
33 numbers soon. And I'm going to give a little brief
34 report on this during the agency reports, but since Percy
35 asked specifically, the special recreation permit hunting
36 came that Mike Vanning had on the Kauk River, he did take
37 18 moose was the final count. He had 28 clients.

38

39

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Geez.

40

41

MS. MEYERS: And of those 28, 20 were
42 guided under his special recreation permit with BLM, and
43 then the other eight were drop off hunters.

44

45

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

46

47

MR. MOTO: One of the things, since
48 you're here, you know, all those recreation permits that
49 were handed out, you know, none of the people in our
50 local area were able to get a moose, just the sports

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1 hunters or whatever, because then they closed it to us
2 because they told us that we had got our quota and I --
3 especially in Deering because we're looking at each other
4 and saying, did you get a moose, no? And that's our
5 concern. We thought that we, as subsistence hunters
6 should at least have gotten one or two moose before they
7 closed it.

8

9 MS. MEYERS: Right. So it sounds like,
10 at least, you know, the moose may have been going down
11 prior to last fall's hunt, and I don't know that for
12 sure. But based on what I just said.....

13

14 MR. MOTO: Yeah.

15

16 MS. MEYERS:obviously the sport
17 hunters got more than the subsistence hunters did this
18 year.

19

20 MR. MOTO: How many were really taken?
21 Because one time a couple years ago they told us there
22 were about 272 moose in our area, that was the last count
23 that I heard, and all of a sudden the count is -- what
24 happened to them, you know?

25

26 MS. MEYERS: Yeah, good question. Well,
27 hopefully the census that they're going to do this March
28 will give you an idea of the trend. Okay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Randy.

31

32 MS. MEYERS: Certainly.

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Does that answer your
35 question, Percy?

36

37 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We'll be
38 patiently waiting to hear what the numbers are.

39

40 The other question I had was what's going
41 to happen with the issue of the two incidents in Deering
42 with the muskox and the grave site, does anybody know?

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anybody that can answer
45 that question?

46

47 MR. MOTO: The last I heard that they
48 were talking about building a kind of fence around that
49 area, for the graveyard. Especially the muskox come to
50 our village, they'll be gone for awhile and then they'll

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1 come right to our village, you could see them right from
2 -- if I was watching from my window, like right next to
3 Hanson's, they get that close to our village, and they're
4 not afraid of us anymore.

5
6 You try to chase them away, but the only
7 thing we could think of is if we could build a fence up
8 there but it cost money, you know. That's only thing we
9 could think of. But we never heard anything from anybody
10 else about what they could do.

11
12 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, that still
13 doesn't answer my question. I guess, these guys were
14 told that there's going to be a hearing, a court hearing
15 or something and it's been hanging on their heads and so
16 it's been awhile since that incident happened.

17
18 MR. MOTO: Yes.

19
20 MR. BALLOT: I guess they should be told
21 what to be expecting, whether it's going to be a court
22 hearing or, I guess, you know, it's been awhile. That's
23 what I'm saying, is that, they should be notified of
24 what's going to happen, whether it's dropped or whether
25 nothing's ever going to be done about that situation.

26
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Ken.

28
29 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Council
30 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. It
31 doesn't really look like there's anybody from the State
32 here to address that issue. But basically, the village
33 area and Native Corporation lands fall under State
34 management for management purposes. And the case that
35 Percy is describing would be, perhaps a defense of life
36 and property issue, and there are processes for dealing
37 with that and you really need to talk to ADF&G.

38
39 Another potential solution would be that
40 if you have an open season and you have a hunter in
41 Deering with the State Tier II permit, they perhaps could
42 take that animal providing if there was an open season
43 whatever the sex restriction on the animals were.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. MOTO: Yeah, but they have only one
48 State Tier permit in Deering, all the rest are Park so
49 out of those eight State permits, we're trying to figure
50 out how come only one of them went to Deering, you know?

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1 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
2 members. The State Tier II permit system is strictly a
3 numerical rating system and as you know there have been
4 some significant changes in the way the permits are
5 scored in the last couple of years. We've had some
6 problems with permits going way outside of the Deering,
7 Buckland area and that's why the Park Service committed
8 to holding clinics in Buckland and Deering to try to
9 increase the number of applications and improve the way
10 that people filled the applications out and we've been
11 working with the IRAs in those communities to do that and
12 it has been, I think, fairly successful.

13
14 The problem that still remains is, is
15 that it is a scoring system, and essentially everybody in
16 Buckland and Deering are going to score the same. And so
17 when you have a limited number of permits available, what
18 happens is it becomes sort of almost a random draw at
19 that point among the top scoring applicants. And if you
20 look at the community sizes of Buckland and Deering it's
21 pretty much a random and statistical thing why most of
22 the permits wind up in Buckland.

23
24 I do believe, though, that there may be
25 one more State permit going to Deering because we've had
26 some discussions with ADF&G about trying to increase
27 opportunity and people not filling their permits. And we
28 have, in the last few years, sort of been issuing permits
29 above the allowable harvest to try to accommodate for
30 some of that under harvest. And we kind of came to an
31 agreement that we could add a permit or two into Unit 23
32 this year at a late date, and so I believe there will one
33 additional permit going to Deering.

34
35 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, do you know
36 who we might be able to contact about the incident with
37 ADF&G, who would be a good contact person to get
38 information?

39
40 MR. ADKISSON: That would be Jim Dau.

41
42 MR. BALLOT: Oh, Jim, oh, okay.

43
44 MR. MOTO: If a permit doesn't be given
45 to somebody, what happens, does it become a lottery
46 permit or is it still subsistence permit?

47
48 MR. ADKISSON: That depends on whether
49 it's a State permit or a Federal permit. Under the State
50 system the permits are non-transferrable, and so if

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1 somebody doesn't use it that's it. The only recourse the
2 State has is, again, to issue permits above the number of
3 allowable harvest, so that's what they're trying to do.
4 For years, on the Federal side, we've tried to encourage
5 people, when they know they're not going to hunt, to turn
6 that permit back into the Park Service and we'll go to
7 the next person our list and issue them a permit. But a
8 lot of people are reluctant to turn in those permits and
9 they truly, I think, in some cases, hope to hunt and
10 believe they will hunt right up to the season closing
11 date and they find out that they never could get the
12 money to get the snowmachine repaired or whatever and
13 they're just unable to hunt.

14

15 So it's a tough thing to deal with and
16 the only answer that we've really been able to come up
17 with, as I say, issue permits above the allowable harvest
18 level and then, in essence, kind of turn it into a
19 registration permit hunt and track the harvest, and then
20 close the season when we hit the harvest goals.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Ken. Percy,
23 anymore? Attamuk.

24

25 ATTAMUK: I'll take it, Raymond, however
26 you pronounce it, Attamuk.

27

28 Well, what I'm hearing from the people.
29 I work as a subsistence coordinator, I represent the
30 villages, and they're pretty much happy on this side, all
31 the way from Noatak to Kivalina to Buckland, they see a
32 lot of caribou and caribou are fat due to the warm
33 weather we had, but they are Kobuk, I hate to cover
34 Lillian's side, but they have to go a long ways to get
35 their caribou. But when they do they said they were
36 getting a lot of fat caribou, they were going all the way
37 to Selawik to get their caribou.

38

39 My main one is this, that I'm getting
40 calls from my villages on the whitefish. The meat is
41 different and the liver is a lot brighter. Not only with
42 the whitefish, we check the burbot, too, also at Kobuk.
43 And I went out to get mine here from Kotzebue, I notice
44 it, too, that it's a lot -- and some are seeing a lot of
45 fish with gills -- excuse me, the fins just missing for
46 some reason. At Selawik on this side of the island
47 towards the airport, the fish were okay and it's just a
48 short distance, by how many hundred of feet, and on the
49 other side they were getting a lot of whitefish with the
50 fins missing. And I went up there but when I went up I

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1 didn't see anything wrong with the meat or anything but
2 I'm not a fish -- down to pathology or biology or
3 whatever, and I see it and when they do call me, when I
4 have the funds I do go out there and I check and that's
5 what they were concerned about.

6

7 And also the fish didn't -- it tasted
8 different is what they're saying. And that's on the
9 whitefish, and on the burbot, on the liver.

10

11 And they can -- and a lot of them are
12 toward Noatak and other places, they're seeing a lot less
13 moose. I get calls from Deering, Buckland, Noatak and
14 for some reason last fall at Noatak they see a lot less
15 bears down river but there was a lot of bears up river
16 and we don't really know why, maybe there was more bears
17 or plants growing for some reason. But last year I just
18 saw one in my camp, you know, still they got concern that
19 some people are scared to camp because for their safety
20 issue on bears. And that's what they wanted us to look
21 into it, but we don't really know how unless we open it
22 somewhere because no Natives hardly -- they hardly hunt
23 bears anymore. Our take, I'll tell you is a lot less,
24 it's more stable when I do my surveys with caribou than
25 anything else and each drainage is a little bit
26 different.

27

28 On this side, on the Kobuk side they
29 worry more about whitefish and sheefish and on the other
30 side it's trout. And it's -- because that's what they
31 live on, you know, and a majority of it, their main diet
32 is on caribou. And what I'm hearing is they're pretty
33 much happy what's going on. A lot of us don't like the
34 cold but I get a few calls from elders and they were
35 happy to see the cold, it might change, it might
36 basically take it close to back to normal, but the cold
37 didn't stay long, you know, and they're scared of the
38 warm weather. When I talked to the elders that when it's
39 too warm the disease in the caribou or any other animal
40 or fish, it will be noticeable. They said if the feed is
41 coming down -- this is what I'm getting when we had our
42 elder's meeting, that -- not the elder's meeting, when I
43 talked to, like in Selawik and Kobuk and Shungnak when I
44 went there, when it's a lot warmer, it seems like the
45 disease, the normal, whatever they got in their bodies
46 will be -- they'll be more noticeable than anything else
47 is what they're saying, that's what I heard when I went
48 up to Shungnak, Kobuk and Selawik, when I went over there
49 and checked on their fish.

50

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1 And when they see me they do talk to me
2 about their concerns and issues. And they would like to
3 do -- and they do have concern on really lots on
4 migratory birds. Because on some birds they're seeing a
5 big decline and on some birds they're seeing a birds
6 they're seeing an increase. And, you know, I think what
7 we need to do is -- the Park Service and the State and
8 migratory bird people, they need to -- when they do their
9 aerial surveys, what they're saying is they have to look
10 for the birds now because you need to get a decent count
11 is what they're saying. Because they don't nest in an
12 area, the same place over and over, because Selawik, and
13 Noorvik, last fall when they were calling me about birds,
14 about these commuter airplanes, that they were disturbing
15 the nesting birds because our commuters were flying too
16 low and making a lot of birds fly when they are nesting.
17 And they were asking me if I could make a change into it,
18 and I don't think I could unless FAA do something about
19 it. I mean maybe we have to approach them, I don't know,
20 that's what I tell them, and that's what I checked on.
21 But last spring I did get a lot of calls from campers
22 saying these commuters are just flying too low. The
23 loophole is this, when the pilot don't have anybody in
24 the plane, he just wants to see the country so he just
25 flies low. Bering Air, Cape Symthe, all of them do it,
26 and that's what they're telling me.

27
28 And that's what I've been hearing from my
29 villages and, you know, I work for them and I don't know
30 what I'll go about, thanks Raymond.

31
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Like I
33 said, you know, Enoch, I've seen very large aircrafts,
34 you know, they must be flying within 500 feet, especially
35 that Lynden Air Cargo, you know, they could even shake
36 you when they're flying at 500 feet altitude. That was a
37 concern by quite a few people up river last fall.

38
39 Thanks for bringing that up again, you
40 know, that, I've also approached FAA about the situation
41 but I kind of got nowhere with them.

42
43 Like for myself, up to date in Kiana, I
44 didn't do too much traveling but I did a little bit. But
45 so far I've counted 10 to 15 dead moose already. The
46 reason why there's dead moose is there's always about 10
47 or 14 wolves that's been hanging around Kiana and has
48 been killing all these moose and I certainly hope we
49 don't get the blame for it. And it wasn't even just a
50 few miles from town. You could even see the wolves from

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1 Kiana, that's why the moose moved into town there was so
2 many wolves in the area. There's 14 -- that one I
3 tracked had 14 wolves. And when you start counting those
4 moose, from 10 to 14, there's a lot of dead moose
5 everywhere.

6

7 We don't hunt moose at all at that time
8 of the year.

9

10 For caribou, it's kind of a strange
11 migration this year. As we all know last fall, there was
12 several thousand that went through the Kobuk but through
13 mid-September they just turned around 180 degrees and
14 headed back north about like the 15th of September. My
15 flying time with my type of work I seen all the way from
16 Kiana all the way up to Red Dog that one single file
17 heading north. When they're gone, they never did come
18 back, they're still gone. So it was kind of a strange
19 fall for caribou, otherwise there's no caribou in Kiana
20 area this year, except for a lot of moose.

21

22 And I think that most of the caribou is
23 just -- I was wondering, I imagine, around Buckland area,
24 is that correct, Percy?

25

26 MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh.

27

28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So evidently when I
29 talked to the biological people, they didn't know, they
30 say that mostly caribous were way up on the -- even up on
31 the Haul Road, way up Red Dog, so they continuously just
32 not even migrating at all, so it might happen like it
33 happened 50 years, they might not even come back down
34 anymore, but we don't know.

35

36 And the census about the caribou, I'm
37 sort of interested in what the result is, we'll get
38 within a month or so. The last count we got the result
39 and it was like about six or seven years ago, the count
40 for the caribou was something like 430,000. So they're
41 counting them now. And when I seen the photos about the
42 census that was took last spring, it seems like they were
43 pretty much like they were six years ago, you know, when
44 you see those pictures, there's still lots and lots of
45 caribou. So I'm very interested in the result we'll get
46 in a month or so, what that caribou count is.

47

48 Otherwise, other than that, you know,
49 we've had, well, I'd say cold winter, 25 below, it never
50 used to be that cold, but when you see it 25 below for 30

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1 days, that's just gets pretty tiresome and cold. That's
2 pretty cold for -- otherwise a good winter.

3

4

Lance.

5

6

MR. KRAMER: Let's see, Lance Kramer
7 here. I noticed that there's a lack of good snow. You
8 know you might have noticed that there's some snow out
9 here today and you'll say, no, there's a lot of snow and
10 we look out the window at these snow banks here, but,
11 really there's a lack of good snow, it's all this dry
12 stuff and any stiff wind we get will blow it all away.

13

14

But that's good for the caribou, you
15 know, on the hill tops behind town, they're all over the
16 place, and it's good for the caribou but not that great
17 for hunters, especially wolf hunters that want to try to
18 get out. I have some friends around here in the Kotzebue
19 area who try to get out and get wolves and have been
20 busting up their snowmachines and trying to limp back to
21 town.

22

23

So that's good for the caribou and some
24 of the snow is really windblown and hard snow. I heard
25 some reports from some of my hunting friends that it's
26 easier to travel on the bare tussocks sometimes than it is
27 those real hard snow drifts on the rivers and stuff, it's
28 just unforgiving, those ones. So we had a lot of really
29 windblown snow.

30

31

The muskrats seem to be doing good again.
32 Up on the Melvin Channel, I trap lynx every year and last
33 year there were a lot of muskrat push ups and this year
34 lots of (In Native) again. So muskrats should be good.

35

36

The rabbit population, it was
37 interesting, they looked like they were going to come
38 back a couple years ago and then they didn't, and it
39 looked like that way again this first half of the year,
40 the first half of the winter, and then all of a sudden
41 they came back again. I don't know if they're coming from
42 the Kobuk River side, but there's tracks again on the
43 Peninsula so nice to see some rabbits coming back.

44

45

Less ptarmigan. I hear from a lot of
46 people that the anna's and tata's, they don't have much
47 ptarmigan anymore, and I hardly see any tracks when I'm
48 out there, so not as many ptarmigan.

49

50

The wolves are doing -- the wolf hunters

00023

1 up in Ambler area are doing okay, they've got some good
2 snow and they've been getting a bunch of wolves, but not
3 many wolverines they say. I don't know what their normal
4 count is but I have one buddy who hasn't gotten his
5 normal quota, you know, that he usually gets every year.
6 He's only gotten two this year.

7
8 But other than that, just the same, with
9 the fall time, with the October meeting, with the
10 transporter problem during the caribou hunting season,
11 and all the traffic problems in that condensed time
12 period.

13
14 Other than that, that's all I have.

15
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it?

17
18 MR. KRAMER: Uh-huh.

19
20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Lance.
21 Lillian, Fairbanks.

22
23 MS. JOHNSON: I just want to say thanks
24 for Attamuk talking about the area, but I got a few
25 things to say too.

26
27 This summer, upper Kobuk, like Kobuk and
28 Shungnak it's easier to fishing up there because they had
29 shallow water and they could go up river too with boat
30 and they could catch fish. Down in Ambler, I talked to
31 my relatives, those older people who like to fish, they
32 complain about high water this summer and hard to dry.
33 And they didn't tell me about the fish unhealthy, what
34 Attamuk, thank you for that.

35
36 And everybody have hard time this fall,
37 too, after freezing, because the weather's not good,
38 freeze, warm up and overflow and freeze again on top of
39 it. Keep doing that this fall and no one fishing under
40 ice first time in Ambler, even in Shungnak, they usually
41 go fishing under ice, down what they call -- everybody
42 complain about a couple ice freeze between water, that it
43 is hard to make a hole.

44
45 And on the caribou, I'm glad they have
46 caribou up their area. Some people keep thinking of me
47 and sending me packages, I think there's caribou all
48 year-round, and they look healthy, some, but a lot of
49 people complain of snow too. Right now it's about two or
50 three months now we had high -- a lot of snow and hard

00024

1 time caribous, you know, look around for food in flats,
2 hard snow and some places on wind parts like hills or
3 where the wind always be there all the time.

4

5 They're having that and there's coming, a
6 lot of moose. Nobody tell me how many moose they see, we
7 got a lot of moose all over in our villages because can't
8 stay in the hillside somewhere, too many wolf up that
9 area now. And I heard -- last week I just heard again
10 that even some people who can't catch moose, all this
11 year, just to go get wood, sometimes they come home with
12 wolf from the wood area. That sounds like there's a lot
13 of moose looking for food too and getting close all over,
14 spread all over. That's how come caribous is spread all
15 over going down or behind the mountains where they catch
16 all this fall -- all this year. I keep saying fall
17 because I'm staying in warmer place.

18

19 And I thank you for everyone who keep
20 talking with the area that talk about what problem to
21 peoples up there, Attamuk and what's his name?

22

23 MR. KRAMER: Lance.

24

25 MS. JOHNSON: Lance, thank you. And I
26 don't know, that's it, I guess, right now.

27

28 Besides that I said it, too, a while ago,
29 that I'm going to resign so I can be with my family. I
30 was enjoying with you men's and young man's and
31 everybody, the Councils, sure enjoying to hear of people
32 talking about needs, what we use from the beginning all
33 our lives.

34

35 Long time ago in my race days, there's no
36 moose, no caribou, no complaint about it, we just raised
37 with fish, no freezers, no electrics, we just have to dry
38 what we caught and today we have everything, like moose
39 and caribou and start complaining on it and freezers and
40 electrics, not working hard no more, when you need
41 something just throw it to your freezer, it's not like
42 that a long time ago in my race. We don't even know what
43 moose and caribous is like until I get almost like 18 --
44 17, 18, by that time, we start seeing caribou come once a
45 year or so in our fish camp way up above Kobuk, by
46 Karluk, that's where I'm raising most in summer. And I
47 lived in Shungnak.

48

49 And we don't even -- right now it's --
50 somebody's talking about not much beaver up there in our

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1 area now after kill our willows, birch trees, it's going
2 down this way, I heard last year, last meeting last fall.

3

4 Okay, that's it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Lillian.
7 It's been a great honor working with you the last two and
8 a half, three years and it's been a great honor to have
9 you with the Council and we hate to see you go but your
10 family comes first. You've done good work with us, you
11 know, we've learned a lot from you and then we were happy
12 to have you all these years. Again, thank you very much
13 for being with us on this advisory group, you've done a
14 good job.

15

16 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Austin.

19

20 MR. SWAN: Good morning, my name is
21 Austin. I was born and raised in Kivalina, Alaska.

22

23 One of the main concerns that I've been
24 hearing here, more so last summer, on our river system,
25 we've had an increased influx of rafters and campers on
26 the Wulik itself. You know, it's starting probably in
27 August and running all the way through September. And
28 the people are starting to complain about the influx
29 because right then is when the fish start coming in, the
30 caribou, the front of the herd is usually migrating
31 through that region about that time also which happened
32 last summer and a lot of the people were hunting early.
33 But they were bothered by the rafters and campers, you
34 know, in all the caribou crossings, there's just campers
35 just staying there and preventing the caribou from
36 crossing where they normally cross and where the hunters
37 usually wait.

38

39 That is starting to become a problem with
40 our village.

41

42 Although we don't mind them coming in,
43 you know, fishing but sometimes it just gets to be a
44 bother when the caribou are not getting to the river and
45 the hunters are there waiting. And it's really difficult
46 when you don't have vehicles to get back into the back
47 country unless you walk. And now with all the swampy
48 areas it's really pretty hard to haul all the caribou
49 that you catch way back there.

50

00026

1 I'm from the Kivalina IRA and the
2 Kivalina Whaling Association about my appointment to this
3 committee, I'm hoping that we will be hearing a lot of
4 input from them here in the next few years, hopefully.

5
6 And my other concern is the caribou, we
7 have a lot of caribou, by the way, Kivalina, you can sit
8 in my living room and look at caribou across the lagoon.
9 So if you want to hunt caribou come on up, it's there.
10 They're all over there. It's not been no problem.

11
12 The one problem that we have is the port
13 road, the caribou do hang around there, they love going
14 up and down the road on both sides. I know this because
15 I worked there at the mine for several years in the
16 environmental department and one of the problems we had
17 was keeping the caribou away from the road. And the
18 problem with that is the whole length of the road, 52
19 miles of it is windblown from the east and that's
20 diagonal to the road and all the dust just flies, you
21 know, away from the road, not along the road, and caribou
22 do eat a lot of food along there, and I know there's the
23 -- the plant life there is filthy with ore and calcium
24 and this could lead to something pretty serious here in
25 the long run. So that needs to be watched, you might
26 say, or something needs to be done.

27
28 We've never had problems with moose. For
29 some reason Kivalina does not hunt moose all that often
30 unless the caribou is not around and then we get to
31 concentrating on it when the caribou is not around. But
32 we've got moose, we don't hunt them all that much. Some
33 of the older folks do because it makes better jerky than
34 caribou does, but that's been no problem.

35
36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Austin. I
37 got one question for you. If I remember right, you also
38 got muskox permit, right, if you wanted to hunt muskox in
39 that area?

40
41 MR. SWAN: Yes, we do have -- my brother-
42 in-law, for one, I think got a permit last year and I
43 don't know who this year got permits. But we have muskox
44 there and they're doing quite well it looks to me like
45 because they're coming in closer to the village, too,
46 now.

47
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's kind of a happy
49 situation for Kivalina when you said you can see caribou
50 from your back window, you know, it's kind of a good sign

00027

1 for caribou in that area.

2

3 MR. SWAN: Yeah. I don't know how much
4 longer that will last. It's happened here the last two
5 or three years that we've had caribou in the flats around
6 the village. The feed there may be getting depleted and
7 it may not last too much longer, you know.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that Austin.

10

11 MR. SWAN: That's it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. That's a
14 good report. I'm glad you're seeing caribou every day.
15 Now, we'll go down the line, Joe Arey from Noatak and
16 he's also been with the Council before and he also worked
17 at the Portside (ph) and then he worked also with NANA
18 Regional Resource Protection Officer before. Joe.

19

20 MR. AREY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 First time using this thing here.

22

23 Yeah, I'm from Noatak, Joe Arey. My
24 people -- well, our village, our trout is not coming in
25 like it used to. People go out same fall time for
26 subsistence they come back with nothing. And then this
27 fall they did the same thing. But after December, after
28 January, they started getting them through the ice. So
29 they're getting two or three sacks a day when they go
30 out. But the trout coming in late, they're not getting
31 their winter subsistence.

32

33 There's a lot of otter, too, now, land
34 otter on the Noatak. People see four or five otters a
35 day together and that's getting too much. Nobody hunts
36 them now. They got no -- you don't have any money when
37 you hunt them anyway. If they can do something about
38 that, even put a bounty on them where people would get
39 them so they could get their gas money back while they're
40 trying to subsist for fish.

41

42 And the other thing is the caribou, the
43 caribou came in real late last fall from the north. They
44 usually come down from the north right through the
45 village but they were real late this fall. But once they
46 come in they'll be crossing above the village, over the
47 village, Aggie and they go through the flats, but this
48 year they were real slow. And when I was working in
49 Portside, there was a lot of caribou crossing that Haul
50 Road but they weren't going right to the village, they

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1 were crossing someplace, maybe 20 miles north of the
2 village or 20 miles south of the village. But later on
3 they got their caribou. But they have to go a long ways
4 from the village to get them.

5
6 But that trout, I don't know, if anybody
7 can answer that, about that fish -- Jim Dau's not here,
8 maybe you could -- or Fred -- why is that trout so late
9 coming in?

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 MR. AREY: Nobody knows why?

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Charlie.

18
19 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean with the Park
20 Service. Joe, I don't have a great answer for you but
21 the trout have been late in a number of locations and we
22 think it has to do with the waters being a little bit
23 warmer and they're getting delayed coming in because they
24 have good feed out in the ocean longer than they used to.

25
26 And to talk to Mr. Moto's concern and
27 someone else's about the diseased fish, the bad smelling
28 salmon, a number of us are worried that that's
29 ichthyophonous, it's a stinky fungus that gets in the meat
30 of herring primarily, but salmon eat herring and it's a
31 disease that is usually brought on by fish living in too
32 warm of water and they get sick if they're warm too long.
33 And last summer, I know Susan Georgette and Jim Magdanz
34 made an effort to get some samples of fish from the upper
35 Kobuk that were stinky but by the time they got them to
36 the lab they were too far gone.

37
38 What we need is if somebody does get a
39 real stink fish to -- as soon as you open it up and find
40 that it is we need to get it in a fridge and get it on
41 its way to Anchorage so that we can make sure that's what
42 it is. It's hard to address a problem if it's -- if you
43 don't know what it is. But the ichthyophonous is a
44 disease, it's been on the Yukon for several years and
45 last year they got kind of over the top on that disease
46 just naturally but it could easily happen here, too.

47
48 So I think that has to do with warm, to
49 get back to your real question, warm marine waters and
50 causing the fish to run late.

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1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Charlie.

2

3 MR. AREY: Thank you, Charlie.

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it, Joe.

6

7 MR. AREY: Yeah.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You got anymore?

10

11 MR. AREY: No.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Walter, we're
14 down to Item No. 7, Council member reports, village
15 concerns from all the Council members, so you were gone
16 and now you can give presentation. And to the public, if
17 you want to make some testimony there's a little piece of
18 paper back and you can give your name and give it to
19 Michelle and you can also make testimony or something.

20

21 Walter.

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 It's good to get some viewpoints of people who live that
25 lifestyle and know what that lifestyle is and have to
26 deal with the very resource that you heard with some good
27 possible potential problems.

28

29 Certainly last year or this past year,
30 has certainly been quite different, weather-wise, change
31 of the weather system certainly has impacted the lives of
32 our people throughout the region.

33

34 Late caribou migration. Late fish
35 migration. And I think as long as the trend, in regards
36 to the weather conditions getting warmer, it's even going
37 to become a problem for all of us where at certain times
38 we might not even see fish where they migrate somewhere
39 else.

40

41 I think the best approach to some of this
42 that we're dealing with today is try to utilize the
43 baseline data as much as we can as we go from year to
44 year because we certainly will need that baseline data in
45 making decisions down the road.

46

47 Remember that the resource that we're
48 dealing with and talking about are migratory. Caribou
49 migrates. It doesn't stay in one area. Sure, in some
50 areas you have a resident herd, which wouldn't be very

00030

1 big, but we all know that the caribou migrates
2 north/south. In some areas, they're starting to winter
3 over in the south flats up in the Kobuk Valley and not
4 going all the way up into the Arctic Slope where they
5 usually go to have their calves.

6

7 That should send a message to us that
8 there's a trend of something going and we all know
9 whether is one. It's been every year getting warmer.

10

11 In regards to fisheries, fish migrates as
12 well. They don't stay in fresh water all year. They
13 come and go. They spawn in one area, then they go out
14 with the rest of the fish, the stock. Some of these fish
15 travel into the Siberian side, some into the Norton
16 Sound. When they return, they might not return to
17 Noatak, not to Wulik altogether. Some might go up to
18 Kobuk, some might stay in Norton Sound, some might stay
19 over on the Siberian side. They migrate.

20

21 So, on an annual basis, you'll see fish
22 stock numbers sort of go up and down as well too. I know
23 that because Fred DeCicco has been doing some studies on
24 the Noatak, Kivalina, Wulik, as well as getting involved
25 in studies tagging of fish with the Siberian folks
26 because they're finding out some of that trout that's
27 been tagged has been caught over on the Siberian side,
28 some on the Norton Sound side.

29

30 So, the resource that we're talking about
31 and dealing with migrates quite a bit. Just imagine the
32 beaver migrating into some of the upper Kobuk areas. In
33 fact, some were seen down here in Kotzebue and we all
34 know that there's a problem with the beaver too as far as
35 excretion is concerned. Some of that stuff that you
36 drink from there, the excretion certainly can make you
37 ill from what the studies have shown. Just imagine fish
38 trying to eat within some of the areas that there's quite
39 a bit of beaver. I'm sure they get intake of that as
40 well too.

41

42 I think what we need to concentrate more
43 heavily as we hear some of these issues is try to make
44 sure that we have that baseline data and on an annual
45 basis try to do as much to do studies. Analysis of
46 caribou, analysis of fish and this sort of thing
47 certainly is something that we also can concentrate on.

48

49 If we're going to do that, then we need
50 to have a process in place because, in some cases, it

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1 requires that resource be frozen immediately or be
2 shipped out pretty darn quick before it even gets to the
3 point where you heard Charlie Lean. In some cases, it's
4 not worth doing the analysis when it gets to where it was
5 supposed to be analyzed.

6
7 Land otter you heard on the Noatak. Some
8 of this resource that we're talking about, beaver, land
9 otter and other species also concentrate on native fish,
10 certainly has an impact on migration pattern of fisheries
11 as well.

12
13 I'm hoping with fisheries that's going to
14 occur this summer. It will accelerate some of the
15 processes in regards to doing some of the studies even
16 more deeper. Some of the fisheries wild stocks that
17 occur in some areas certainly needs some attention.

18
19 I think the bottom line is that Charlie
20 Lean controls the fish. He transferred that from the
21 State of Alaska to the Feds. So anything that has to do
22 with fish, you call Charlie. I think in regards to what
23 he's trying to do is certainly something that we need to
24 support and make sure that we have some good baseline
25 data on a lot of the resources that we're dealing with.

26
27 In fact, as we go through the process of
28 the proposals, we might think of relaxing some of the
29 regulations that's in place for allowable catches to even
30 occur more. That's part of the process we can go through
31 to deal with some of the resource. In some instances,
32 maybe making allowable catch even a little bit larger
33 than what we have as far as take is concerned. I'm
34 talking about the beaver, the land otter and other
35 source.

36
37 I think at some point we certainly need
38 to look at balancing, where we can balance. We don't
39 live in a perfect world. We're not going to make the
40 perfect decisions, but we need to do with what we can,
41 with what data we have in place to make those decisions.

42
43
44 Certainly, the process we go through
45 sometimes can even get better to where we can involve the
46 local folks as part of that process. So I think it's
47 important that we take a look at that process as well
48 too. So, with that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter. The

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1 concerns that we get from you is very important to all of
2 us. I'm glad you guys have lots to say and your concerns
3 are brought out to all of us here. As you know, you see
4 all the agencies are here. They are listening to your
5 comments. Again, I want to thank you for give us all
6 your concerns in all the villages.

7
8 Of course, caribou, like Walter said, the
9 migration is changing. In the last four years now, I
10 check around with the biologic people in Nome that
11 monitor caribou every day. In the last four years now,
12 like in Wainwright, up in that area, the caribou is
13 netting anywhere from 200-250,000 that don't even migrate
14 anymore. They're staying up there, just like it's
15 happening 50 years ago. Don't even come down to this
16 area anymore. Now they're getting larger and larger and
17 larger. When they go all the way up to the haul road and
18 stay up there right now, they're not migrating south.

19
20 So what's going to happen in the next 10
21 years from now, we don't know. They might not come at
22 all. Let's say like in the early '50s and through '60s
23 when you had to go all the way across Noatak River and
24 hunt caribou. It might happen because the caribou is
25 just not coming down anymore.

26
27 This year I don't have any estimate of
28 how many went through that migrate all the way down
29 further south, so there's not much. Maybe one or two
30 hundred thousand. When you see those pictures at north,
31 the caribou that's last updated are staying up there.

32
33 So it's something I'm very concerned
34 about and I work with Pete down in Nome. I give him a
35 call quite often and see where the caribou are at and
36 some are around Buckland area and then Koyuk area, stuff
37 like that, but the main area is way to the north.

38
39 I want to again thank you for your
40 concerns and your report to this body. Do you guys want
41 to take a break before we go to the next item? Okay,
42 let's take a 10-minute break. Thank you again.

43
44 (Off record)

45
46 (On record)

47
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I'll call the meeting
49 back to order. We're on Item No. 8, the Chair's Report.
50 It was happening on December 2003. At the time I don't

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1 have too much on it because I missed that one meeting
2 because I was also with the Nogathodik Kever (ph) Working
3 Group at the time. I was supposed to give a report on
4 the Federal Board meeting in Anchorage, but I couldn't
5 find it, so I was way late on that one and I missed
6 almost all of it. Do you have anything on that,
7 Michelle?

8

9 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At
10 that meeting, our region did not have any concerns at
11 that time. The reason we had brought all chairs in was
12 they were going to have a meeting of the chairs towards
13 the end of the meeting. You were already in town for
14 another meeting and only had that one day available. I
15 guess we can kind of look at it as an opportunity of
16 getting to hear other council concerns in other regions,
17 but we didn't really have any issues at that time.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think in
24 the future the issue with regards to our region not
25 having concerns is a message that shouldn't go out. We
26 shouldn't make those kinds of statements in that way. We
27 listen to some of the concerns from the village report.
28 That tells me that the agency is not concerned about the
29 very issues that we listen to. So I do have a problem
30 with that.

31

32 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, I'm sorry. I
33 should probably rephrase how I said that. This Council
34 did not have any proposals that were being taken up at
35 that time. The board is very aware that all regions do
36 have concerns, but at that time there were no proposals
37 being taken up for this region. I'm sorry.

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: In Anchorage, the two
40 meetings I was supposed to be in, it was just in the same
41 day. So, evidently, the way I looked at it, Walter had
42 to go somewhere else and the next time we'll plan better
43 than this. If I can't make it and Walter can't make it,
44 we'll have one of the members take and give a report at
45 the board meeting on a meeting like this happening.
46 There's a lot of important issues that come before us in
47 all our regions. Like I said, I just missed most of it
48 and I don't have any information for you in what happened
49 in that board meeting in Anchorage. Pat.

50

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1 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted
2 to mention something else. The issue of transporters is
3 still an issue I see until there's something resolved on
4 their being monitored and stuff like that on black and
5 white. Whenever there's a meeting, I'd like that to be
6 pointed out.

7

8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. The next
9 item is informational reports. Attamuk.

10

11 ATTAMUK: Everybody know by now that this
12 caribou management plan was put together for years with
13 input from all agencies; sport hunters, guides,
14 outfitters. When it was completed after it was signed, a
15 few of us, when the Board of Game had a meeting in
16 Anchorage, asked the Board of Game to endorse this and it
17 was endorsed and I'm thankful for that.

18

19 When I had a talk with John that I told
20 him we should mail this early to the Board of Game and
21 they really appreciated that, that they had a chance to
22 look at it and a few of them had questions on it and they
23 called and I answered what I could and John answered what
24 I couldn't answer. They were pretty happy with this and
25 they said well done. I would praise the guys I worked
26 with on this plan for years. It's really a nice plan and
27 was endorsed by the Board of Game.

28

29 I forgot to mention there was Roy
30 Ashenfelter, Phil, John Shane and me. We were there, all
31 four of us. All of us didn't know we were going to be up
32 in front endorsing this. We were there for a meeting and
33 we were all called in at the last minute, but they took
34 it well.

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I know this one I was
37 pretty interested about. Item No. 10. Wildlife Proposal
38 Review and Regional Council Recommendation. It's on Tab
39 B. One, presentation of the proposals, introduction of
40 proposals. Who does that?

41

42 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning, Mr.
43 Chairman. My name is Chuck Ardizzone, wildlife biologist
44 for your Council. The first proposal we're going to go
45 over is WP04-01, which is a statewide proposal, on page
46 22.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: WP04-01.

49

50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes, sir.

00035

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Statewide.

2

3 MR. ARDIZZONE: Statewide. That proposal
4 was submitted by Sue Entsminger of Tok and requests the
5 allowance of handicraft items made from the fur of brown
6 bear.

7

8 This proposal would allow the sale of
9 handicraft items made from the fur of brown bear as a
10 means for subsistence users to have additional cash flow
11 from hides that are not normally utilized. The proponent
12 notes that the use of brown bear hides is not available
13 except for personal use items. This will benefit
14 subsistence users by allowing them to fully use the bear
15 hide.

16

17 In current regulations, handicraft
18 articles from the fur of black bear are allowed. What
19 she wants to do is add brown bear to the regulation. So
20 that would allow handicraft sales from black bear and
21 brown bear.

22

23 There's a long regulatory history and a
24 number of regulations governing the sale of bear parts.
25 I won't go into all of those. It gets rather confusing
26 and I'll just skip right to the biological background.

27

28 Brown bear range throughout most of
29 Alaska, as most of us know. Brown bear populations
30 throughout most of Alaska are generally stable and occupy
31 all of their historic range. The 1993 statewide
32 population of brown bears was estimated to be between
33 25,000 and 39,000 bears. In northern Alaska, brown bear
34 do not successfully reproduce until they are older than
35 five years in age. this delay in reproduction as well as
36 small litter sizes, long intervals between successful
37 reproductive events and a short potential reproductive
38 period cause low rates of successful production in brown
39 bear in northern Alaska.

40

41 The average estimated harvest of brown
42 bears in the 1960s was 630 bears per year. From 1991-
43 2000, the average reported statewide brown bear harvest
44 was 1,296 animals per year.

45

46 Federal and State regulations both
47 require sealing for brown bear taken in most areas of the
48 state with the exception of some rural brown bear
49 management areas. Any un-tanned bear hide or skull
50 transported or exported from Alaska must be sealed. Any

00036

1 hides, skulls, meat or products of brown and black bears
2 shipped out of the United States must have an
3 accompanying Federal CITES export permit.

4

5 Effects of the proposal. Adopting the
6 proposal to legalize the sale of handicraft articles from
7 the fur of brown bear would increase economic
8 opportunities available for rural residents, principally
9 in the creation of handicrafts. Handicrafts made from
10 brown bear fur have significant economic value and are
11 sold at high prices where it's allowed in other places.
12 The proposed commercialization of handicrafts made from
13 brown bear fur could lead to an increase in demand and
14 harvest of some bear populations, possibly to the point
15 of over-harvest.

16

17 Many portions of interior Alaska have
18 naturally low but stable brown bear populations. The
19 proposed regulation may threaten the viability of these
20 smaller populations making them susceptible to over-
21 harvest. Brown bear population numbers are much smaller
22 than black bear population numbers and are carefully
23 managed with low harvest rates and strict reporting
24 requirements. The sustainable yield of brown bear is low
25 and except under special circumstances in limited areas,
26 regulations should be conservative to avoid over-
27 exploitation.

28

29 Because of the large economic incentive
30 involved in the trade of some bear parts, this proposal
31 has the potential to lead to an increase in illegal
32 trafficking of brown bear hides from endangered
33 populations outside of Alaska.

34

35 Also of significant concern is the fact
36 that the sale of brown bear fur or handicrafts made from
37 brown bear fur is culturally taboo for many Native people
38 in portions of Alaska. Adopting this proposal would also
39 further confound the mixture of international, Federal,
40 State and provincial regulations, creating enforcement
41 difficulties along with administrative and legal
42 challenges.

43

44 A large illegal market for bear parts
45 does exist. Of particular concern to law enforcement
46 officials is the illegal sale of bear gallbladders and
47 paws. Allowing the sale of handicrafts made from brown
48 bear fur might provide increased illegal harvests and
49 economic incentives that may lead to the wasting of some
50 bear parts, such as the meat.

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1 The preliminary conclusion is to oppose
2 this proposal. Any questions.

3

4 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I've got a question on
5 this. When you did your count on bears being taken, you
6 gave two numbers. Is that whole statewide numbers or is
7 it for our region here? I've got a couple other
8 questions after.

9

10 MR. ARDIZZONE: Those would be statewide
11 numbers. The first number was in the '60s and the second
12 number, which was 1,296 per year, is the average from
13 1991-2000.

14

15 ATTAMUK: Another question. Was it
16 mainly sport hunters or subsistence users taking these
17 numbers here?

18

19 MR. ARDIZZONE: This numbers are all
20 harvest that was counted. I don't have it broken down by
21 subsistence.

22

23 ATTAMUK: What I'm leading to here is I'm
24 trying to ask that way because some areas like us, we've
25 got a lot of brown bears. We've got issues and concerns
26 for safety. I think this proposal maybe would have made
27 it if it was in their unit instead of statewide.

28

29 Bears that are caught legally, we should
30 be able to sell as artifacts if they're caught legally,
31 if there's no concern in a unit. I think what you should
32 do -- I would recommend that you go back to this person
33 and make it in their unit because I would like to see it
34 done here.

35

36 We're getting cuts big time from the
37 State and the Federal on funding. We need to get money
38 somehow to our villages and this might be a way. The gas
39 is increasing. If it's over \$2 in California exactly
40 where they refine our fuel, our gas from the Slope here,
41 it's over \$2 in California, it's going to probably double
42 up in here because we're the ones that are going to pay
43 for it again.

44

45 Like I say, I think it needs to be done.
46 My people have real concerns about brown bears and
47 safety. A lot of people don't like to camp no matter
48 where they're at anymore, you know.

49

50 Like I say, if it's caught legally, it

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1 should -- if this was a little bit different, I would
2 support it. You guys are opposing it, but I think if it
3 was done in a unit basis, I think it would be a
4 completely different approach.

5
6 MR. ARDIZZONE: I don't disagree with
7 you. I understand what you're saying.

8
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

10
11 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 How does this proposed regulation fit into customary or
13 traditional use under Title VIII.

14
15 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not sure I can answer
16 that question. Maybe someone else can help me.

17
18 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm Sandy Rabinowitch
19 of the National Park Service. I might be able to help
20 with that question. If you look at page 24 of your
21 Council book, the bottom of page 24 you see some bulleted
22 items, those black dots. You can see that the second one
23 down says for the making and selling of handicraft
24 articles. I won't read the rest of it, but you can see
25 that bullet. So I think the answer, Walter, to your
26 question is that Title VIII of ANILCA in Section 803 --
27 these are direct quotes out of the law, so the law allows
28 for what these four bullets say. I'll stop there.

29
30 If I might add one other thing. There
31 are regulations, as Chuck pointed out, that conflict with
32 this part of the statute and we could go into that if you
33 want to.

34
35 I'm going to repeat what Chuck said, this
36 can get complicated pretty quick. Let me find the -- on
37 page 22, about the middle of the page, it says existing
38 Federal regulations. I think the first item under
39 existing Federal regulations says Section .25(j)(6) is
40 the best example of that where it says you may sell
41 handicraft articles from the fur of a black bear.

42
43 What that really means is that you can't
44 sell a handicraft article from anything else. It means
45 only from the fur of a black bear the way the regulations
46 are written. So, if you sell a handicraft article from
47 something else, and I'm going to add something to this in
48 a minute, it's not allowed. The big exception to that, of
49 course, is for trapping. Because, of course, we all
50 understand that in trapping the main intent of trapping

00039

1 is to get the fur and then sell the fur.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: So we're basically dealing
4 with just the fur, not any other parts of the animal.
5 I'm talking about the paws and the nails of the critter.

6

7 MR. RABINOWITCH: I believe that's
8 correct.

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch, you had your
11 hand up.

12

13 ATTAMUK: Yeah. I'm back to if this
14 could be in units I would support it. It states here you
15 said on black bear and maybe -- because, like I say,
16 we've got concern on a lot of brown bear. Where I come
17 from, we hardly get any black bear. But, still, the bear
18 was caught legally and if they don't do something about
19 it, the fur is just going to get rotten anyhow out there
20 and they're not going to use it for anything. I think
21 what we need to do is ask them to revise this proposal.

22

23 The other question I've got, are you
24 talking about the State land or the Federal lands where
25 they can sell the bear hides as artifacts or they just
26 use it, you know?

27

28 MR. RABINOWITCH: Enoch, I'm sorry. I
29 was kind of thinking sort of the next step ahead. I'm
30 not sure that I heard your question. Chuck, if you think
31 you know the answer, why don't you go ahead.

32

33 MR. ARDIZZONE: This proposal would be
34 for Federal lands only because currently my understanding
35 is that the State doesn't allow the sale of handicrafts
36 made with brown bear.

37

38 Helen just stated that there is a
39 companion proposal that's going before the Board of Game,
40 the State side, which would also allow this if it was
41 adopted on State lands.

42

43 ATTAMUK: You say the State law -- I mean
44 they're going to adopt it in here and here it says ADF&G
45 comments opposing the proposal.

46

47 MR. ARDIZZONE: They're not going to
48 adopt it. They're just doing what we're doing. They're
49 looking at a proposal at the Board of Game.

50

00040

1 ATTAMUK: The reason why I've got a lot
2 of concern on this, in our region here you notice that
3 what the people are doing here, they are really just
4 trying to find a way to put income in their homes in the
5 villages where there is no jobs. If they do get bear, my
6 concern is that they should be able to sell their fur if
7 they get it legally. And statewide opposing it. I'm
8 pretty sure if you break it down to units, I think you
9 would have a completely different reaction on this one
10 here.

11
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: As you know, as we go
13 along on this proposal, we've got to hear from other
14 agencies, so they will have some time to make comments on
15 this proposal.

16
17 MR. RABINOWITCH: If I might just add two
18 things. The Board of Game meeting that was just
19 referenced begins in Fairbanks on the 26th of February,
20 so it's coming up real soon. The other thing I would
21 point out to you in the proposal book on page 23, this is
22 kind of in response to several of Enoch's comments.

23
24 The second paragraph starts out in 1981
25 the National Park Service. What that section and the two
26 smaller sections below it basically say is that the Park
27 Service looked at this question in some depth in 1981.
28 It was pretty interesting to me to look back and figure
29 that out. But this question was very much alive in 1981
30 and was discussed at some length in all these documents
31 that are referenced here.

32
33 The result of the Park Service's view is
34 that -- and this is the point that connects to your
35 comments, Enoch. The Park Service believes that you can
36 legally do this if the bear comes from Park Service land.
37 That's a pretty unusual position for the Park Service to
38 be in, sort of compared to how the Park Service manages
39 lands compared to the other agencies. I think you can
40 say we tend to be on the conservative side of things and
41 here I'm telling you we're on sort of the liberal side of
42 things. I don't know if those are quite the right words,
43 but I think you kind of get my intent.

44
45 So we could talk more about that if you
46 want, but I just want to point out to you that that is in
47 this document here. We don't think that people
48 understand this terribly well.

49
50 We've put this in letters to Regional

00041

1 Councils in the past and to the Subsistence Resource
2 Commissions. I forget what year. I think it was 1988.
3 The date is in here somewhere. So we think there is an
4 allowance for animals that would be legally taken and all
5 the rules followed on National Park Service lands as long
6 as they're made into handicrafts. But they have to be
7 made into handicrafts and that's an important piece.

8

9

Thank you.

10

11

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

12

13

ATTAMUK: Yeah, just back to my comment
14 again. You're sort of confusing. '81 we were able to do
15 it and still here you're putting a proposal -- when here,
16 in '81, this one was put together saying we could do it.
17 Now you're putting one without revise -- maybe what we
18 need to do is revise this one here maybe by region. But
19 that's what I'm hearing from the people. They've got a
20 lot of brown bears here. Maybe we could put our own
21 proposal together for our unit so we could be able to do
22 it because each Regional Council might see it different.

23

24

Like I stated, if we get it legally, we
25 should be able to sell it. A hide will go a long ways
26 before it run out to selling it as artifacts unless you
27 get lucky and sell the whole thing, but very seldom
28 Natives will sell a whole hide to anybody because we
29 won't find buyers.

30

31

The fur I've seen on bears as artifacts,
32 they're real tiny. They just use it just for coloring
33 and making like hair and beard and something like that
34 and real small. I've seen it even at AFN. I did not say
35 nothing because if I say something, they would go after
36 that person for selling artifacts. You know, it's being
37 done, but it's not being noticed.

38

39

I'm just getting confused here, but for
40 my region I would like to see one open for bears that are
41 caught legally because we have too many bears and a
42 concern.

43

44

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

45

46

MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
47 think the discussion here, what Sandy is trying to
48 clarify, is the provision under Title II of ANILCA which
49 authorizes an opportunity to continue that process in
50 handicraft articles and non-edible parts.

00042

1 Under the recommendations, ADF&G opposes
2 this proposal, too. It's a statewide proposal. I'm sure
3 that's why they're opposing it. I think it's got merit
4 to that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I think that right now
7 we'll go down to the next agency, maybe the State, right?

8
9 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, I don't see
10 anybody from the State.

11
12 MS. GEORGETTE: No, I'm here, Michelle.

13
14 MS. CHIVERS: Oh, I'm sorry. Susan.

15
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: For the proposal, we'll
17 go down the line and we'll hear from the Alaska
18 Department of Fish & Game on this proposal.

19
20 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette. The
21 State's comments are on page 47 and I won't read them
22 all, but I think the first couple lines summarize it.
23 The department does not support this proposal. The
24 department consistently opposes commercialization of
25 wildlife. I think that's the department's position on a
26 lot of these.

27
28 There is a proposal coming up before the
29 Board of Game that's similar, but I would be surprised if
30 that were passed as well because the State worries a lot
31 about once money is involved with even by-products of
32 wildlife, that it can get out of control in certain
33 areas.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Susan. Any
38 questions for Susan. Enoch.

39
40 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Susan, here they're not
41 talking about the body part. I could understand on the
42 body part that needs to be done. The other guys in the
43 outside world they've got problems and we don't need
44 their problems. We're talking about the fur here, you
45 know. And it states it clearly. The fur of a brown
46 bear. On the other parts, I would oppose it, but this is
47 just the fur that's already caught legally.

48
49 If you think about it, people, as
50 Natives, we don't hunt the bear for fur. They get it

00043

1 mainly for oil nowadays in the upper Kobuk area and they
2 don't go for the fur. The fur comes last and other body
3 parts.

4

5 MS. GEORGETTE: I can appreciate that and
6 I know that there are crafts made out of by-products of
7 fur and, you're right, they're just really small amounts
8 usually on some kind of art piece or clothing. I think
9 under the customary use that that would be one way to
10 explore it, that if there's some customary use of bear
11 fur.

12

13 The department, of course, in Juneau and
14 headquarters, this is the view of using bear parts
15 especially at all for any kind of sale. It's something
16 the department is nervous about, even though there may be
17 perfectly legitimate ways that this region could use it
18 in some kind of art product.

19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Susan, I've got a
21 question for you. On this proposal, like the sale of
22 parts of a bear, I might give you a little example or
23 history of what happened about the caribou antlers like
24 20 years ago. The State legalized to sell antlers of
25 caribou and within just a year's time it went out of
26 control and there was a lot of dead caribou with no
27 antlers everywhere. My question would be, Susan, if this
28 happens for brown and black bear, what's going to happen?
29 Almost the same thing? Are they going to shoot the bear,
30 take the hide and sell it? What's going to happen then?

31

32 MS. GEORGETTE: You know as well or more
33 than I know about it, Raymond, and I think that is what
34 the State's concern is. Once you throw money into the
35 equation on almost any resource, it has the potential for
36 changing things and that's what the department worries
37 about. Some things it might not. If it turns out
38 there's not much money involved or if people don't use
39 it, then nothing happens. But if it turns out to be
40 something where there is money involved, I think that's
41 one thing the State worries about a lot, where there may,
42 in fact, be reasons to use the fur on some art product.

43

44 But what happens then with the
45 gallbladders, of course, which we all know about. Even
46 though this doesn't allow that, I think the State just
47 gets nervous about once you allow one thing and then
48 people might be selling these other things on the side.

49

50 ATTAMUK: I've got one more question.

00044

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: For the State?

2

3 ATTAMUK: For the State, yes. If we put
4 a proposal together, Susan, just for our unit, would you
5 support it or not, on legally caught brown bears? Just
6 for the State section. Just for our unit here. Like I
7 stated, we do have a lot of bears and we hear it, you
8 know. They're getting to be where they destroy calves
9 here.

10

11 MS. GEORGETTE: Attamuk, I'd say I'm
12 open-minded about it. A lot of this comes from wildlife
13 conservation. Jim Dau had to be at a mandatory pilot
14 meeting today and that's why he's not here. I don't know
15 exactly what his personal comments were because we can
16 send in comments, but it doesn't mean that's what's
17 written here when we get up to read it. So, it's
18 possible that -- well, I'd be open-minded about it. I
19 imagine Jim Dau would be.

20

21 Whether that would carry any weight
22 overall in the department, I can't say because I think
23 this really does summarize what the department's position
24 is overall, that the department mostly opposes any
25 commercialization of wildlife out of concern that things
26 would get out of control for an animal that's as valued
27 as brown bears are especially.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Right now we're just
32 following down the line. I know, Mr. Pungowi, you want
33 to testify. There's a few more agencies right here, so
34 if you don't mind, we'll get to you.

35

36 Next would be other agencies. Any
37 comments on this proposal.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, Inter-Agency
42 Staff comments.

43

44 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, an Inter-Agency
45 Staff Committee member mentioned from the audience that
46 there were none. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Fish and Game
49 Advisory, I know there's no comments on that one.
50 Summary of written public comments. We've got one right here.

00045

1 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, we did receive
2 one written comment and that comment came from the
3 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
4 Commission and they do support the proposal as written.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 Mr. Chair, when we get to the public
9 testimony, what you can do is just call this person up
10 and they can actually give public testimony. It looks
11 like he does want to testify, so I guess we can call
12 Caleb Pungowi.

13
14 MR. PUNGOWI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 My name is Caleb Pungowi. I live here in Kotzebue. I
16 read the proposal and I saw some of the objections that
17 are being made by the agencies and Department of Fish &
18 Game.

19
20 My recommendation would be that --
21 currently, Federal law provides under the Marine Mammal
22 Protection Act sale of products made from marine mammals,
23 whether it's fur from seals or from otters and polar
24 bear, that regulation provides for sale of handicraft
25 items made from those furs.

26
27 I would recommend adoption of similar
28 regulations be made with regard to brown bear if there
29 are significant fears about sale of whole hides because
30 the law currently prohibits the sale of raw hides or
31 products in whole. They have to be significantly altered
32 to allow the sale of products made from those species.

33
34 I don't see a real problem if you do
35 something like that. I don't think it would be a threat
36 to the number of brown bears around the state. Right
37 now, polar bears are a lot more significantly interesting
38 than brown bears and their numbers are less. It's not a
39 problem as far as the numbers are concerned. So I would
40 recommend that you seriously recommend to the Federal
41 Board to consider looking at a regulation that may apply
42 to marine mammals.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Pungowi.
47 Walter, we're almost done with Agency comments, including
48 the public. If we don't have any more public, we're down
49 to Council deliberation. Walter.

50

00046

1 MR. SAMPSON: No. Go ahead. I'll do
2 that in deliberation.

3
4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Do we have any more
5 public testimony or comments?

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I guess we don't. Now
10 we'll go down to the next item. Regional Council
11 deliberation, recommendation and justification. We'll
12 start with you, Walter.

13
14 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
15 think the issue with regards to how the proposed
16 regulation is written is for a statewide reg and there's
17 already State regulations in place that deals with edible
18 parts as well as non-edible parts. The issue in regards
19 to the use under Title II of ANILCA would still allow for
20 making and selling of handicraft articles for the non-
21 edible products. That certainly is still in place, so
22 that allows for that.

23
24 I can see the argument that has been made
25 if this was regionalized to a certain unit. I'm sure
26 some folks would support that. But based on the
27 information that's been provided to us under portions of
28 the report that was given, based on what the State
29 regulations say, I certainly can't support the proposed
30 regulation as written.

31
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter.
33 I'll go down the line. Enoch.

34
35 ATTAMUK: Thanks. I will oppose this
36 just for the way it's written as statewide. I would like
37 to see one in the future written down for our unit
38 because our neighboring villages might have numbers low
39 in bears and that's where it's mainly coming from. But
40 still, for my region, I would like to see it and our
41 people be able -- they won't sell the hide as whole. One
42 hide will go a long ways. It's just used for artifacts,
43 selling whatever. They need income, you know.

44
45 Personally, I'll oppose this also just
46 the way it's written as statewide. I know some regions
47 have a concern about they don't have enough bears. Just
48 for that. Thanks.

49
50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Enoch. Calvin.

00048

1 grizzly bear hides. That's just kind of the summary of
2 what I think.

3

4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Lance.

5 Lillian.

6

7 MS. JOHNSON: I go along with Enoch
8 because a lot of people could use that for benefit. They
9 can use their own gas burning and other things and we
10 have a lot of handicraft workers in the villages that
11 would be helped. That's it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Lillian.

14 Austin.

15

16 MR. SWAN: I'm pretty much in agreement
17 with everyone in the Council. The one little thing that
18 I maybe would suggest would be to change the language on
19 the proposal, making it legal to sell hand-crafted items
20 out of bear hide, but not legal to sell the whole hide,
21 raw hide.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Austin.

24 Joe.

25

26 MR. AREY: Yeah, this one is statewide
27 and we're regions, so it's different for all of Alaska
28 trying to go along with them guys from the whole state.
29 We're all different where we hunt bear. We only have
30 black bear in our region and they got lots. Just go in
31 the mountains. They've got a lot in the Kobuk area.
32 I'll just go along with Enoch.

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We've had a
35 deliberation report from the Council. I may have a
36 question to either of you. I know there was no proposal
37 written from your region for this purpose, is that
38 correct? You know, like Enoch said, that we should have
39 our own proposal. Can that be done also if somebody
40 writes a proposal, you know, for this?

41

42 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, Helen
43 Armstrong, Fish and Wildlife Service. You could do it,
44 but you'd have to do it in the next opening, which would
45 be in the fall, so this could be something that you could
46 plan on doing for next fall.

47

48 I also wanted to add we've only had one
49 Council meeting so far around the state. Last week we
50 had the one in Nome for Seward Peninsula and they also

00049

1 did not support this proposal for much of the same
2 reasons as you did, because they felt it should be done
3 on a region-by-region basis. The other regions haven't
4 met yet. Thanks.

5
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

7
8 ATTAMUK: I just have a question for you.
9 Did Barrow meet yet and they talked about this proposal
10 here?

11
12 MS. ARMSTRONG: Barrow meets next week.
13 This is only the second meeting we've had.

14
15 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, are we done?
16 Are we ready for a motion?

17
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You're waiting for an
19 action from the Council for either delete or pass it?

20
21 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes, sir. I'm just
22 waiting on your deliberation and your decision.

23
24 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I move for
25 opposing the Proposal WP04-01.

26
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It's been moved by
28 Percy to oppose proposal WP04-01.

29
30 MR. MOTO: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second has been made.
33 Any discussion.

34
35 MR. MOTO: Question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Question has been
38 called by Calvin. All in favor of opposing Proposal
39 WP04-01 signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Objections.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: This next one, it's a
48 long one.

49
50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes, sir.

00050

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I see it's got all
2 kinds of numbers, starting from 72, 73, 74 and 75. How
3 are you going to do that? Just one by one or just one
4 whole thing?

5
6 MR. ARDIZZONE: We'll do it as one, as a
7 group. Our next proposal is on sheep. There was four
8 proposals submitted to change sheep regulations in the
9 Baird and DeLong Mountains. Proposal WP04-72 was
10 submitted by the Western Arctic National Parklands and
11 requests the removal of trophy destruction regulation for
12 the Baird Mountains in Unit 23, sets harvest quota and
13 implements a ewe hunt.

14
15 There was Proposal WP04-73, also
16 submitted by the Parklands, that requests removal of the
17 trophy destruction regulation for the DeLong Mountains in
18 Unit 23 and Unit 26(A). The proposal also requests a set
19 harvest quota and requests implementation of a ewe hunt.

20
21 Proposal WP04-74 was submitted by Paul
22 Atkins and requests that Unit 23 sheep regulations be
23 changed to discontinue the required trophy destruction of
24 harvested sheep horns.

25
26 There's Proposal WP04-75, which is
27 submitted by Lance Kramer, and requests adjustments in
28 the sheep harvest in the Baird Mountains in Unit 23. The
29 proposed changes are to discontinue the required
30 destruction of the trophy value of the sheep horns,
31 change the spring hunt to a ewe only hunt, to show proof
32 of the full curl by taking a picture, video or bringing
33 the horns into the National Park Service office and,
34 finally, if the fall harvest quota is less than 10 rams,
35 designated hunting is not allowed and if the winter
36 harvest quota is less than 10 rams, designated hunting is
37 not allowed.

38
39 Staff at the Western Arctic National
40 Parklands office believes the Baird Mountain and delong
41 Mountain sheep populations are increasing in number and
42 an either sex hunt is sustainable if harvest quotas are
43 established.

44
45 The National Park Service states that the
46 proposed regulation language is less complicated and will
47 be easier to understand by users, managers and
48 enforcement personnel. The staff have pointed out that
49 the sheep population has recovered sufficiently to allow
50 for a sustainable harvest and that regulations should

00051

1 move away from annual quota setting and only require
2 quotas adjustments when significant population changes
3 occur. They also stated that removing the trophy
4 destruction provision would improve compliance with
5 reporting requirements of the hunt.

6
7 Mr. Atkins and Mr. Kramer believe that
8 the recent regulation changes to destroy the trophy value
9 of sheep horns is not appropriate and that doing away
10 with the requirement would benefit subsistence users. It
11 would allow the users to use the horns for crafts or
12 keepsakes and not be penalized.

13
14 In addition, Mr. Kramer would like to
15 change the season and harvest limit. He believes the
16 spring limit should be a ewe, as it was traditionally,
17 and that it would allow the harvest of animals in peak
18 condition, as rams are not in peak condition due to the
19 rut and winter weather.

20
21 Once again, there's a long regulatory
22 history for the sheep that most of you are aware of. I
23 will just briefly go over the most recent regulatory
24 changes concerning the sheep.

25
26 In May of 2002, the Federal Subsistence
27 Board adopted WP02-39 implementing the current
28 regulations for sheep harvest in Units 23 and 26(A),
29 which includes the requirement for trophy destruction of
30 the harvested sheep horns. This proposal for trophy
31 destruction was made at the request of this Council.

32
33 There's a little bit of regulatory
34 history concerning designated hunter permit system. In
35 2002, Proposal WP02-38, submitted by this Council,
36 requested that the designated hunter permit system be
37 discontinued. The Board denied this request and chose
38 instead to implement the destruction of the horns for
39 trophy value. The Board felt that removing the
40 designated hunter permit system would have a detrimental
41 effect on subsistence users.

42
43 A brief biological background. Aerial
44 surveys for sheep in the Western Baird Mountains have
45 been conducted during July since 1986. The survey area
46 encompasses sheep habitat that has the highest density of
47 sheep in the Baird Mountains. Between 1986 and 1990, the
48 sheep population grew and lamb production and recruitment
49 were high. Following record deep snows in 1988-89 and
50 1990-91, the sheep population declined dramatically.

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1 The number of large rams decreased 54%
2 from 1998 to 1999 according to July population surveys by
3 the National Park Service. The decline was probably
4 caused by high over-winter mortality of the older age
5 classes that had survived the harsh winters of the early
6 '90s. This rapid decline of harvestable rams prompted
7 the National Park Service to forego a Federal harvest
8 during the 1999/2000 season.

9
10 In 2001, the sheep population was
11 estimated to have increased to 616 animals and in 2002
12 the population was estimated to have grown to 682
13 animals. However, only 10 full-curl rams were sighted
14 during the survey in that year and the harvest of both
15 the Bairds and the DeLongs was closed.

16
17 Based on the 2000 aerial survey, smaller
18 rams were increasing in numbers and the prospect of
19 large, harvestable rams in the future was good.

20
21 The harvest history. Since the
22 population began its recovery in the mid-1990s, there
23 have been four Federal subsistence hunts in the Baird
24 Mountains. As a conservative measure, harvest quotas
25 were calculated at 30% of the full-curl rams counted
26 during the annual, summer surveys.

27
28 Table 4 on page 70 summarizes the number
29 of sheep harvested by Federal subsistence users for these
30 hunts. Aircraft have been the primary mode of
31 transportation in the fall season, followed by boats.
32 During the winter, travel was primarily by snowmachine
33 followed by a small amount of boat use during mild
34 winters. During periods when the Federal subsistence
35 sheep harvest has occurred, the fall harvest was almost
36 entirely taken using aircraft, primarily by Kotzebue
37 residents. In villages such as Noatak and Kiana,
38 snowmachines and boats have been the only methods used to
39 access sheep.

40
41 We talked a little bit about ram harvest.
42 It's been calculated at 30% of the full-curl rams.

43
44 I wanted to talk a little bit about ewe
45 harvest. A ewe harvest would better meet the needs of
46 subsistence users by providing for more harvest
47 opportunity. However, maintaining the health of the
48 population is the primary mandate. As a conservative
49 measure, adult female mortality should be exceeded by
50 female lamb recruitment, resulting in a net gain of

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1 female sheep each year. Currently the ewe population is
2 at approximately 300 animals and a 2% ewe harvest is
3 proposed. Ewe harvests in the future should be
4 contingent upon continued population growth.

5
6 There's some other issues that were
7 brought up by proponents. WP04-75 suggests that the
8 hunter be required to show proof of the full curl by
9 instant picture, video or by bringing the horns in to the
10 National Park Service or National Park Service
11 representative within 30 days of harvesting an animal,
12 thus ensuring only a full curl animal was taken and
13 proper reporting. Many of today's cameras will record
14 the date and time of the photo, however this is easily
15 manipulated. This type of proof could be easily
16 falsified. It can also be deceptive based on the exact
17 position of the skull and camera. Therefore, it is not a
18 feasible alternative as it would be problematic for law
19 enforcement.

20
21 I'll go into some effects of the
22 proposals. The intent of requiring the destruction of
23 the sheep horns' trophy value in 2002 was to discourage
24 hunters who were only interested in the trophy value of
25 the horns and not necessarily the meat. Some subsistence
26 hunters have testified that they take sheep primarily for
27 the meat, but they also want the horns for use in crafts.

28
29
30 The downside of destroying the trophy
31 value is that it prevents the use of these horns for
32 crafts and keepsake by subsistence users. This issue was
33 discussed the fall 2001 meeting in Kotzebue and the loss
34 of the crafts' value of the horns was considered
35 secondary to the purpose of dispersing the harvest more
36 broadly in the region. Although the destruction of the
37 horns was determined at the time as an appropriate way to
38 limit individuals that are hunting for a trophy, it has
39 not been working effectively and removing this
40 requirement would allow the subsistence users who want to
41 use the horns for crafts to do so.

42
43 Currently, the sheep harvest seasons in
44 Units 23 and 26(A) are split into a fall and a flexible
45 winter season. The annual harvest quotas are also
46 flexible. Quotas are determined using annual survey
47 data. If Proposals WP04-72 and 73 are adopted, they
48 would remove the ability for the Superintendent of the
49 Western Arctic National Parklands to set both the season
50 harvest quotas and the dates of the winter season.

00054

1 The current system provides flexibility
2 in harvest management, such as adjusting the start of the
3 winter season until adequate snowfall permits good
4 snowmachine access and discourages aircraft access. The
5 current flexibility addresses concerns over distributing
6 sheep harvest equitably among the local communities.

7
8 In addition, the delegated authority to
9 the Superintendent allows harvest quota changes to be
10 made without having to go back through the Federal
11 Subsistence Board with Special Actions. Adoption of
12 Proposals WP04-72 and 72 would remove these beneficial
13 management tools.

14
15 Although the current process requires
16 close local coordination with ADF&G and BLM, it helps
17 ensure consistency and encourages consensus in the
18 management of the local sheep population.

19
20 Presently, sheep harvest on Federal Lands
21 in the Baird Mountains in Unit 23 has been restricted to
22 Federally-qualified subsistence users only due to
23 conservation concerns over the sheep populations. If
24 harvest limits are liberalized from one full curl ram to
25 one sheep and a ewe harvest is allowed, as proposed by
26 WP04-72, 73 and 75, a closure may no longer be warranted.

27
28
29 If a ewe harvest is approved, a very
30 short reporting requirement should be established to help
31 prevent the possibility of the over-harvest of ewes.
32 Initiating a ewe harvest through a one sheep harvest
33 limit would provide more opportunity for subsistence
34 users and would allow the traditional harvest of ewes.
35 If the one sheep harvest limit is approved with the
36 provision that the ewe harvest is closed when a ewe quota
37 is met, then the hunt becomes a ram only harvest.

38
39 With a ram only harvest, hunters should
40 be restricted to take only mature rams (3/4 curl or
41 larger) to prevent ewes from being mistakenly harvested
42 as young rams. In addition, current regulations require
43 the hunter to bring both horns from the field as proof of
44 sex when the harvest limit is restricted to a ram.

45
46 Designating someone to hunt when a person
47 cannot go is a long-term customary and traditional
48 practice. If the current designated hunter provisions
49 were discontinued, there could be a negative effect on
50 the subsistence users if it meant not being able to

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1 obtain the highly valued sheep meat.

2

3

4 The preliminary conclusion is to support
5 these proposals, 72, 73, 74 and 75 with modification.
6 Elements supported include the removal of the trophy
7 destruction requirement and the establishment of a ewe
8 season. The following elements are not supported: Use
9 of cameras to document the harvest; limitations on the
10 use of designated hunter provisions; the removal of the
11 delegated authority to the Superintendent of the Western
12 Arctic National Parklands to announce the harvest quotas
13 and seasons; and the removal of the distinct fall and
14 winter seasons, which would result in a continuous
15 season.

15

16

Are there any questions?

17

18

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Before we get going on
19 this, you know, there's a lot of agencies having a
20 meeting here in Kotzebue everywhere and I'm asking you
21 what time you want lunch. If you go exactly at 12:00, it
22 would be at least 1:30, 2:00 before you come back. So,
23 if you want to break for lunch early, it's fine, because
24 if we go around lunch time, I know we'll never get lunch.
25 What's the wish of the Council? This proposal is going
26 to take a while. Walter, do you have any suggestions
27 about lunch break?

28

29

MR. SAMPSON: Quarter to 12:00. Come
30 back at 1:00.

31

32

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that enough time
33 from quarter to 12:00 and come back at 1:00, 1:30? Okay,
34 the wishes of the Council, we'll break for lunch quarter
35 to 12:00 and come back at 1:00 o'clock.

36

37

So, if you have any questions about this
38 proposal, take some time. Now we'll go down to the State
39 department.

40

41

MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chair, I have a question
42 for Chuck. What was the reason why the Park Service or
43 whoever was not willing to accept 75? Was it because of
44 the wording? Maybe it was too confusing for hunters to
45 read.

46

47

MR. ARDIZZONE: It looks like, Lance, I
48 think the only things they didn't want to accept was the
49 taking of the picture. In our regulations already, it's
50 required to bring the horns back out. Based on what

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1 happened in 2001 about the Board not wanting to do away
2 with designated hunter, I don't think that was supported
3 either. They wanted to keep the designated hunter in
4 even if it was only 10 animals.

5
6 MR. KRAMER: When can I comment on that,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: In deliberation. Now
10 we're.....

11
12 MR. ARDIZZONE: Lance, just a
13 clarification. It wasn't the Park Service that didn't
14 want to accept it. This is just like Staff analysis.

15
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Helen.

17
18 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, since this is
19 a whole new thing for a couple of our -- well, for Lance.
20 I know Joe is back on, and for Calvin. Just to explain
21 the whole process that we go through. The Staff writes
22 an analysis and they make a recommendation, but that
23 recommendation never goes beyond -- it doesn't go to the
24 Board. It's just one to kind of get people started at
25 the Council level to sort of figure out where you want to
26 go and then the Council can then look at the Staff
27 recommendation and they can modify it, they can oppose
28 it, they can support it and then the Council
29 recommendation goes to the Staff Committee and then goes
30 forward to the Board from there. So the Board hears the
31 Council recommendation, they hear the Staff Committee
32 recommendation and then they make a decision, but our
33 Staff recommendation at this level never goes to the
34 Board. It's just done for kind of ease of trying to put
35 everybody's ideas together.

36
37 So, Lance, if you wanted to, I mean the
38 Council can say, well, we disagree with the Staff and we
39 want it back in there with the cameras or whatever you
40 might want to do. Okay? Just so that you understand our
41 process. Thanks.

42
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We'll go down the line
44 then. Do we have any comments from the State department
45 on this proposal? Susan.

46
47 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette. As all
48 of you know, the sheep regulation stuff is really
49 complicated and has been for a long time. I talked to
50 Jim Dau about this yesterday, so I think I know what he's

00057

1 thinking. Just to bring you up to date, and this is
2 aside from this proposal, but in the DeLongs this year,
3 there is what I would call a sport hunt, like from the
4 1980s, fly in, 11 permits issued by the State for the
5 DeLongs, for full-curl rams for Alaska residents and 11
6 permits were issued. It was a drawing hunt, which is
7 new. It used to be, 10 or 15 years ago, a registration
8 hunt, so there was not really a quota of any kind.

9

10 But this year there is a hunt up there in
11 the DeLongs, that's the north side of the Noatak River,
12 for 11 full-curl rams. The State also is having the
13 subsistence hunt up there, which is for nine sheep, no
14 airplane access. It's kind of similar to what it was
15 before the sheep declined in the early '90s. The nine
16 comes from the subsistence determination for how many
17 sheep were believed to be needed to meet the needs of
18 Noatak and Kivalina in particular, Point Hope a little
19 bit and some in Kotzebue.

20

21 That's how we arrived at the 11, was that
22 there was this idea that 20 sheep could be taken and
23 someone could talk to why the 20, maybe Brad or Ken, and
24 so the State has issued 11 of these drawing permits this
25 year for up there. Then there's going to be the winter
26 hunt for the nine subsistence sheep. The State doesn't
27 have any hunt in the Baird Mountains.

28

29 The State's comments on this proposal are
30 on page 78. These comments are more on the original
31 proposals and not on the modified proposal. Jim Dau felt
32 that instead of having a quota for ewes, which is how the
33 original proposal was written, an annual quota, because
34 the number was so small of ewes that could be taken, he
35 felt that it would be easy to exceed that harvest in a
36 weekend of hunting before you could really close a
37 season. That if there's only three ewes allowed, that in
38 fact maybe five could be taken. So his recommendation
39 was that there be a ewe quota that was maybe for the next
40 three years. Like over the next three years we could
41 take 15 ewes. So, if you took five this year, then next
42 year you would take a few less, so it wasn't a fixed
43 amount every year. That's what this means where it says
44 that we support establishing a two to three year moving
45 average quota for ewes, is what he thought.

46

47 Now, I see in the modified proposal, and
48 this had me confused, there is no quota listed here. I
49 guess it would be announced. And it would be a ewe and a
50 ram. So I assume that Jim's or the department's

00058

1 recommendation would still be that if there's a small ewe
2 quota, that the hunt be managed over two or three years
3 how many ewes can be taken. So, if more are taken one
4 year, then less would be taken the next year or less
5 would be allocated for the next year.

6
7 The comments also say that -- the
8 comments also question requiring that only the full-curl
9 rams be harvested. Jim felt that it might be better for
10 the population to distribute the harvest among different
11 age class of rams. The modified proposal has it as a
12 three-quarter curl. Honestly, I couldn't tell you what
13 Jim would say to that. I think he probably would still
14 feel that it might be better just to have it be rams and
15 not have it just be full curl or the large ones, but that
16 the population could accommodate some being taken of all
17 different age classes.

18
19 The department also does not support
20 removing the trophy destruction requirements. Jim felt
21 that if people aren't reporting them because of that,
22 then it's an enforcement problem and there should just be
23 more enforcement on it. I think the way the department
24 feels about it is that there's a lot of scrutiny
25 statewide on subsistence hunting.

26
27 The particulars of this hunt are just
28 unusual enough that it can often look as if it's a real
29 sport hunt even though it's called a subsistence hunt
30 because it has happened to be that only full-curl rams
31 were the bag limit and that was only because that was the
32 surplus that was available, but there was also airplane
33 access and all this and I think the department feels that
34 a full-curl ram hunt only for subsistence users in the
35 Northwest Arctic that allows airplane access just didn't
36 really look good. So, by requiring that the trophy value
37 of the horns be destroyed, legitimized it more as a
38 subsistence hunt. And that's what Jim would say about
39 it.

40
41 Now, the hunt has changed some because
42 there's ewes now and if, in fact, smaller rams can be
43 taken, it becomes a different kind of hunt than when it
44 was only the full-curl ram hunt.

45
46 That's all I have. I think all of these
47 are pretty much the same for all the different proposals.

48
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for the
50 State department?

00059

1 MR. SWAN: I have a question on Proposal
2 WP04-72 and 73. The third sentence. Instead, we support
3 establishing a two to three year moving average quota for
4 ewes. I don't understand what you're saying here.

5
6 MS. GEORGETTE: Yeah, I didn't understand
7 that either and that's why I asked Jim Dau, he's our
8 biologist, yesterday. What he said was that instead of
9 having a quota per year, like three ewes per year is the
10 quota, that he thought it would be better to say you can
11 take 10 over three years and that way if more are taken
12 the first year, there would be less that could be taken
13 the next year. His concern was that if the limit is so
14 low, like three ewes, that it's just hard sometimes to
15 close that hunt or to close the ewe hunt before more are
16 taken. That would just, he thought, give more
17 flexibility in the management. Does that make sense?

18
19 MR. SWAN: Somewhat.

20
21 MS. GEORGETTE: Do you want to ask
22 something else?

23
24 MR. SWAN: It may become clearer later
25 on. I'm just wondering about that.

26
27 MS. GEORGETTE: I think the idea is that
28 instead of having a quota for each year, you have a quota
29 for a longer period of time that would go over two or
30 three years. How many are taken early on affects how
31 many are taken those later years.

32
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it, Susan?

34
35 MS. GEORGETTE: Yeah, that's it.

36
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

38
39 MR. KRAMER: Can I say something real
40 quick for the State?

41
42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

43
44 MR. KRAMER: You know, the State has to
45 be really careful in saying that these regulations have
46 to be careful in what they say, you know, in terms of
47 transportation. It looks like a sport hunt because
48 people are going on airplanes. You know, you've got to
49 be careful when you say it looks like all the time
50 because I fly quite a bit with people and I go sheep

00060

1 hunting every year and I'm not going out for sport, I'm
2 going out for subsistence.

3

4 The State has to be extremely careful in
5 understanding that it's not the mode of transportation
6 that says you're going out sport or subsistence hunting,
7 it's what you're doing with that animal that's very
8 important.

9

10 So don't be too concerned about the
11 logistics of how you get out there or what you do with
12 it, I mean like with the horns, but whether or not you
13 partake in that meat.

14

15 MS. GEORGETTE: Yeah, I think some of
16 that came from in the 1980s when the Board of Game looked
17 at the sheep hunts in the unit. We did work on --
18 there's different use patterns is what I would say in
19 sheep hunting. Noatak had different use patterns than
20 Anchorage and Kotzebue has a mix of different use
21 patterns and the view then was that mode of
22 transportation was a distinction between certain kinds of
23 use patterns. You can't really get at exactly in
24 regulation or anything what people do with it, or you can
25 depending on if they're eating it or not for sure.

26

27 I think one of the hallmarks for the
28 subsistence in a lot of ways is the efficiency question,
29 about how efficient getting food is, and that's why
30 there's certain ways that people hunt and fish that are
31 really efficient for getting things. The Board of Game
32 at the time felt that airplane access was a pattern that
33 you didn't find in Noatak, for instance, or you didn't
34 really find for the most part in Kivalina or Point Hope
35 and in Kotzebue you did find that some and you found
36 other use patterns too.

37

38 MR. KRAMER: Airplanes are efficient in
39 the fall time for that. It would take a long four-
40 wheeler ride to get up in there or walking.

41

42 MS. GEORGETTE: That's right. Well,
43 there wasn't much fall time hunting by the village
44 people. They were mostly snowmachine access because,
45 you're right, in the fall time, in most cases, it wasn't
46 really an efficient way to get in and out. But I
47 appreciate your comment, Lance.

48

49 MR. KRAMER: Because in the future
50 somebody could say that hunting wolves with a snowmachine

00061

1 is sport, you know, because it's fun and it's
2 recreational. You get to high-fly while you're chasing
3 them. We have to be real careful when we talk about
4 transportation.

5

6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to
9 remind all of us that in regards to how we question the
10 Staff in regards to the presentation. There's a
11 difference between deliberating and questioning the
12 issues that's been presented to us here. I think as far
13 as deliberation is concerned, that's when we get to our
14 section for our part as Council.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter.
17 Other Agency comments.

18

19 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council
20 Members, Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. Since the
21 Park Service is a proponent of two of the proposals and
22 since we're also aware that the Inter-Agency Staff
23 Committee has developed a series of questions related to
24 the various proposals, with your permission, it might be
25 more efficient if we held off our comments until after
26 the Inter-Agency Staff Committee has presented their
27 series of questions. Then, as part of our comments, we
28 could perhaps address some of those or whatever and give
29 you an opportunity to ask some of our staff specific
30 questions related to the biology or the allocation issues
31 that are involved. So, with your permission, we'd like
32 to hold off until after the Inter-Agency Staff Committee
33 has presented their questions to you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Ken. Inter-
36 Agency Staff Committee comments.

37

38 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman. Again, I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with the Park
40 Service. I also sit on the Inter-Agency Staff Committee
41 as one of the Park Service representatives to that group.

42

43 I'd like to take just a little bit more
44 time than we might normally to kind of introduce the
45 questions that I'm going to ask and I'll try to do this
46 quickly. Then, when I get to my questions, you'll see
47 that I have six questions and then one informational
48 item, so this will take me a little bit, but I'll try to
49 move along.

50

00062

1 The first thing that we're trying to do
2 is trying to increase the understanding of all the
3 Councils of who the Staff Committee is. What group am I
4 a part of and, in basic terms, how is it different than
5 the Staff because we use the word Staff kind of casually
6 through both.

7
8 In short, there's really kind of two
9 staffs when we talk about it. There's the staff of the
10 Fish and Wildlife Service. Chuck, to my left, Michelle,
11 to my right, are examples. Helen, all the people that
12 you're very familiar with. That's the staff of Fish and
13 Wildlife Service that serves the Federal program and does
14 all the hard work and heavy lifting that you all see.

15
16 There's also a second group called the
17 Inter-Agency Staff Committee and that's a group that I
18 sit on. I happen to work for the Park Service. Warren
19 Eastland, and I'll ask Warren just to raise his hand for
20 a second or stand up, is the other Staff Committee person
21 here. Warren works for the BIA. Each of the agencies
22 has one or two Staff Committee members. The Park Service
23 has two, BIA has two, Fish and Wildlife has two, BLM has
24 one and then the chairman, Mitch Demientieff, has one
25 Staff Committee member also, Carl Jack.

26
27 So, they're different groups and that's
28 the first major, key point that we make. When Chuck
29 talks about a Staff recommendation, as you were doing a
30 few minutes ago, that's from the Staff. It's not
31 necessarily from the Inter-Agency Staff Committee. We
32 work with Chuck. I mean Chuck and I talk about things, I
33 give him opinions or ideas or whatever, but it's up to
34 Chuck whether he wants to include those or not. He gets
35 to make his own independent judgment with the staff of
36 Fish and Wildlife Service.

37
38 I guess I would say that we think in the
39 past and maybe still presently there's been confusion,
40 maybe particularly for new members that are seeing so
41 many new faces and an audience full of Agency folks, just
42 sort of who we are and which group we're a part of. I
43 think I'll kind of leave my introduction at that.
44 Hopefully that makes some sense and if people have any
45 questions or whatever, I'm happy to answer them. If you
46 want to talk to me afterward, I'll be here all day.
47 Warren will be here all day and we could talk more about
48 that.

49

50

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

00063

1 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Sandy, through
2 the Chair. Thanks for clarifying the process that these
3 proposals have to go through and try to differentiate who
4 does what, where, when. A question to you is, in regards
5 to putting together all four or five proposals together
6 like that with different dates, with different areas, to
7 me is also confusing. I think that's where we're getting
8 confused on numbers and areas of hunt.

9
10 Maybe at some point in time we ought to
11 make a recommendation to give a presentation or give an
12 analysis by unit areas or sub-unit areas because I
13 certainly want to ask Willie to give a quick talk as well
14 in regards to the times when sheep numbers were down and
15 what they were able to do in regards to work things out
16 on where hunts would occur when.

17
18 So, with Chuck's presentation, it sort of
19 confuses things, that it's okay to hunt within certain
20 areas, yet other certain areas not quite clear as to what
21 you may take and how you may take. So it sort of
22 confuses things there. So maybe in the future, as far as
23 introductions of these proposals go, you ought to present
24 them as a proposal, not together, even though they deal
25 with the same species. Even though they deal with the
26 same species, it still confuses what they do up at the
27 Cutler and what those numbers are and when they can be
28 hunted versus what might happen over here by Aniok or
29 close to Rabbit Creek, so there's quite a distance
30 difference there how these things are taken.

31
32 MR. RABINOWITCH: Mr. Chairman, if I
33 might. Whether or not Staff lumps proposals together as
34 they have here and as Walter has just spoken about or
35 whether they keep them separate, it's really just a
36 judgment call that the Staff, like Chuck, and others
37 make. It's just their best shot at trying to make it
38 understandable. When you get several proposals like
39 this, it's pretty hard -- I'm kind of talking in Chuck's
40 defense, I guess, but it's pretty hard to see the future
41 and know whether it's better to lump them or keep them
42 split apart. It's just a choice. Sometimes you make a
43 good choice and sometimes maybe you don't.

44
45 You know, I looked at this and I thought,
46 yeah, it makes sense to lump these together because
47 they're all about sheep, but it doesn't necessarily mean
48 that you thought it made the most sense. So, I don't
49 think it's a huge thing and if you all have a preference
50 or ideas or whatever, I'd encourage you to just let Chuck

00064

1 or Michelle or Helen know about it and I'm sure they'd be
2 happy to accommodate however you want to see things.

3

4 One other quick comment and then I'll
5 move on to the specific questions and I know somebody
6 will help, maybe Michelle will help keep watch on our
7 lunch time break here so I don't run over. But the last
8 thing that the Inter-Agency Staff Committee that I'm part
9 of does is after all the Council meetings have occurred,
10 on the wildlife side of things, we have a regular meeting
11 in April. It usually lasts two, three or four days and
12 we go through each and every proposal in the proposal
13 book that the Federal board is going to see and we
14 discuss and debate each and ever one of these.

15

16 Chuck, on these proposals, will give us a
17 short presentation. Michelle or Helen will summarize
18 what the Council position was on them for the Staff
19 Committee, then we have our own debate, just like you do,
20 and our job is to try to think through them and come up
21 with an Inter-Agency view of what we think about the
22 proposal and what we think ought to go forward. We
23 always record that and then that's shared with the public
24 and the Federal board.

25

26 Then, individually, we all, of course,
27 work for an agency, so my member, Judy Gottlieb, who many
28 of you, I think, know, she's been here a number of times
29 in the past, it's my job to brief her on each of these
30 also. It's also my job to give her a recommendation on
31 what I think she should support and not support. That's
32 true for Warren, with Nile Caesar, BIA, and everyone
33 else. So we do several different things. We work as a
34 group and then we also work individually with our own
35 board members and that's what our job is all about. So,
36 it's just part of the process.

37

38 I think with that I'm going to stop and
39 I'll move into the specific questions about these sheep
40 proposals.

41

42 We had six questions and one specific bit
43 of information to offer. I would say that this may be
44 one of the more complicated proposals this year in that
45 there's four proposals that are being combined together.
46 There's a number of different elements that are under
47 discussion here and there's different ideas about what to
48 do with these elements so that sort of makes it more
49 complicated.

50

00066

1 from the proposal, changes from quotas announced each
2 July by the Park Service. I'm sure some of you are
3 familiar with that. Every July the Park Service puts out
4 a press release and says here's when the hunt is open and
5 here's what their quota is going to be. Where this
6 proposal gives you a fixed opening date, it's going to be
7 published in the book year after year and it gives you a
8 fixed quota and we want to know if you like that idea or
9 don't like that idea. The Park Service or Ken
10 specifically, I think, can offer you the Park Service's
11 rationale. It's more lengthy on why that was proposed.
12 But we want to know what you think about it.

13

14 The proposals also eliminate -- actually,
15 I think all four of the proposals recommend eliminating
16 the destruction of trophy value of sheep horns, so we're
17 curious about what you think about that. If you think
18 it's a good idea or if you think it serves some purpose
19 and would rather leave it in place.

20

21 The last question is about full-curl rams
22 and we're curious if you support going to a full-curl ram
23 requirement or if you'd rather hunt for any ram. You've
24 already heard a little bit about that. Particularly,
25 what do you think the effects of going after full curl
26 versus any ram are? Just your thoughts about the
27 strengths or weaknesses of doing one or the other of
28 those.

29

30 Thankfully, I'm out of questions, but I
31 have one more thing to say, and I'm out of time, so I'll
32 wrap up real quick. The Staff Committee had a concern
33 about the proof of sex requirements, so I was able to
34 turn this one into an answer for you rather than a
35 question. On page 21 of the Federal book here that Chuck
36 has, it's explained that the current regulations -- I'll
37 just read it because it's quicker.

38

39 If the subsistence take of a Dall sheep
40 is restricted to a ram, which in some of these proposals
41 that's where you might be, that no person may possess or
42 transport a harvested sheep unless both horns accompany
43 the animal. So if a certain species is required, this
44 regulation is already in place and a hunter would have to
45 do that to be compliant with the regulations. So that's
46 just something to keep in mind when you think about what
47 the harvest limit is that you want to recommend. We can
48 talk more about that.

49

50 I hope that's not too lengthy. I know

00067

1 it's time to break for lunch also.

2

3

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. I know there
4 will be a lot of questions to be asked after lunch, but
5 we made up our minds to go to lunch at quarter to 12:00
6 and there's a lot of agencies having meetings everywhere,
7 so let's go to lunch and be back at 1:00 o'clock.

8

9

(Off record)

10

11

(On record)

12

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good afternoon. We're
13 ready to go. Can I have your attention, please. I'll
14 call the meeting back to order. We're still on Proposal
15 WP04-72 and we're still at Inter-Agency Staff Committee
16 comments. Are we done with that?

17

18

19

MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am
20 done and I've given all the Council Members copies of the
21 questions that I went through before lunch. I'll move
22 away from the table and give someone else a chance, but
23 if you want to talk about these or have questions later,
24 I'll be here and happy to come back up to the mike.

25

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MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council
Members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. With me
is Brad Shults from Western Arctic National Parklands.
Brad, as you know, is a wildlife biologist and will be
glad to address biological questions or provide
additional information related to the biological status
of the population.

00068

1 I guess, to make things short, we can
2 maybe touch on several of the key questions, I think,
3 that have surfaced. It's a long, complicated process.
4 This hunt has been going on now -- you know, it was
5 closed for a prolonged period and then finally opened
6 with the first hunt in 1998. It's gone through a lot of
7 resolving various issues with State/Federal jurisdiction
8 and trying to basically deal with problems each season
9 that emerged largely as a result of the small quota
10 allocations and shifting quota allocations. So it does
11 have a convoluted history and it's very easy to get lost,
12 but I think a good review of the biological status now
13 and discussion of some of the points, for example, in our
14 proposal I think will simplify things.

15
16 Probably the number one place -- let me
17 say one thing about the proposals that the Park Service
18 offered. It's our hope that in working with the Regional
19 Council and other folks that these proposals will, one,
20 be a lot simpler and easier for people to understand and
21 follow, but the same time, within the biological
22 constraints of the population and mandates to maintain
23 natural and healthy populations, the proposals that we've
24 put forth build on the positive points of the other
25 proposals, add some additional features and we think will
26 maximize opportunities for the users. So that's kind of
27 where we're coming from and we'll be glad to answer
28 questions and go through anything that you might have.

29
30 I think probably the first place to start
31 is the issue of the ewes and whether or not to hunt them,
32 whether what we're proposing would delay the growth of
33 the population, would limit opportunities by other users.
34 That has both the biological aspect to it and an
35 allocation question. Brad will address the biological
36 end of it and I'll touch on the allocation issues. So
37 might as well start with the biological end of what
38 effect, if anything, this ewe proposal will have on the
39 population.

40
41 MR. SHULTS: You guys can stop me any
42 time and ask any questions, but I'll just make a couple
43 quick points. One point is I feel pretty strongly that
44 the population in the Baird Mountains can certainly
45 support a limited quota ewe hunt. That's my bottom line
46 on that right now and we can talk about how that's
47 derived. Essentially, I'm proposing a 2% harvest of what
48 I think is out there for ewes, which is around 300, is
49 what my estimate is, and a 2% harvest of those standing
50 ewes essentially, which is six animals.

00069

1 The other one is I originally proposed to
2 stick with the full curl thing, which is what we've been
3 for the last four subsistence hunts. There's a lot of
4 reasons behind that, but after talking to some folks --
5 you know, there were some concerns about people
6 accidentally shooting smaller rams thinking they were ewes
7 and enforcement issues. The comment by the Department of
8 Fish and Game to shoot any ram is entirely acceptable and
9 probably makes really good sense to spread the harvest
10 across the age structure of rams. I'm willing to support
11 that also and I think that's a fine alternative. So what
12 you'd have is any ram hunt and then a limited ewe hunt.
13 So I could support both of those.

14
15 If you look on page 66 of your book, I
16 just want to give you a quick comparison so we have a
17 little frame of reference here, where we're at today with
18 that sheep population and where we used to be. On 66 is
19 a table of all the population surveys that have been done
20 since 1986 and those are minimum count surveys using
21 airplanes and that's how many sheep we saw. That doesn't
22 correct for how many we didn't see, which we have some
23 estimates of that.

24
25 If you look at 1986 and '87, you look at
26 the total population size, somewhere in the mid-600, 670,
27 665. This is all prior to the crash. And you see it
28 growing through 1989. You also look down the adult line.
29 You see adult numbers 561, 522, 620. Those are sheep
30 that aren't, you know, distinct. We separate out lambs
31 and those include yearling sheep and those sorts of
32 things.

33
34 But if you look then over to 2001 and
35 2002, we're real close to where we're at in '86 and '87.
36 We're not doing too bad. The adult numbers have really
37 climbed out of the hole since 1996 when it was down to
38 244 counted adults. That was that post bad winter in
39 1991, '89, '90. '90-'91 was a record snowfall for this
40 area ever recorded.

41
42 I want to tell you that because I want to
43 tell you what was going on in 1986 and '87 for a hunt in
44 the Baird Mountains. In '86 and '87 there was a season
45 that ran from August 1st through about April 30th and the
46 quota was 30 sheep of either sex, any age. Just 30
47 sheep. We're well below what we're proposing here of what
48 was going on then. That seemed sustainable at that point
49 and I think it probably was, you know, second-guessing
50 it.

00070

1 MR. SAMPSON: When you say 30 sheep, what
2 are you looking at, ewes, rams?

3

4 MR. SHULTS: Any sheep.

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: Any sheep.

7

8 MR. SHULTS: So, potentially, you could
9 have had a harvest of 30 ewes and no one seemed to be
10 concerned about that then. You know, I mean, that was a
11 big quota, really, for the size of the population. What
12 we're proposing is a lot -- you know, we're limiting it
13 to six ewes, a fifth of what you could have potentially
14 harvested at the same population size back in '86 and
15 '87, so we feel we're being really conservative here and
16 still giving people the opportunity to harvest sheep that
17 they come upon without the full-curl ram only
18 restrictions.

19

20 My point of all that is there was a much
21 more liberal season going on back then. We have a lot
22 more information now and we're being very conservative,
23 so my point is don't be overly concerned with the harvest
24 of six ewes.

25

26 I think the other major question that the
27 Staff Committee asked is are we going to slow the
28 population growth. This population jumps around a little
29 bit in terms of our count numbers, but a lot of that is
30 just survey techniques and things. Make no mistake about
31 it, it's growing and it's growing similar to what it did
32 in the late '80s. The productivity is a little lower, so
33 we see fewer lambs. We're not seeing 150 lambs a year
34 like we were back in -- or even 180 like in 1988.

35

36 So, productivity is not bad, but remember
37 all we're trying to do is balance out deaths of animals
38 with births of animals. Really, it's a recruitment.
39 They've got to be born and then they've got to survive to
40 adult age to replace what's dying naturally and what's
41 being killed by hunters. I think we can certainly do
42 that given the size of the lamb crops we've had in the
43 last couple years. They're pretty large and I think
44 recruitment is exceeding adult mortality and that
45 includes hunting mortality.

46

47 So I'm not concerned that we're actually
48 going to slow the growth of the population. We're
49 certainly having an effect. When you harvest animals,
50 you have an effect and we're just trying to balance that

00071

1 out.

2

3

4 We find out that the big caveat of all
5 this is these sheep are really more -- their population
6 numbers are really influenced more by severe winters than
7 they are by hunting. If we get a severe winter, then
8 things will change immediately, just like they did in '90
9 and '91.

9

10

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

11

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: Brad, how do you see -- you
14 made the statement to the fact don't be overly concerned
15 of taking sheep. How would you see that -- say we made a
16 hunt available in all sub-units a certain number of sheep
17 and the State of Alaska comes along and increases their
18 take of sheep. It doesn't matter whether it's ewes,
19 whether it's rams or full curl. Then where would you
20 stand in regards to the State of Alaska increasing its
21 take?

21

22

23 MR. SHULTS: I'm not going to talk too
24 much about allocation, but I'll talk about biology. The
25 real question in the Bairds is, you know, we talk enough
26 to know that we've got to have a total quota. It doesn't
27 matter whether they're State quotas or Federal quotas.
28 We need to stick with a total quota sheet for that
29 population. The DeLong Mountains, that's been worked out
30 pretty well. I mean I think that we're still
31 coordinating the agreements we have. They're sort of
32 limiting us, you know, each side to whatever that permit
33 hunt and Ken can talk more about that. But I think that
34 you're right.

34

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: When you say DeLong
37 Mountain, be more specific in regards to the location
38 because DeLong Mountain you can say can be anywhere based
39 on what.....

39

40

41 MR. SHULTS: Well, the DeLong Mountain
42 hunt area, so everything west of Howard Pass and North of
43 the Noatak River and that includes the Wulik Peaks. So
44 that's a separate hunt area. Right now there's no State
45 open season in the Baird Mountains hunt area.

45

46

47 MR. KRAMER: I have a question. Brad,
48 how did the reporting process go in '86 and '87 or '89,
49 whatever that was, with the 30 sheep, could be either
50 male or female? Did they have to bring the horns in
then, too? How did that work, I wonder?

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1 MR. SHULTS: You know, all I know, Lance,
2 is the registration hunt and I don't know what the
3 reporting requirements were at the time. Susan might
4 know. But, essentially, you register and, you know, if
5 you look at the data that Susan's presented in reports
6 and village harvest surveys and that thing, people
7 average -- total village harvest is somewhere between 20
8 and 56 sheep a year based on those surveys that they've
9 done, somewhere in that neighborhood when you include all
10 the villages around the hunt area.

11
12 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council
13 Members. Coming back to Walter's question, I think if
14 you look at our two proposals, you'll basically find that
15 we were recommending a quota of 21 sheep from the Bairds;
16 six of those ewes and 15 would be rams. If you look at
17 the other proposal that we submitted for the DeLongs,
18 you'll see that the quota is quite a bit smaller and
19 that's a total of eight sheep; three of those being ewes
20 and five of those being rams.

21
22 The reason that we settled on the smaller
23 quotas for the DeLongs is that back right before probably
24 1998, '97, '96, whatever year that the Board of Game met
25 in Nome and dealt with the revision of their sheep regs
26 for this area, at that time the State came up with an
27 allowable harvest figure of 20 animals from each hunt
28 area and that's what we were living with going into the
29 hunt in 1998-99.

30
31 In fact, the problem in the DeLongs was
32 there was a quota of 20 sheep on the State side and a
33 quota of 20 sheep on the Federal side for a combined
34 potential harvest of 40 sheep. There was a lot of
35 concern about potential overharvest. Weather was a big
36 factor that year and it prevented a lot of hunting and
37 the problems never materialized. Recognizing that, we
38 went back in and made some adjustments and worked with
39 the State and developed a joint quota, which we divided
40 50/50 between the State and the Federal systems.

41
42 As Susan mentioned to you earlier, Susan
43 Georgette from ADF&G, the State is going back to their
44 original regulation, which provides for up to 20 animals
45 out of the DeLongs, 11 of those are going to be drawing
46 permit hunts for rams. The others are nine sheep for
47 subsistence purposes. In order to kind of provide and
48 protect a Federal priority and to make some sheep
49 allowable to some other hunters within the unit area, we
50 felt it was important to maintain a Federal subsistence

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1 hunt, but take in the State's quotas. Even though now,
2 if you add the State's 20 and our 8, that comes to 28
3 animals. You'll notice that's seven animals over what
4 we're proposing for the Bairds, but because of logistics
5 access problems, low success rates, we don't feel that
6 that's going to be a biological problem and the DeLongs
7 -- in fact, we would be surprised if all of those animals
8 were taken.

9

10 Keep in mind the State subsistence hunt
11 is non-aircraft, so it puts a real restriction in and I
12 don't know how many of those registration hunt permits
13 have been filled. Maybe Susan might have an idea over
14 the last several years if the State's run that hunt, but
15 my impression was not a whole lot of them. So I just
16 don't think over-harvest is going to be a problem in the
17 DeLongs.

18

19 Any other questions related to the
20 biological end of it?

21

(No comments)

22

23

24

MR. ADKISSON: I might move on to the
25 allocation issue associated with the biological thing.
26 Brad has made the point that the harvest rates that are
27 being proposed are so conservative that, you know, it's
28 not going to affect the overall trajectory of the
29 population, so we're not retarding its growth and really
30 significantly slowing anything down, which is the
31 argument you hear because it delays opening the Bairds
32 and providing a hunt opportunity for others.

33

I should say something about subsistence
34 need levels in the Bairds. Using the State's already
35 predetermined subsistence need level, they set a need
36 level of a range of 18 to 43 animals in the Bairds. If
37 you sort of split that in half or about the mid point of
38 that range, that suggests 32 animals for subsistence
39 needs out of the Bairds. It's going to fluctuate one
40 side or the other of that year to year. We're proposing
41 conservatively a harvest of 21 animals, which we think is
42 biologically sound. You can see 21 from 32 we're still a
43 ways away from meeting the subsistence needs of local
44 people and being able to open up the Bairds to non-
45 subsistence uses.

46

47

48

I think, based on the already-determined
49 subsistence need levels, realistically, I think, and the
50 biology of the population, it will be a while before the

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1 Bairds do get opened up to non-subsistence uses and I
2 think that's just a fact of life. The limited ewe quotas
3 that we're going to over up are not going to be a
4 significant factor in getting out of essentially the
5 closure.

6

7 I would also point out again that since
8 the Federal hunts have been going at least after the
9 first year of them, the DeLongs have not been closed to
10 non-subsistence uses and any State hunter or anyone with
11 a State drawing permit can hunt anywhere throughout the
12 DeLongs on Federal and State lands irregardless. I think
13 there's a lot of not sport opportunity up there in the
14 DeLongs, but you can look at their own need levels for
15 the Bairds and I think it's just going to be a while
16 before we get out of there. That's more just the overall
17 thing. It's going to be the weather, the productivity
18 that Brad's pointing out and the limited harvest of six
19 ewes is not going to be significant in that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Lance.

22

23 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I was just playing
24 around with the numbers. I was thinking it would be nice
25 -- I'm looking on page 49, but the total allowable
26 harvest of rams instead of 15 to be 16. This is one more
27 ram and the reason why is to take eight in the fall,
28 eight in the winter. If you do them all just like a lump
29 sum, people might get them all in the fall time. Nothing
30 left for the winter.

31

32 Then for the ewes, Brad, since you said
33 six is pretty conservative, it would be okay to be 10
34 ewes for a total of 26 sheep taken in the Bairds?

35

36 MR. SHULTS: Yeah, I certainly don't have
37 any problem with the ram thing. There's a lot of
38 conservatism built in there. I'll tell you the other
39 thing about that six is the other thing I built in there
40 is a over-harvest factor. So, when you up it, then you
41 take out my comfort level there because that's what's
42 hidden in there.

43

44 MR. KRAMER: Okay.

45

46 MR. SHULTS: Twelve is sort of a hidden
47 number.

48

49 MR. KRAMER: So keep the ewes at six
50 would be pretty decent, you think?

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1 MR. SHULTS: Right. And I think one of
2 the things I'll comment on that six too is that we're
3 trying to get something in the book so you know what to
4 expect every year. I suspect this population, in the
5 absence of a harsh winter, is going to continue to grow
6 and we know it can grow to 1,100 animals or so, so that's
7 what you saw before. I think it's going to continue to
8 grow and I suspect that that number could actually grow
9 over time and still be fine within the bounds of keeping
10 a healthy population and a growing population, so that's
11 just sort of a starting point.

12
13 MR. KRAMER: It's interesting the change
14 in the idea about the rams. Before it was so adamant on
15 full curl or larger and now being liberal on them now,
16 any kind of ram, you know. Why the change?

17
18 MR. SHULTS: That's been a statewide
19 change over the last 30 years or so. I mean originally
20 it was three-quarter curl ram statewide back in the '70s
21 and before, then there was a huge shift towards -- after
22 some research in the early '80s that said there's real
23 consequences to shooting younger -- shooting out all the
24 older rams and then there's only these young rams to
25 breed with, so they bumped it up to seven-eighths and
26 then in '95 we were faced with, for regulation
27 consistency with the State, going from seven-eighths to
28 full, because their regulations in Unit 23 went to full.
29 There weren't a lot of biological reasons for it except
30 that that was the statewide shift in what the bag limit
31 was, so we went to that.

32
33 During the intervening subsistence hunts,
34 that's what's been available to really harvest. That was
35 the available surplus, so that's what we stuck with. Now
36 that's changing a little bit. We have some really strong
37 age classes and younger age classes, especially in the
38 rams that are half, three-quarters curl. So spreading
39 the harvest across the rams makes plenty of good sense.
40 There's just no reason not to do it.

41
42 MR. KRAMER: Biologically, what would be
43 the best, three-quarter, three-quarter on up, seven-
44 eighths on up?

45
46 MR. SHULTS: It's debatable, but I like
47 the idea of spreading it across the age classes because
48 you have a lot of rams in those smaller age classes and
49 under a controlled quota you're really not chipping away
50 at the future too hard if you shoot a couple of halves, a

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1 couple three-quarters. Some people are going to be
2 selective and other people are going to essentially take
3 the first sheep they find.

4

5 MR. ADKISSON: If there are no other
6 questions, maybe we can move on to some of the split
7 season issues and one or two other questions the State
8 raised. I guess maybe now would be a good time then to
9 talk about the split season aspect. Lance mentioned why
10 not eight rams in the fall and eight rams in the winter.

11

12

13 Remember, when we established the split
14 season, that was on the tail of what some people thought
15 was a lot of pent-up hunting desire because the season
16 essentially had been closed to any subsistence uses for
17 roughly 10 years. No one knew what to expect when the
18 first season opened again. There was a lot of concern
19 about Kotzebue-based hunters dominating the thing,
20 aircraft domination and we were kind of taking proactive
21 measures and we set up the split season to kind of ensure
22 that that didn't happen. I'm not saying that keeping the
23 split season is bad, but what I think I can say -- and
24 I've given you a table that summarizes all of the Federal
25 subsistence harvest out of the Bairds and the DeLongs for
26 all four years of the Federal hunt.

27

28 Basically, I think you can see that there
29 really isn't a problem. We have only had to close the
30 fall hunt early one year. In most years we just let it
31 run out. When we started, it was like August 1st to
32 September 30th and then the winter hunt basically started
33 October 1st and then there were concerns about adequate
34 snow cover, so then we started extending it out, by
35 announcement, into January or February or something like
36 that. So I just don't think there's any need to do that
37 and I think it penalizes and restricts the users as well
38 as creates management problems.

39

40 I'll give you a scenario. I mean here we
41 are now and you've heard Lance say the weather has been
42 bad, the travel conditions have been bum. It would
43 really be nice, I think, for a hunter to know like in a
44 village that there was just one season, it parallels the
45 State, so you don't have to worry about whether I can
46 hunt today or not, you know what date the season opens,
47 it's August 10th, it goes through April, and that you can
48 go out and hunt any time during that season. So you get
49 up one day and, by gosh, it snowed. It looks like travel
50 conditions might be better. I'll go out and I'll hunt.

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1 The way it is now is somebody in the Park
2 Service has to make a decision that it's time to hunt and
3 then we have to talk about it for two or three days and
4 then get out a public service announcement that the
5 winter hunt is opening and then people have to hear the
6 public service announcement and maybe they do and maybe
7 they don't, so they lose hunting time.

8
9 So I just don't think one long season is
10 going to be a problem. If it is and we're wrong and
11 Kotzebue-based hunters take all the harvest, we'll go
12 back to the drawing boards with you folks and we'll come
13 up with something else. Maybe it's back to split
14 seasons, maybe it's community bag limits. I don't know
15 what the answer is, but we'd sure be looking for guidance
16 from you and work with you folks on it and the villages.

17
18
19 From my point of view, everything would
20 be a lot easier for the user and a lot simpler for us as
21 administrators to just do away with the split season and
22 see what happens. Like I said, I think it provides more
23 flexibility for the users. You could look at the table
24 and there's really no real sound basis for keeping it
25 because we've only had to use it once. Maybe the weather
26 will be different and next year will be different, but
27 right now who knows. The other thing about it, I think,
28 is some of that is that we think that by increasing the
29 overall bags, the numbers of the allowable harvest, plus
30 instituting a ewe hunt, some of these things are going to
31 be self-correcting and self-adjusting and hunters will
32 select accordingly.

33
34 I know I've heard some discussion about
35 delaying the ewe hunt to the winter. Well, if you're
36 from Noatak and you boat up with the cost of gas and
37 everything and if you boat up the Noatak River and see
38 sheep on the north side of the river there and you do
39 this in August or something, you're going to probably
40 want to take the first sheep you encounter, so why
41 penalize those hunters by having the ewe hunts start
42 later. All we're asking of hunters is good reporting.
43 When we went into the hunt in '98, we requested tight
44 reporting and 24 hours phone in after returning from the
45 hunt and we'll keep that tight reporting requirement and
46 encourage people to do so.

47
48 Basically, when we hit this ewe quota,
49 we'll close the ewe hunt and from that point through the
50 rest of the season it will just be rams, but up until

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1 that point it gives hunters maximum flexibility and we
2 think that's important for subsistence hunters.

3

4 Also, I might bring in this and wrap in
5 the State's comment about the three-year floating
6 average. We didn't understand what that was either, so I
7 did go talk to Jim and get a clarification about it.
8 Actually, it's somewhat attractive to me personally, but
9 in thinking about it, again, it's one of those kind of
10 complexities that I don't think is necessary and it adds
11 complexity to the regulation and may confuse people.

12

13 Yeah, people say, well, if you have six
14 ewes, what happens if people shoot seven or eight right
15 out of the gate. With reporting it, and you can look at
16 the harvest figures, it's not going to go over six very
17 substantially and we'll just close the hunt. We'll put
18 out an announcement, we'll call all the hunters, the ewe
19 hunt is closed. So we take one or two more and Brad has
20 already talked about being extremely conservative and we
21 can handle some of that. It just comes off the total
22 sheep quota.

23

24 So I'm just not worried about adjusting.
25 I think we've got the most flexibility we can get that
26 works for the users and still gives us the management,
27 addresses the management concerns biologically that we
28 have.

29

30 I'm not sure how many other issues you
31 want to touch on that list if there's some that you think
32 we ought to do, but I mean those are the key ones. The
33 other question is the trophy destruction and all four of
34 the proposals speak to removing that and I see no reason
35 to keep it and we've said that in our proposal, unless
36 you have a question about it.

37

38 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chairman, I have a
39 question. I don't know whether it's biological or what.
40 Do we have any interaction between the sheep on the
41 DeLong Mountains and the Baird Mountains? Do we have any
42 migration between there?

43

44 MR. SHULTS: I can answer that to some
45 extent. We've had about 50 radio collars on mostly
46 female sheep in the Baird Mountains now for over three
47 years and we have not had any sheep essentially leave
48 that area. Not cross the Noatak west or north and we
49 haven't had any move over into the Squirrel River,
50 particularly farther than Tututalak Mountain, that

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1 country. They mostly winter right around the Mayumaraks
2 (ph) and on the Kavivik Creek (ph), Lance, and up in that
3 country, but there's not much north/south interchange
4 between the DeLongs and the Bairds based on what we can
5 see.

6

7 I've seen sheep out in the flats on the
8 west of the Kougarok walking around in the winter time
9 though in the trees. I suspect they're from the DeLong
10 Mountains, but I'm not sure.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 More than anything, I think, Mr. Chairman, I'm confused.
16 Charlie gave a little different perspective given that
17 analysis report early and I'm getting a whole different
18 picture from Brad and Ken here.

19

20 Going back to the times when we talked
21 about the issue on when the sheep numbers went down, back
22 then allocations were much smaller. I sat on the Game
23 Board. I remember the allocation was real pretty small
24 to nil and that was based on the biological reports that
25 were given. Now, within just several years, we've got
26 some numbers that are climbing. I think if I may ask
27 Willie to shed light so I could remember a little bit in
28 regards to how things occurred in regards to allocation
29 of sheep that was given that one year that the State Game
30 Board allocated as well, but we'll also go back to your
31 discussions, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman.

32

33 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
34 Members of the Committee. My name is Willie Goodwin. I
35 work for the National Park Service. In response to
36 Walter's question, when the sheep crashed, both the
37 Advisory Board and the RAC decided there should be no
38 hunt period. When the survey was done in '97, '98, the
39 State went ahead and had drawing permits without even
40 letting us know they were going to have a hunt. The RAC,
41 I mean. They called this big meeting here in Kotzebue.
42 Representatives from Kivalina, Noatak, Kotzebue, all the
43 Advisory Boards around the Bairds and DeLongs came to
44 Kotzebue and talked about the hunt. The reasoning that
45 was given both by Jim Dau and people that were there was
46 that as the population was starting to get back, all
47 these rams are going to die anyway, the full-curl rams.
48 That's where the full curl thing came from, Lance. So we
49 might as well harvest them.

50

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1 So they said 40, 20 in the DeLongs and 20
2 in the Bairds, but we're going to keep 11 for sport
3 hunting. So the discussion continued in that meeting.
4 The State kept saying we'll let you keep the Bairds for
5 subsistence, but we're going to take 11 at the DeLongs.
6 So, when I asked for justification, that's where the
7 numbers came out. A total of nine was the highest level
8 for the DeLongs and subsistence and 40-something for the
9 Bairds, which came to a total of 53.

10

11 So at that point, as RAC chair, I said I
12 want them all for subsistence on Federal lands. So we
13 called a RAC meeting back then and proposed a Federal
14 action to the Federal Board to have it all subsistence.
15 Of course, that took away the sport hunt, but it did
16 leave them some leeway to have their subsistence in the
17 Wuliks, so it was all subsistence back then. Then we
18 went back down to 10 based on the survey again and now
19 we're back up to 20 again.

20

21 That's a little history on what has
22 happened since '98. The reasoning for the full curl,
23 like I said, was the rams are going to die anyway, but
24 now that the population is back up and we were concerned
25 about the three-quarters and seven-eighths, we did talk
26 about those in that meeting back then, but the decision
27 was to go ahead with the full-curl ram. Now that the
28 population surveys have been showing that the ram count
29 is up from three-quarters, seven-eighths and full curl,
30 and you heard Brad and his justification of allowing for
31 a sheep hunt. I did follow them last year for some of
32 the surveys that were done, flying with them, and they're
33 there.

34

35 So, that's where we're at. Did you have
36 any other questions?

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: No. Thank you, Willie.
39 Mr. Chairman, I think that clarified some of the
40 questions that I had in mind in regards to the allocation
41 issue and how the State and the Federal government
42 pursued in increasing the take back then and I think it
43 shed some light in my mind. Hopefully that will clarify
44 some other issues with Brad. Thank you, Willie.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Willie, thank you for
47 giving us a statement like that. It's something that
48 I've always very concerned myself, you know, why did it
49 crash and then why did it all of a sudden increase, you
50 know, the population went up. So it's a good point of

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1 view from you that you're telling us what's happening up
2 to date. It's very important about the sheep population.
3 I'm glad it's going up again.

4

5 MR. GOODWIN: Yeah, I crabbed that area
6 for a long time, you know, 15, 20 years ago. When it was
7 up to 1,100, man, there was a lot of sheep. Let me tell
8 you. One time I was going through the trees and I see
9 this mountain moving. I look up and there's about 300
10 sheep on the side of a mountain moving one way. So there
11 was a bunch of sheep.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Willie.

14

15 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council
16 Members. Ken Adkisson again. There's a couple other
17 points that we might quickly touch on. It came up in the
18 Staff analysis that we're currently operating under
19 counting the sheep every year and announcing a quota and
20 it's a consultative process and we're going to lose that
21 by going with the fixed quotas.

22

23 I just want to point out a couple
24 problems with what we were doing. There's only a period
25 of time, and Brad can amplify this if he'd like, on when
26 we can count and weather is a big factor in that. We had
27 a season that started August 1. What usually happened
28 was the season basically butted right up against the
29 counting period and some years we were lucky to get a
30 count before the season opened. Once we had some
31 tentative numbers, then we had to go through a
32 consultative process and everything. What I meant was
33 you're really scrambling to try to get a hunt open and
34 tell people what the hunt was all about in time that they
35 could get out and begin hunting. I don't think that was
36 a very good system.

37

38 I think what we're doing now with a fixed
39 quota is, from year to year, a hunter can look in the reg
40 book, see when the season starts, see what the quotas are
41 and know they have to go get a permit. Basically you can
42 take any sheep and just report it to the Park Service.
43 The quotas that are in there have been developed through
44 the consultative process, especially with the Department
45 of Fish & Game, so they're fully aware of where these
46 numbers are coming from and we're not going to stop
47 counting sheep and we're not going to stop participating
48 in Inter-Agency activities, so we'll continue to go out
49 and count sheep and if there are things that suggest
50 changes need to be made, we'll go back and talk with the

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1 department and the other Federal agencies and the users
2 and the RAC and, if needed, we'll propose some changes.
3 We think that it's time to bring some continuity and
4 stability into the regulation and kind of stop knee-
5 jerking it every year and we think the users will benefit
6 from it.

7

8 One other point. The law enforcement.
9 We think that some of the issues of people being
10 reluctant to report and so forth, I'm not sure how much
11 of a problem it's really been, but I think we've got two
12 other proposals coming, one from a RAC member and one
13 from the public to do away with the trophy value, and I
14 think, to me, if nothing else, it points out that there's
15 opposition out there. Why have users that are upset if
16 you don't need to and we think that by adopting the ewe
17 harvest, by increasing the overall harvest thresholds and
18 simply keeping the tight reporting requirement, we think
19 we'll head off problems before they happen and some of
20 this issue of the enforcement stuff will simply dissolve
21 and go away without having to take any kind of increased
22 enforcement. The Park does do a fair amount of flying
23 and checking and stuff, so it's not like we're not out
24 there not doing anything. We've been pretty active in
25 checking hunters and so forth. But, clearly, I think
26 there's sort of a backlash building up in the community
27 to the trophy destruction.

28

29 The trophy destruction was instituted as
30 a means to try to deal with another problem and it was a
31 good faith effort, but it just didn't do what it was
32 supposed to do and it's causing additional heartburn and
33 we just don't think it's needed anymore.

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Ken, I've got a
36 question for you. Recently, like for the sport hunters
37 for sheep in the last, let's say, three or four times the
38 State calls for emergency closure for sheep hunters, I
39 know it's very disappointing to some of the sport hunters
40 wanting to hunt sheep. Now, today, you say the sheep has
41 gone up, so we'll do sport hunting for sheep, is that
42 correct?

43

44 MR. ADKISSON: Willie explained some of
45 the history of that to you. There were good reasons why
46 the RAC did what it did and why the Federal Board adopted
47 the closures. We went into the first hunt again when we
48 started hunting again in '98. All the Federal lands, both
49 in the Bairds and the DeLongs, were closed. That's why
50 we had the two different quotas and there was all this

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1 issue about over-harvest. That's when we worked with the
2 State and the RAC and developed the kind of compromise to
3 split the harvest to ensure that we weren't over-
4 harvesting in the DeLongs.

5
6 I think you can look at the State's
7 subsistence need figures that they developed. You can
8 look at the harvest figures that I gave you today for the
9 DeLongs and I think you can see there's not really a real
10 reason to close the DeLongs, so it should probably stay
11 open and allow maximum flexibility and opportunity up
12 there. You can look at the Bairds and the need.

13
14 As I say, the State's own subsistence
15 need level was identified like 18 to 43 and we're up at
16 21, so we've got a ways to go just within that figure. I
17 think, frankly, it will be a period of time, probably
18 maybe a long time, but realistically before those
19 closures are removed from the Bairds. But that's clearly
20 where the bulk of the subsistence hunting is taking
21 place, is in the Bairds, so I have no problem with
22 continuing to support a closure.

23
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Lance.

25
26 MR. KRAMER: Could you mention again the
27 designated hunter permit rules? You know, we talked
28 about that earlier before lunch that a designated hunter
29 can go out and not only shoot his sheep, but also shoot a
30 sheep for somebody else and then go back out there and
31 shoot two more sheep and bring them in and go back out
32 there and shoot two more sheep and bring them in, just
33 continuously do that, yeah?

34
35 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Kramer.
36 Basically, the designated hunter provision is pretty
37 simple. If you're a Federally-qualified user, you can
38 get a designated hunter permit to hunt for another
39 qualified user. Basically, you can hunt for any number
40 of people, actually unlimited, but you can only, in some
41 cases, have up to two bagged at any time in your
42 possession. So, what it means is, yes, if I was
43 qualified, I could go out and hunt for myself and if you
44 were qualified, I could get a designated hunter permit
45 for you and I could hunt for you and I could take two
46 sheep. I could come back and I could get permits from
47 Raymond or Walter and go back out and hunt for two more
48 sheep. I could keep doing that until I hunted for sheep
49 for everybody on the Council.

50

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1 I mean that's basically the designated
2 hunter program and the key features are that you have to
3 be a Federally-qualified user to do it and the people
4 you're hunting for have to be Federally-qualified users.
5 In a nutshell, that is it.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 In regards to the qualified hunter program you referred
11 to, how can you really justify their hunting for another
12 person when they might be hunting for sports with
13 somebody else shooting the sheep. Is that part of a
14 qualification too for a designated hunter?

15

16 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman, Walter,
17 Council Members. I think it's been said in one of the
18 other proposals that you have before you on sheep that
19 sometimes there's kind of a thin line between appearances
20 and what appears to be sport and what's really
21 subsistence or vice versa. The fact of the matter is, it
22 really boils down to eligibility. If you qualify to be a
23 Federal subsistence user, that's it. If your primary
24 motivation is a trophy versus meat or something and
25 you're stingy and want to keep most of the animal for
26 yourself, I mean nobody likes it, but if they meet the
27 qualification requirements, they're an eligible user just
28 like somebody else.

29

30 I think that was some part of what was
31 going on that prompted, one, a move by the Regional
32 Advisory Council to eliminate the designated hunter
33 provision for the sheep hunt and then also the trophy
34 destruction was trying to cut down on some of that.
35 You're never going to eliminate it just by the sheer fact
36 of -- all you have to do is be an Alaskan resident for a
37 year to be generally eligible Federally. First of all,
38 you have to meet the State qualifications, which is
39 Alaskan residency for a year, then you have to live in an
40 area that has C&T. So, if I am a school teacher and I go
41 to Fort Yukon and live for a year and I can come up from
42 the Lower 48, go to Fort Yukon, live for a year, get my
43 State residency, take a school teacher's job here in
44 Kotzebue and, presto, overnight, I'm a Federally-eligible
45 user.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Follow-up. As an eligible
48 -- or qualified for a permit, say I got a permit and I
49 can't go and I give that permit to an individual that
50 would do the hunt for me, and that individual cannot fly,

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1 but has a friend that flies from somewhere else to take
2 them out hunting, does that qualify them?

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: I'm not quite sure. You
5 sort of lost me. I'd have to go back through that thing
6 almost step by step.

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: What I mean is I gave my
9 permit to Willie. Willie find an individual who has a
10 sport hunting operator, has them take them out with their
11 airplane to get my sheep, is that legal?

12

13 MR. ADKISSON: First of all, I guess, you
14 don't really give your permits to somebody else. What
15 would have to happen is you'd have to decide for some
16 reason that you couldn't hunt and you could go to Willie
17 or Willie could go to you and say, hey, I'm willing to
18 hunt for you, Walter, and Willie would get a designated
19 hunter permit and you would get a permit and Willie would
20 have that, so now Willie is hunting for you. Now, how
21 Willie gets to the field is up to Willie. There's
22 nothing that says you couldn't take a transporter and use
23 the transporter and go hunt. Then you're only limited
24 really by issues of same-day airborne hunting. Like the
25 Noatak control use area or something. Yeah, I mean, it
26 could happen.

27

28 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. That clarifies
29 that. Now, in regards to enforcement, you stated -- how
30 aggressive do you do enforcement?

31

32 MR. ADKISSON: I think we're pretty
33 active. Dan Stevenson is here. Do you want to come up
34 and talk about what you've been doing? You may know Dan
35 Stevenson. He's one of our protection rangers from
36 Western Arctic National Parklands.

37

38 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
39 Council Members. I can give you a brief history on our
40 enforcement efforts with the sheep hunt. I've been
41 working the sheep hunt for four years now in the DeLong
42 and the Bairds. In the fall, we're out there with aerial
43 patrols. We do fly and land and talk to hunters and
44 check licenses. We do that as much as we can. In the
45 fall and the winter, we take snowmachines out. The last
46 three winters we actually set up camps on some of the
47 main trails and we'll wait for hunters to come down some
48 of those main access trails. As most of you know, those
49 trails are some of the main ways in there and we'll check
50 the sheep as they're coming out. That's what we prefer,

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1 is actually talk to the hunters out there as they're
2 bringing the sheep out. We try to do that as much as we
3 can. We're a pretty small staff, but we do get out there
4 on the snowmachines as much as possible.

5
6 I will say on the sheep hunts, like any
7 other hunt, moose hunt, caribou hunt, 95% of the hunters
8 out there are great and good to work with and they're
9 good hunters, they follow the regulations and they comply
10 with the regulations. It's that 5% that we're interested
11 in that's not following the regulations and not complying
12 with some of the regulations. When they do bring the
13 sheep back into town, that's where we've been running
14 into some of the problems. Our options are limited on
15 what we can do for enforcement.

16
17 We basically have two options once the
18 sheep is back in town. We usually find out through the
19 Kotzebue grapevine, which you all know is pretty
20 powerful, we get reports of somebody seeing one in the
21 back yard or what have you. At that point, we try to get
22 voluntary compliance, actually try to call the person and
23 say, hey, we heard you had a sheep. Someone saw a sheep,
24 maybe your neighbor saw a sheep, what have you. Whatever
25 we can do here in town we'll try to follow up on that.
26 We try to make sure we have good tips and good evidence
27 before we pursue anything like that.

28
29 I still try to give the person the
30 benefit of the doubt. I'll actually call them and say
31 will you meet me, will you come talk to me, can we talk
32 this over, will you bring the sheep in and have the
33 trophy destruction done. After that, if I don't get a
34 response or we don't get anything from that method, then
35 our only other option is a search warrant. We have
36 issued search warrants. We actually execute search
37 warrants here in Kotzebue and it's really not the way we
38 like to do business and we really would rather not do
39 that. It's really not a good way to do business, but we
40 do have that option. We go through a Federal magistrate
41 in Fairbanks and he or she has the option to approve or
42 deny a search warrant. At that point, that's all we have
43 left to us here in town. We will go serve a search
44 warrant and knock on the doors and look for the sheep or
45 look for the horns. So those are our options once it's
46 back in town, if a sheep is brought back and not
47 reported.

48
49 I will add on the sheep hunt the last
50 couple years we have seen -- I don't know the best way to

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1 say this. We've had people come in and actually get
2 their Federal permit, they're qualified users, they'll
3 come in, they'll get the permit, they're doing everything
4 right and it seems that they go out and they hunt the
5 sheep and then once they come back into town there's some
6 reluctance to report the sheep. Again, I think we have
7 real good compliance. Probably 90-95% of the people do
8 comply and report, but we do know there are a small
9 number of people that aren't reporting the sheep and they
10 bring them back into town. We hear the sheep are over in
11 so and so's hangar or it's in somebody's back yard or
12 what have you.

13

14 I think some of those individuals really
15 do mean well to start with. They come in and get the
16 permit but once they get a nice, big trophy sheep and
17 they bring it back into town, they start having second
18 thoughts. Maybe I don't want to get the horns cut or
19 whatever the reason is, but it seems like we're turning
20 some law-abiding citizens -- we're making them think
21 twice or giving them the option maybe we can get away
22 with this and that's a concern of mine. It's a bad
23 regulation. It just hasn't been working well. The
24 trophy destruction is what I'm talking about.

25

26 One more thing I'll add is that we talked
27 a little bit earlier about the bear parts and the bear
28 issue and that's been an issue statewide and everybody
29 knows about gallbladders and some of the problems in the
30 international Black Market for some of those bear parts
31 and it has been a serious problem, the bear parts and
32 poaching of brown bears. In some areas it's decimated
33 bear populations and it's a real serious issue. That
34 Black Market is in Alaska and it's up here at times and
35 we're aware of that.

36

37 With Dall sheep, whenever you have a Dall
38 sheep hunt, it does bring a certain element of a hunter
39 into this neck of the woods. People are aware of -- any
40 Dall sheep, any legal Dall sheep hunt attracts a certain
41 type of bad element that can sell some of these sheep
42 heads. A big sheep head on the Black Market can go for
43 some big dollars. We've had people actually come in
44 trying to get permits that aren't even from this area and
45 it attracts people from Anchorage or Minnesota and
46 they'll come up here and they'll try to get away with
47 being a local person. We have to be very diligent to
48 make sure that they're actually a person from Kotzebue, a
49 local resident, and we have to do our homework and follow
50 up on that, but we do have individuals that are attracted

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1 by this sheep hunt to come up and try to partake or buy
2 something illegally here in town or wherever.

3

4 So, whenever you have Dall sheep, it's a
5 big business. There is an international Black Market for
6 Dall sheep, just like with brown bears, and it's nothing
7 new. We know about it and the State Fish and Game knows
8 about it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Once again, I'll ask
11 you this question. You already brought it up. If I
12 wanted to hunt for a sheep and I forgot to get a permit
13 and then I got caught by you, what would happen to me?

14

15 MR. STEVENSON: We try to work with you
16 as much as we can. If people come to us and we
17 understand people mess up and you can shoot sometimes and
18 drop three sheep or two sheep and we've had that happen.
19 If people come and talk to us and explain what happened,
20 if they're open and honest with us, I think they'll find
21 us really willing to work with them. We would certainly
22 work with you on that. We're, again, mainly interested
23 in some of this more Black Market end of things and big
24 money, people that are really after -- you know, it's not
25 your subsistence hunters that we're really looking at in
26 some of these cases.

27

28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Lance, you may.

29

30 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I have to admit Dan
31 does his job. He does his job well. I'm a law-breaker.
32 I have to admit to the Regional Advisory Council. Last
33 spring I had a sheep hunting permit and I went into the
34 mountains and shot a sheep, but I didn't fill out a
35 designated hunting permit. I didn't know I was going to
36 have to. I was hunting with a fellow named Ricky Ashby
37 up north and he had some snowmachine problems, so he
38 couldn't -- we were both at his cabin and he couldn't get
39 into the mountains. He asked me if I can get one for him
40 if I saw an extra one. I did and when I came to town I
41 knew the right thing was to report, you know, that I got
42 two of them even though I didn't have a designated hunter
43 permit for two of them. I told the people at the Park
44 Service and Dan questioned me and it was settled in a
45 good way, so I'd like to commend the Park Service for
46 that.

47

48 Walter, you brought that up about the
49 designated hunting permit and what you need to do. I'm
50 fully aware of what I need to do now. But, you know,

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1 that was like an emergency thing because Ricky lives out
2 there and he's not going to drive all the way to town, me
3 and him, and fill out a designated hunting permit thing
4 so I can get him a sheep. I always thought he could get
5 his own. He's a pretty well-to-do fellow, but he just
6 had problems with his sno-go and he wanted one.

7
8 Then about the horns, you know, I brought
9 my horns in to get them cut and they asked me where's
10 Ricky's horns then and I said they're at his camp. They
11 said can we get them. I said no. They said how come. I
12 said because we ate them. We didn't eat the horns, but
13 we ate the head. I came in -- Ricky didn't know about
14 that rule, the skull attached to the horns, so when I
15 came in he had sheep head stew, you know. So that's
16 another thing we'll have to make sure of.

17
18 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you for admitting
19 that publicly. What I was driving at is that when they
20 talk about enforcement, we've listened to the
21 presentations, the analysis here in regards to a large
22 number of sheep that are healthy and if we're going to
23 have allowances in regards to different types of hunts,
24 then we better make sure that we have enforcement in
25 place that will aggressively make sure that the
26 regulations that will be adopted by the Federal Board to
27 be enforced. If you can't aggressively enforce these
28 things, we might as well not even worry about regulations
29 because that's basically the message that you give to the
30 public. If you can't enforce, you might as well forget
31 regulation in the books.

32
33 I raise that for another reason. An
34 individual who does not speak and write English language
35 was pursued by the Park Service, a 70-year-old man trying
36 to put food on the table, didn't know there was
37 regulations in place. His camp was searched. When they
38 find out he's got sheep, they took his sheep, they took
39 all his belongings, took him to court. To me, that's a
40 blatant violation to his culture. An individual who does
41 not understand English language nor write English, he
42 should have had at least the courtesy to find an
43 interpreter and get word to him that, hey, did you know
44 that you're breaking the law. Instead they took the
45 individual in and it's really sad to see that these types
46 of things occur.

47
48 That's why I said you need to
49 aggressively pursue violators in regards to those that
50 can read and write, can understand the English language.

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1 If you can't aggressively pursue, then you might as well
2 forget the book.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. STEVENSON: I'll just add quickly.
7 We're certainly under no quota system and I know
8 sometimes you hear that. We're in no quota system to
9 write citations. It means a lot to us. I know from the
10 Enforcement Division when people like Lance actually come
11 to our office and try to explain, hey, this happened and
12 they're willing to work with us, and I've dealt with so
13 many people that will just lie to your face, we all have,
14 in a completely opposite and very dishonest manner.
15 There's very little of that actually I see here in the
16 local community. We're also trying to walk a fine line
17 and do enforcement across the board even for everyone and
18 that's part of our job as well. So we take that all into
19 account. It means a great deal to us when people shoot a
20 cow moose with a calf or what have you or a bear with
21 cubs and at least they come talk to us and most
22 enforcement officers I know will work with you and
23 appreciate that honesty.

24

25 And we do depend a lot on the community.
26 I mentioned this last time too. We have a small staff
27 and it's a big country, as you know, and we depend a lot
28 on the local community to report any violations, so we do
29 depend on that quite a bit. The more help we can get
30 from the public, the better we can do our job.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anyone else from the
33 Park Service? We have a long way to go get. Anything
34 else from the Park Service?

35

36 MR. ADKISSON: Just a quick summary. Our
37 proposals for the Bairds and the DeLongs are really
38 pretty simple. They would establish a season, August
39 10th to April 30, and would only be closed by special
40 announcement if the quotas were reached and those quotas
41 are pretty simple. The Bairds, it's 21 sheep; six ewes,
42 15 rams. The DeLongs are eight sheep; three ewes, five
43 rams. It's pretty simple. You need a permit and you can
44 get it from us or we can mail it to you or whatever and
45 handle it by phone and fax and please report within 24
46 hours.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it?

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: That's it.

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1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you for the good
2 presentation. It's very interesting to all of us. We
3 have all the comments and testimony from all the
4 agencies. Now it's up to us now. The next would be
5 public testimony. Do we have anybody from the public
6 that wants to testify on this proposal?

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Nobody from the
11 public. We're on to Council deliberation about this
12 proposal. Enoch.

13

14 ATTAMUK: Yeah, this is advice for the
15 agencies here. You guys confuse me when you guys put
16 them together. For the future, I would like to see
17 individually talk about a proposal, one by one, not
18 combine them. We came here talking about certain
19 proposals, 72, 73, and you guys come by 72, 73, 74, 75.
20 The confusion came to me when I was trying to compare
21 notes with these other. That's the problem, okay.

22

23 Some of these proposals I support,
24 especially the DeLong. When we used to hunt Noatak, we
25 used to walk -- and I support the opening of the females
26 there. When we walk up to the mountains, all day walk
27 and we have to overnight, we want to take sheep when we
28 could. Not just rams. Whatever is available at the
29 time. When we're going back, it's a five-hour walk, all
30 day. Both times when we were packing back, bears follow
31 us trying to take our food away. So what we did, we were
32 always told by elders to give them the horns. That way
33 it's harder for them to chew and they won't eat it so
34 fast. They take longer. You have time to get away from
35 them because they're just 200 feet behind us trying to
36 get what we caught because they know what the sheep taste
37 like. They're like us. They love good food when they
38 see good food. They're not after us. I'm in support of
39 opening ewes on that split season, giving us at least a
40 chance to hunt from Noatak and Kivalina.

41

42 This has nothing to do with what I'm
43 going to say next. It has nothing to do with what's
44 happening now. Someone from Buckland called me up and
45 said he can't hunt sheep, but yet he was raised in
46 Noatak. He came from a sheep family raised up in Kelly.
47 At the time he was trying to get a permit to go hunt
48 because he did it since he was young with his dad and he
49 couldn't get a permit. He called me about this and it's
50 my fault for forgetting it earlier.

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1 The destruction of the horns I will
2 support if we take it off and delete it where -- for
3 management purposes, I could see that they need that.
4 That way they get all the reports from the hunts, how
5 much is being taken. I will support the hunt. But,
6 still, I'm a big question mark right now. I'm still
7 confused and I'm getting gray right now trying to figure
8 out those four proposals you're talking about. I
9 probably need a time out to figure out what's going on
10 for the next two.

11

12 And I will support the proposing of rams
13 that's available. Like Brad said, they're stable.
14 There's big numbers out there right now and they're
15 stable. They've got one advantage. They could emergency
16 close. If they hit the limit tomorrow, they could close
17 it down. Or if they got any question of a crash, they
18 could just close it down any time they want. Thanks.

19

20 MR. KRAMER: Can I say something, Mr.
21 Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Lance.

24

25 MR. KRAMER: You know, I've been thinking
26 too about that, that first one, WP04-72 from the Park
27 Service. I guess it's kind of growing on me a little
28 bit. The only thing that I disagree with is I do think
29 that there should be designated hunting, but I think the
30 designated hunter should only get one extra sheep and
31 that's it per season. I don't think it's right for
32 somebody to go and not only get theirs and that extra
33 one, but then come back and get two more and then come
34 back and get two more because they can wipe out the whole
35 quota for everybody. So I think every season a fellow
36 can just go up and get his sheep and also, if he set up a
37 designated hunting, get that one extra and it's good for
38 that season. I don't think it's fair to anybody else who
39 might be getting a late start or people in the winter
40 time, you know what I mean. So I agree with that 72.

41

42 If you really like -- what was it, 75 is
43 mine. If you really like 75, you know, you can add some
44 things in there, but I think 72 is cool. Just make sure
45 we have that one extra sheet per hunter per year.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Cal.

48

49 MR. MOTO: Yes, I agree with Lance on
50 number 72 and I would give full support to that one, but

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1 I'm kind of like Enoch, I'm kind of confused because of
2 all the different datas that we have. We're really
3 talking about 72 and 73 also because I didn't know that
4 they would be throwing in 74 and 75 into this mix. I
5 traditionally don't hunt sheep, but for subsistence
6 people that do, I see that 72 would be good for them.

7
8 I have kind of a problem to support the
9 proposed full-curl ram requirement. My feeling is that
10 they should just go ahead and eliminate that part that
11 they're having a problem with because I think they would
12 get a better report on how many sheep are really being
13 taken.

14
15 One other thing I was wondering about
16 when I look at the quotas and the harvest, if the
17 subsistence people don't use their harvest, what happens
18 to the quota that's left over? Is it turned over to
19 somebody for a commercial hunt or is it just closed
20 period? That's what I was wondering.

21
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Helen.

23
24 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I just thought
25 I'd offer a suggestion, you can take it or leave it, on
26 how you might want to deal with this because it's
27 confusing having all these proposals. Maybe if you just
28 took a little piece like you looked at, what do you want
29 to do with the season. Do you want to have the season be
30 split or not. And you voted on each separate little
31 thing. So, okay, you do that, then do you want to have a
32 ewe harvest, yes or no. So you just do the little
33 pieces. That might help. And you come up then with what
34 your conclusion is rather than saying, well, do we want
35 this proposal or that proposal.

36
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: May I ask you this
38 question, why this proposal was divided in four different
39 numbers, 72, 73, 74 and 75? What is the reason?

40
41 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman, there was
42 four proposals that came in. They all spoke to the same
43 regulations, current regulations. The office felt since
44 they all were trying to change the same two regulations
45 that are on the books now that if you wrote it together
46 it wouldn't be confusing, but obviously it is. What
47 would have happened if we wrote them all separately, you
48 would have heard me say the regulations exactly the same
49 biological information, exactly the same harvest
50 information four times and that's why we combined it.

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1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter again.

2

3

4 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Listening to the discussion here, what Enoch is saying, I
6 guess, has some merits to taking a look at an individual
7 proposal and deal with it on its merits because as far as
8 season bag limits and allocations, that's certainly
9 something we need to consider. Look at 72, south of
10 Rabbit Creek, Kyak Creek and Noatak River with an
11 allocation of one sheep. You go down to the bold letters
12 where it says the total allowable harvest of rams is 15.
13 You go to 73, your allowable harvest is five. Now you're
14 talking ewes in 73. By lumping all those proposals
15 together is where I think Enoch is confused.

15

16 Is there any way we can act on each one
17 of those proposals on their merits?

18

19 MR. ADKISSON: You can certainly do it
20 that way if you want to go proposal by proposal. That
21 would be fine. The difference between 72 and 73 is the
22 different mountain ranges and that's why there's
23 different quotas.

24

25 MR. SAMPSON: That's why I raise the
26 issue with regards to the unit area. You're talking
27 different area hunts.

28

29 MR. ADKISSON: That might be the easiest
30 way.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

33

34 MR. MOTO: Is there a way you could
35 rearrange the language and make it into one or two
36 paragraphs so we could cover all of these that you're
37 talking about?

38

39 MR. ADKISSON: Calvin, if you look at
40 page 59, if you just want to go through the original
41 proposals, they're already in paragraph form. That might
42 be the easiest way for you to decide then. Some of these
43 would overlap. There's Lance's and Mr. Atkins would also
44 be for Unit 23. I think it might be easy to work through
45 it that way.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: This is coming to where
48 it's kind of confusing. I think the Council here is
49 requesting that we take a break and a couple members stay
50 here and do some discussing on these numbers of

00095

1 proposals. Maybe we'll come up with something. Let's
2 take a break and decide. Take about 15 minutes.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (On record)

7

8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I'll call the meeting
9 back to order. It was a long discussion on these
10 proposals among the Council and some of the Staff and we
11 came to a point where we'll leave it to the wish of the
12 Council on this proposal. Lance.

13

14 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I'd like to make a
15 motion that we adopt the proposals for the Bairds and for
16 the DeLongs, the WP04-72 and 73, with the change that we
17 have that designated hunter only able to get that one
18 extra sheep. That would be the only change, for the
19 designated hunters to only get one sheep per season. One
20 permit. So they get their own sheep and then they can
21 only get one other one and that's it for that hunter for
22 that season.

23

24 ATTAMUK: I'll second it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Moved by Lance,
27 seconded by Enoch. Now we'll go on to discussion.

28

29 MR. MOTO: Call the question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question has been
32 called. Any objection to the question?

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, all in favor
37 of adopting Proposal WP04-72 signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

42

43 MR. KRAMER: That would be 72, 73, yeah?

44

45 MR. ADKISSON: So that would read exactly
46 as it does on page.....

47

48 MR. KRAMER: Page 49.

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Page 59 and 60?

00096

1 MR. KRAMER: No, page 49 and 51. I guess
2 with those changes.

3
4 MR. ADKISSON: That would be keeping the
5 full-curl rams?

6
7 MR. KRAMER: No, no. The Park Service
8 just mentioned in 72 on page 49.

9
10 MR. ADKISSON: I see that and it says
11 rams must be full curl or larger.

12
13 MR. KRAMER: Oh, no. With that change
14 too, then. Is there one that has one with just any
15 sheep?

16
17 MS. ARMSTRONG: You can modify it.

18
19 MR. KRAMER: Okay. We'll modify that too
20 then. Can we do that in the same motion or do we have to
21 make another motion?

22
23 MS. ARMSTRONG: Let's do another motion
24 just to change your previous one.

25
26 MR. KRAMER: I had whited-out a lot of
27 stuff in mine, so that's why I borrowed hers earlier.
28 Maybe what we can do is we can just -- well, on 49 they
29 cross out that ram with full curl or larger.

30
31 MR. ADKISSON: But the next sentence down
32 says rams must be full curl or larger.

33
34 MR. KRAMER: They maybe forgot to cross
35 that one out too.

36
37 MR. ADKISSON: We can strike that rams
38 must be full curl or larger if that's what you want to
39 do.

40
41 MR. KRAMER: Yeah.

42
43 MS. ARMSTRONG: Just make a motion that
44 you'd like to strike that.

45
46 MR. KRAMER: Okay. I make a motion that
47 we strike that other sentence that says rams must be full
48 curl or larger.

49
50 MR. ADKISSON: In both? I think it says

00097

1 in both.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: Uh-huh, on both 72 and 73.

4 That's my motion.

5

6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. The motion has

7 been made.

8

9 MR. MOTO: Second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Calvin.

12 Discussion.

13

14 ATTAMUK: Question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Did you call the

17 question, Enoch?

18

19 ATTAMUK: Yes.

20

21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question has been

22 called. All in favor of 72, 73 and amendments, signify

23 by saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Objections.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion carries.

32

33 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair, I think just

34 for procedure you need to make a motion to oppose 74 and

35 75 just so it's on the record.

36

37 MR. KRAMER: I make a motion that we

38 oppose WP04-74 and 75.

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: There's a motion to

41 oppose 74 and 75. A second.

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: Second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Walter.

46 Any discussion on opposing 74 and 75?

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 ATTAMUK: Question.

00098

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question has been
2 called for. Any objection to the question.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, all in favor
7 of opposing 74 and 75 signify by saying aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Objections.

12
13 (No opposing votes)

14
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: 74 and 75 been opposed.
16 Motion carries.

17
18 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, 53 and 54 are
19 crossover proposals and they're being presented because
20 residents of Unit 23 have customary and traditional use
21 determinations for brown bear in Unit 21(E). I'm not
22 sure how much detail you want to go into these. If you
23 look, 21(E) is quite a ways away.

24
25 MR. SAMPSON: When you say crossover,
26 what do you mean?

27
28 MR. ARDIZZONE: These were submitted by
29 another region. 21(E) is way down here. The closest
30 communities are Buckland and Deering. I'm not sure if
31 there's much use. I know, talking to Percy, they can
32 come up and hunt his bear if they want to. I can surely
33 go into detail or I can just abbreviate them.

34
35 If you really want to get an idea, on
36 page 124 of the reg book you can see where 21(E) is.
37 It's way down here. So how would you like me to proceed,
38 quickly or read them or do you want a little detail?

39
40 MR. KRAMER: It's your flight tonight.

41
42 MR. ARDIZZONE: So that means quickly.
43 WP04-53 was submitted by the Anvik Tribal Council and
44 requests the Federal Subsistence Board to allow the legal
45 sale of bear parts from black and brown bear harvested in
46 Unit 21(E). The proponent also requests an increase in
47 harvest limit for 21(E) brown bears, from one bear every
48 four regulatory years to four bears per regulatory year.

49
50 So basically this proposal wants to

00099

1 legalize sale of parts period, not just the hides. Like
2 I said, we're discussing this because residents of 23
3 have customary and traditional use determinations to
4 harvest brown bear in 21(E). Current knowledge of Unit
5 21(E) bear populations is limited; however, information
6 obtained through inadvertent sightings during non-bear
7 aerial surveys along with information obtained from local
8 and non-local users, provide insight on stability and
9 fluctuation trends within the black and brown bear
10 populations.

11

12 Like I said, for this Council, we're only
13 concerned with brown bears. The brown bear population in
14 Unit 21(E) exists at a low density but is considered to
15 be relatively stable in the region.

16

17 Total harvest of brown bear in Unit 21(E)
18 is estimated to be near the maximum sustainable yield for
19 the population. The total reported harvest of brown bear
20 between 1971 and 2000 was 79 bears.

21

22 We'll just hop right into the effects.
23 Adopting the proposal to legalize the sale of black bear
24 and brown bear hides, skulls and claws would provide an
25 important economic opportunity for rural residents of
26 Unit 21(E). Black and brown bear parts have significant
27 economic value and are often sold for very high prices.

28

29 Adopting this proposal could lead to an
30 increase in demand and harvest of some bear populations,
31 possibly to the point of over-harvest. Brown/grizzly
32 bear population numbers are much smaller than black bear
33 and are carefully managed with low harvest exploitation
34 rates and strict reporting requirements.

35

36 Because of the large economic incentive
37 involved in the trade of some bear parts, this proposal
38 could potentially lead to an increase in illegal
39 trafficking of endangered populations of brown bears
40 outside of Alaska. It could further confuse enforcement
41 officers, the public because there's a number of
42 regulations governing their trade and there could be some
43 enforcement difficulties.

44

45 Black bear are relatively more numerous
46 and more productive than brown bear and less susceptible
47 to over-exploitation. Under the existing regulations for
48 both subsistence and non-subsistence hunting, the current
49 liberal seasons and bag limits for black bears over most
50 of the State provide an opportunity to engage in illegal

00100

1 black market sale of bear parts. A strictly regulated
2 sale of black bear hides and some parts, modeled after
3 the program trappers use to sell furs, may provide a
4 suitable regulatory mechanism to control the sale of
5 black bear hides and parts. I guess it would be the same
6 for brown bears.

7

8 The preliminary conclusion, because of
9 some of the things we discussed earlier, possibly illegal
10 trade and their parts, is to oppose this proposal.

11

12 Any questions.

13

14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

15

16 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Chuck, for the
17 overview of the proposal. It sounds like, to me, this
18 proposal's intent is something I certainly wouldn't
19 support because of the fact that if we did support it,
20 we're going to have some problems in regards to people
21 just going out killing just for portions or parts of
22 bears and leaving the remains of the bear. So, based on
23 the information that you provide, I will not support this
24 proposal.

25

26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Fish and Game.

27

28 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette. Our
29 comments are on page 94 and the department is opposed to
30 this for the same reasons we opposed the earlier ones.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Susan.

35 Other agencies.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Inter-Agency Staff

40 Committee.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Summary of written
45 public comments.

46

47 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 There were no written public comments.

49

50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Public testimony.

00101

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Regional Council
4 deliberations, recommendations and justifications.
5 Anybody got any recommendations, justifications.

6

7

MR. SAMPSON: Mr. President. I think the
8 proposal itself is clear and the intent of that proposal
9 is basically to kill bears to take parts for sale. To
10 me, that's encouraging wanton waste in regards to a
11 resource and I think in those kinds of instances where
12 there's encouragement to do wanton waste is certainly
13 something that I don't support and I'm not going to
14 support this proposal based on the information that's
15 been provided to this committee.

16

17

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter.
18 Enoch.

19

20

ATTAMUK: I will also oppose this
21 proposal the way it is written. It's just for mainly
22 parts on brown bear and black bear. I reiterate what
23 Walter said. Thanks.

24

25

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Enoch.
26 Calvin.

27

28

MR. MOTO: I oppose this for the simple
29 reason that several years ago they had to close polar
30 bear hunt for the same thing. They almost killed off the
31 polar bears because of sport hunting and just for the
32 hides and stuff. So I would oppose this proposal very
33 emphatically.

34

35

Thank you.

36

37

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.
38 Lance.

39

40

MR. KRAMER: Same thing. I oppose it.

41

42

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Lance.

43 Lillian.

44

45

MS. JOHNSON: I agree with them.

46

47

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Lillian.

48 Austin.

49

50

MR. SWAN: You can call me opposition

00102

1 number six.

2

3

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Joe.

4

5

MR. AREY: I oppose it, too.

6

7

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Joe. The
8 motion is to either oppose or approve this Proposal WP04-
9 53.

10

11

MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I make a
12 motion that this body does not approve Proposal WP04-53
13 based on the merits that was presented.

14

15

Thank you.

16

17

CHAIRMAN STONEY: There's a motion from
18 the Council to oppose Proposal WP04-53. Is there a
19 second?

20

21

MR. KRAMER: I second it. Lance.

22

23

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Lance.

24

25

MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair, for this to be
26 legal, you have to make a proposal to say that we have
27 to, on the Board -- and then the way we have to eliminate
28 this, everybody will say nay. That's the proper
29 procedure on any proposal. You have to make a motion to
30 accept it. When you vote, you say anybody say aye, then
31 nobody say aye, then you say nay and everybody will say
32 nay. That's, I think, the proper procedure for passing
33 motions if I'm not mistaken. It's according to Robert's
34 Rules of Order.

35

36

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further discussion.
37 The question has been called for. All in favor of
38 opposing Proposal WP04-53 signify by say nay.

39

40

MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think there
41 needs to be clarity in regards to what you say, if we are
42 supporting the objection or denying the proposal. I
43 think we need clarity.

44

45

MR. MOTO: Yes, he's right. The motion
46 is already made. I just thought I'd bring it up. So
47 we're opposing it right now, so we have to vote whether
48 we oppose it or not.

49

50

CHAIRMAN STONEY: I'll say it again. All

00103

1 in favor of opposing the proposal signify by saying aye.

2

3

IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion carries.

6 Proposal WP04-54.

7

8

MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, Proposal WP04-54 was submitted by the Anvik Tribal Council and requests the Federal Subsistence Board to restrict access to Federal public lands in Unit 21(E) for the taking of black bear, brown bear and moose, except for Federally-qualified subsistence users.

14

Once again, this is brought to you because of the brown bear portion of this proposal. No one in 23 has customary and traditional use for moose or black bear in that region, so I'll concentrate on brown bear.

20

21

The proponent has concerns of hunting pressure from non-subsistence hunters who harvest black and brown bear and moose on Federal lands in Unit 21(E). Local concerns on non-local hunters favor additional access restrictions for non-Federally-qualified users. The current regulations for 21(E) restrict access for fly-in moose hunters during the State and Federal seasons within the Paradise Controlled Use Area.

29

30

Since we just talked about brown bear in the last proposal, I won't go into all the biological background since this is the same area. I'll skip right to the effects.

34

35

Although Anvik residents are concerned with competition with non-local hunters in Unit 21(E), black and brown bear and moose population numbers still appear generally healthy while local hunter success rates for moose remain high. Area wildlife managers believe the bear and moose populations are able to sustain the current level of harvest. The proposed closure of Federal lands in the affected areas to non-Federally-qualified users may not resolve local resident concerns with non-local hunting effort. The proposed closure of Federal lands to non-qualified users could have the undesirable effect of increasing hunter congestion and user conflicts within the adjacent areas where other local residents hunt bear and moose.

49

50

Because of this, adoption of the proposal

00104

1 would result in a redistribution of non-Federally-
2 qualified hunters with 21(E) and would cause subsequent
3 adverse impacts to the local users of the adjacent areas.
4 Current harvest levels, local-user success rates and the
5 bear and moose population status within the affected area
6 do not warrant the proposed restrictions at this time.

7

8 Also for these reasons, the proponent's
9 request does not meet the criteria of Section 815 of
10 ANILCA, which allows the restriction of non-subsistence
11 uses where wildlife populations are of concern.

12

13 The preliminary conclusion would be to
14 oppose this proposal. Any questions.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Susan.

17

18 MS. GEORGETTE: It looks like we're
19 opposing everything today, but the Department of Fish and
20 Game opposes this proposal as well. The comments are on
21 page 107. We're unaware of any issues that require
22 closing those public lands to bear hunting and closing
23 them to moose hunting seems premature because there's
24 supposed to be a cooperative moose management planning
25 effort underway in that area.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Susan.
30 Other agencies.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Inter-Agency Staff
35 Committee comments. We don't have anybody from IAC.
36 Written public comments.

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 There were no written public comments.

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Public testimony.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Regional Council
46 deliberation, recommendations and justifications.

47

48 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, based on the
49 information that's been provided to this Council by
50 Staff, I make a motion that we do not support Proposal

00105

1 WP04-54.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion by Walter not
4 supporting the Proposal WP04-54.

5

6 MR. MOTO: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second by Cal.

9

10 MR. KRAMER: Question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Let's go for a
13 discussion before the question, please. Any discussion
14 among the Council. Walter.

15

16 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think it's
17 evident and clear that what was explained by the
18 Department of Fish and Game, by the Federal Staff, it's
19 clear that this is a proposal that would create some
20 other issues, some other problems elsewhere, so based on
21 that information again I will not support the proposal.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further discussion.

24

25 MR. KRAMER: Question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question has been
28 called for. All in favor of not supporting Proposal
29 WP04-54 signify by saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion carries. I know
38 it's a long day for you, but it's a lot of stuff that
39 we're accomplishing. I thank you very much for the Staff
40 to come up with some very tough proposals and
41 introductions and information for us here. It's been a
42 great honor working with you guys. Thank you very much.

43

44 MR. ARDIZZONE: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We're done with
47 the proposals. Now let's go down to item number 11.
48 This is mostly informational type. It's Fisheries
49 Information Services Program, Staff. Who is going to do
50 that?

00106

1 MR. KLEIN: Steve Klein.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Fisheries Information
4 Services Program.

5

6 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair, Council Members.

7 For the record, I'm Steve Klein with Fisheries
8 Information Services and we're on agenda topic 11. I
9 have two topics for you today. They're both for
10 informational purposes only, so you get to sit back and
11 relax and not have to do motions here.

12

13 The first topic is the status of the
14 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. I'm going to do a
15 brief overview of it and kind of walk you through these
16 two handouts. We'll have Susan come up here and talk
17 about two of her projects that are being conducted under
18 the monitoring program. After we conclude that, then I
19 have a short handout and presentation on revised issues
20 and information needs.

21

22 So, for the first topic, you have a map
23 that shows the northern region. It's really composed of
24 three of the Councils, including your Council, North
25 Slope and Seward Peninsula. When we look at the
26 Northwest Arctic, your region, we see four projects with
27 the purpose asterisk. These are projects that are going
28 to be implemented in 2004. The blue dots with the green
29 fish in the middle are projects that are currently
30 ongoing. So that's just a map to show you the projects.
31 The title of the project is on the right-hand side of the
32 map.

33

34 Then you have a seven-page handout that
35 goes into detail more on the projects that have been
36 conducted as well as projects that will be operating this
37 year. In the northern region, since the start of this
38 program, we've funded 30 projects and 12 of them have
39 been completed and they're listed on page one and the top
40 of page two. All of those projects do have final reports
41 and if any of the Council Members are interested in those
42 reports, let Michelle or I know and we'll make sure to
43 get you copies of those reports.

44

45 Yes.

46

47 MR. KRAMER: Would you happen to have any
48 of those on a web site maybe that people can look at?

49

50 MR. KLEIN: Yes, if they're a completed

00107

1 report, they are on the Office of Subsistence Management
2 web site. I think that's cited in your Council
3 Operations Manual. If not, get in touch with either
4 Michelle and I.

5

6

MR. KRAMER: Thanks.

7

8

MR. KLEIN: On page two, beginning at the
9 middle of the page, is the listing of the projects that
10 are currently underway. Four of those are in your
11 region. Those are 01-136 -- well, numbers 3, 4, 5 and 8.
12 I can briefly go over those. The last batch of projects
13 listed at the bottom of page two are projects the Board
14 approved this fall with support from the Councils.
15 Actually, four of those are in your region and that's
16 numbers 1, 2, 5 and 8.

17

18

There's descriptions for all of those
19 projects listed in the handout and I just wanted to
20 briefly cover the status of those projects. Beginning
21 with page four, number three and four, those are two
22 projects that we funded in 2001 for the Northwest Arctic.
23 Fred DeCicco is the investigator on both of those
24 projects and they're nearing completion and we should
25 have final reports on both of those in June or July.
26 Those will also be posted on the web.

27

28

These are two studies that are helping us
29 learn more about trout in the region. One is looking at
30 genetics and one is looking at assessing abundance.
31 Walter, you started off this morning talking about how
32 important baseline information is and with Dolly Varden
33 trout we really don't know a lot. These two studies are
34 actually compiling a lot of information that Fred has
35 gotten out of the genetics lab that really helps us
36 better understand genetics and abundance and movements of
37 Dolly Varden trout. So those will be available this
38 summer and we'll have copies of those at your fall
39 Council meeting.

40

41

The next study in your region is number
42 five and that's on page five. I'm going to skip over
43 that one because we'll have Susan go over that and she's
44 been working with Enoch and Lee Anne Ayres with the
45 Selawik Refuge. So we'll have Susan cover that one.

46

47

On page six is number eight, which is
48 study 03-016. This is harvest identification during the
49 spring and fall subsistence fisheries in Selawik River
50 drainage. The field season for this work was last

00108

1 summer. We had Randy Brown from the Fish and Wildlife
2 Service conduct a study and what he did was look at the
3 spring and fall whitefish fisheries and we're trying to
4 identify which species are caught in the subsistence
5 fisheries. He identified four species. Those included
6 Lee cisco, broad whitefish, humpback whitefish and
7 sheefish. In addition, he also collected length, weight
8 and spawning condition. He's still analyzing that
9 information and he'll have that all compiled by May of
10 this year and we'll have a report of that. That will be
11 available at your next Council meeting as well and it
12 will be posted on the web site sometime in June, I
13 expect.

14
15 Randy also participated in the science
16 camp that many of you are familiar with. Maybe Susan
17 will cover that a little bit. Randy went over
18 identification of whitefish during the science camp and
19 how to sample them and measure them and weigh them and
20 look at spawning conditions. So I think that's a very
21 successful project and those are three of the four
22 projects that we're operating last summer and will be
23 concluded this year.

24
25 If you remember, last fall we had four
26 studies that we presented to you and you recommended all
27 four of those for funding and those will be conducted
28 beginning this summer. I'll briefly cover three of those
29 and one of them Susan will cover. These are the ones
30 with the purple asterisks on your map.

31
32 The first one is abundance of spawning
33 sheefish in the Selawik River. This will be started this
34 summer and Tevis Underwood with the Fish and Wildlife
35 Service, Fisheries Office, will be conducting this.
36 They're going to be estimating the abundance of sheefish
37 in the Selawik River and comparing that to numbers that
38 they had back in 1995 and 1996 when they did a similar
39 study. So we have some baseline on sheefish in the
40 Selawik River and we'll be generating another population
41 estimate and comparing that to what we had about 10 years
42 ago. So that's one of the studies.

43
44 Another one will be radio telemetry study
45 for humpback and broad whifefish on the Selawik Refuge
46 and they'll be putting radio tags in about 30 of each of
47 those species and tracking them to look at spawning and
48 wintering and feeding grounds. This will be acquiring
49 more baseline information. It will help us better
50 understand whitefish on the Selawik Refuge.

00109

1 Thirdly, you mentioned this morning the
2 Wulik River and the third study we'll be doing is on the
3 Wulik and we'll be collecting from the Fish and Wildlife
4 Service's genetics lab along with Fred will be collecting
5 genetic samples from the Wulik to look at stock
6 composition and see where all the different fish are
7 coming from, what individual river systems, because it's
8 a mixed population there. That will be initiated this
9 year and they'll be doing collections and trying to look
10 at the composition of those aggregates in the Wulik.

11

12 MR. SWAN: Question. In your studies on
13 the Wulik, do you think you might be able to do studies
14 on the Kivalina River, too, which is only five miles
15 north?

16

17 MR. KLEIN: Actually, Austin, we're a
18 step ahead of you because they did do -- they grabbed
19 some genetic collections with those first two studies I
20 mentioned that were funded in 2001, so they already got
21 the baselines from the Kivalina and about eight different
22 river systems. From those collections, they can identify
23 those individual populations and then with the Wulik,
24 when they're all massed together in the fall, they can
25 sample and see which are coming out of Kivalina and say
26 Noatak and different river systems, so we are ahead of
27 you on that one.

28

29 Mr. Chair, that summarizes six out of the
30 eight projects that will be funded in your region this
31 year. Next, I'd ask Susan to go over two of her projects
32 that she'll be concluding and a new starts she'll have.

33

34 MS. GEORGETTE: Mr. Chair, thank you.
35 Susan Georgette. I won't talk too long about them.
36 Steve asked me to give a summary of these projects, but
37 I'd like to start out by pointing out that it's been
38 truly a cooperative effort and Attamuk has worked on the
39 project through Maniilaq, Lee Anne Ayres at Selawik has
40 been involved in it. The Selawik Refuge has been
41 supportive in all sorts of different ways in our work.
42 Letting me work with Clyde Ramoth out there and just
43 helping with logistics. The Park Service as well. I did
44 some work out at Anogok last fall and they let me stay
45 there and helped get me around with their wheelers and
46 all that.

47

48 It's really been an enjoyable and
49 interesting project to work on and whitefish, as you all
50 know, is something that is really a bread and butter

00110

1 resource in our region, but has received little attention
2 from scientists because it's not a commercial fish and
3 it's not a sport fish, it's really a subsistence fish, so
4 biologists know very little about them.

5
6 I didn't work in every village. We
7 worked in mostly Selawik, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak and
8 we're going to work in Noorvik soon and we just tried to
9 kind of get a sampling of the different areas. Hannah
10 Loon has helped through NANA and Ruthie Sampson at the
11 school district. We've been able to do a lot of work on
12 documenting the different species of whitefish and they
13 all have Inupiat names and some villages have more names
14 than scientists recognize and it really hasn't been easy
15 for me certainly as a non-Inupiat speaker, but even to
16 figure out all the differences between these fish and
17 where all these different fish go because they all have
18 different life patterns. We've been able to sort out a
19 lot of those things as well as document certain spawning
20 areas, for instance, in the Upper Kobuk for these
21 different fish. Certain times of year the people that
22 fish under the ice know exactly when these fish spawn.
23 Some spawn in November and some spawn in late fall. A
24 lot of that stuff are things that really aren't in the
25 scientific literature for our area, if for Alaska at all.

26
27 Randy Brown, the fellow that has worked
28 on the whitefish in the refuge as a biologist has told me
29 that there's no documented broad whitefish spawning areas
30 in all of Alaska, that science hasn't looked at all that,
31 and here we have people in the villages that know where
32 these areas are. So I think a lot of the work we do in
33 documenting the knowledge of our elders and our fishermen
34 can really be used to create new scientific questions,
35 which is what the refuge has done. It's done a great job
36 at taking what we find out from the elders in Selawik and
37 coming up with what questions does that generate that we
38 could explore as scientists.

39
40 So I think it's been a really interesting
41 project and has really made a contribution. Other
42 things, like at the Anogok fishery, it's a big
43 traditional whitefish fishery, as you know, and we've
44 been able to record some of the traditional rules for
45 that fishery about where you couldn't set nets at certain
46 times a year or which families used what area and it's
47 been really interesting.

48
49 That's all I'll say about that and I
50 really appreciate everyone's involvement because there's

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1 been a lot of people that have contributed to it.

2

3

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

4

5 MR. MOTO: When you talk about
6 subsistence, would it be possible to say we were
7 subsistence fishing if we were using rod and reel like we
8 do every year for trout in our village or would we have
9 to get a special license or what?

10

11 MR. GEORGETTE: You know, in our region,
12 you still need a license to rod and reel, but in Norton
13 Sound and other regions of Alaska there's been a trend to
14 saying that rod and reel gear is subsistence gear for
15 some fish in some areas and that's something we could
16 propose to the Board of Fish.

17

18 MR. MOTO: Three of the fish that we do
19 harvest with rod and reel are trout, grayling and ling
20 cod, you know, and we use primarily -- we try to use net,
21 but we can't find a small enough mesh for them. That
22 would still be subsistence, right?

23

24 MS. GEORGETTE: Charlie Greg I see showed
25 up here and he'd be a great person to work with on that,
26 working on proposals to change regulations to accommodate
27 things like that.

28

29 MR. MOTO: The last two years it came up
30 and some people said, hey, you guys are doing it
31 illegally.

32

33 MS. GEORGETTE: That's something that
34 needs to be addressed and I think working with Charlie
35 would be a good way to do that.

36

37 MR. MOTO: It's something we've been
38 doing for years.

39

40 MS. GEORGETTE: The second one I'll talk
41 about briefly is a cooperative project that Attamuk and I
42 just received funding for and we haven't done any work on
43 it yet, but it's on harvest assessment. As many of you
44 probably know, we have all these different harvest survey
45 projects we do. I work on a salmon one in the Kobuk
46 River villages where every year we try to go around to
47 every house and ask about how many salmon they caught.

48

49 I have another project I work on and
50 Attamuk works on this, too, and Park Service is involved

00112

1 and Kawerak and Norton Sound and it's on big game harvest
2 surveys, so caribou and moose and wolves. There's other
3 harvest survey projects we do, real detailed ones, and
4 Jim Magdanz is in Buckland right now doing one and he did
5 one last year in Shungnak.

6
7 Then there's migratory bird harvest
8 surveys, as you know, and there's marine mammal harvest
9 surveys and all sorts of things. I've often been
10 concerned that there should be a more holistic way to do
11 these instead of going to all these different projects
12 and all these different times of year to all these
13 different villages. This project is an effort to go to
14 each IRA Council over the course of the next two or three
15 years and talk with them about what kind of harvest
16 assessment and fisheries harvest assessment in particular
17 they would like. Would it be something the IRA wants to
18 run or who should do it and what kind of resources should
19 be on there. Should we have a big list of everything or
20 just a few key resources. We're just really interested
21 in input from the villages because this is something that
22 goes on every year and I felt like it would be good to
23 really take it to the villages and have real grassroots
24 input on what works for each village.

25
26 It might not be the same for every
27 village. Kivalina may want to have information on their
28 trout harvest every year, but another village might think
29 that's too much for what's going on there, so we're going
30 to put together a little presentation on harvest
31 assessment, the risks and the benefits, and what we're
32 doing now and what would villages like to see and try to
33 come up with kind of a long-term plan for that for our
34 region instead of a real piecemeal approach.

35
36 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you for that
39 information. Any questions from the Council today.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

46
47 MR. KLEIN: Okay, Mr. Chair, that
48 completes the first of two topics for the monitoring
49 program. I appreciate Susan coming up and telling us
50 about her two projects. This last one should go fairly

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1 quickly. I have another handout. This is revising the
2 process we use for issues and information needs that
3 really begins the entire monitoring program.

4

5 I have a two-page handout that have seven
6 slides of kind of the background and the change that
7 we're going to implement. By background, you're familiar
8 with the monitoring program and I just went over six of
9 the projects and Susan two, but really the foundation for
10 that is in ANILCA, where we should be conducting
11 cooperative research. The goal for the monitoring
12 program is to improve management of subsistence
13 fisheries. We're using a collaborative, inter-
14 disciplinary approach. We have anthropologists, we have
15 biologists, we have local elders working together to
16 conduct this research. We're building upon existing
17 expertise and involving local and Alaska Native
18 organizations in all of the monitoring projects.

19

20 From 2000-2004, these information needs
21 were primarily identified through the Councils where my
22 biologists and anthropologists sat down with you and we
23 identified what was important for your region. Well, you
24 mostly identified what was important for your region.
25 The program that we've been implementing we're using
26 those Council issues and information needs to get
27 projects for the monitoring program. Then we've been
28 generally reviewing those with you on an annual basis to
29 update them and add issues as appropriate. That's the
30 past. That's how we've been implementing the program.

31

32 Given the limited funding, we need to
33 really try to identify what are the highest priorities
34 within each of the regions and we're doing this in all
35 regions, not just your region or the northern region. By
36 example, for 2005, we're trying to develop the monitoring
37 plan for 2005 right now, which you'll review this coming
38 fall, but we received \$5 million in proposals and in 2005
39 we'll have about \$2 million available for a new start.
40 So the need is high out there and the money is limited,
41 so what we really want to do is make sure we're funding
42 the highest priorities. I've heard some things this
43 morning that those are probably high priorities. If we
44 have Ichthyophonus in chum salmon, that's probably
45 something we should be looking at.

46

47 So, on page two is the change that we're
48 proposing and that's for each of the regions. We want to
49 sit down with you and the Council certainly needs to be
50 participating in this process, but establish goals,

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1 objectives and information needs for each subsistence
2 fishery in your region and then do a gap analysis where
3 we're saying, all right, this is the information we need,
4 this is the information we're already obtaining and, when
5 you do that, you can identify what the gaps are. For
6 example, if you're already funding all the harvest
7 assessments that's needed, which we're not, but that
8 would not be a necessary information need that you would
9 need to address in the next year.

10

11 So once we complete that gap analysis, we
12 can prioritize the information needs. When we ask people
13 like Susan or Fred to put together proposals, they'll
14 have a prioritized list of what the Council and
15 scientists think are the highest priorities and we'll get
16 proposals targeted towards those highest priorities.

17

18 My staff are going to take the lead in
19 organizing workshops. The membership for these
20 workshops, I think it will probably have 10 to 15 people
21 and we believe two of those members should be councils,
22 but we also ought to have perhaps Charlie Lean or Susan
23 and other experts involved in these workshops and they'll
24 develop those goals and objectives and information needs,
25 do the gap analysis and prioritize what the information
26 needs are.

27

28 Once those workshops are done, and I
29 think it will probably take two workshops for each
30 reason, we'll have a draft plan that's reviewed by the
31 Council and then a final plan that identifies the
32 information needs that we collectively think are most
33 important for each of the regions.

34

35 The last slide there is kind of the
36 schedule for completion. For the Northern Region, which
37 includes your region, we're looking at starting this in
38 November, sometime in the fall or winter, where we'd have
39 the first workshop and then you would review it at your
40 winter meeting in March and we've have that completed the
41 following fall.

42

43 So that's the process we're going to try
44 to implement for all the regions and I think the results
45 of that will be we'll have local involvement, we'll have
46 scientists, we'll have anthropologists, biologists taking
47 a hard look at all of the regions so that we can ensure
48 we're funding the highest priority with the monitoring
49 program and using these dollars wisely and hopefully,
50 once we have those lists, we can go talk to people and

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1 where there isn't enough money say we need additional
2 funding because this is what we're not able to address.
3

4 My staff and I are really looking forward
5 to this process and we'll begin this fall with the
6 Northern Region. That concludes my presentation, Mr.
7 Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. That was a
10 good presentation. Any questions from the Council.
11 Walter.

12
13 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, not a
14 question. I just want to thank Steve and Susan for the
15 information, certainly something good to get in place and
16 that is the basics of studies like this. Certainly
17 something we will need down the road, especially in the
18 future development of this region. We could use that as
19 a basis for developing some of the programs that might
20 occur as well. So, with that, I want to thank you for a
21 very good presentation.

22
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch, did you want to
24 say something.

25
26 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I just want to thank you.
27 Susan, I didn't have a chance to thank you. We need to
28 establish what the villages want and prioritize their
29 interest. That's why we came up with this idea. Also,
30 we are hearing people say they want to check for
31 contaminants on our food levels of our Native food. I do
32 have a concern about contaminants in our subsistence
33 food, but I want the people to prioritize on the
34 subsistence food what they got interest in. They worry
35 about the fish but, overall, they worry about the
36 caribou. What I wanted to do is put everything all down
37 to plants.

38
39 I made a list of all possible what we
40 have here in our region down to plants. I just put it
41 together and I'm sending it to the village to see if
42 there's anything I forgot. I know I missed something
43 somewhere. I sent it out to a couple people I know
44 before I sent it out and they pretty much pinpointed a
45 few other things. I love working with Susan on these
46 projects, on these TEK's and stuff like that. We both
47 forgot about this proposal we put together until -- what,
48 last week we find out about it that it was funded? I was
49 surprised.

50

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1 I would thank her for how much work she's
2 doing. She's underestimating herself, that she's doing a
3 lot more for our region. Her work, our work, we all
4 share with our villages. Trouble is, most of the time
5 they stop at the IRA office or at the city office and the
6 villages don't get it. We need to go more out to the
7 public. Thanks.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Item No. 12 on your
10 list, Office of Subsistence Management. That's you,
11 Michelle.

12

13 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
14 have a list of reports that came out of the Office of
15 Subsistence Management and the majority of these reports
16 are informational only. Because the book was produced so
17 early, only two of the reports made it into the booklet
18 and I did hand out another item that says informational
19 items that were not listed in the Council booklet for you
20 to read.

21

22 Only one of these topics would need
23 action from the Council and that's the first topic, which
24 is the Council topics for our upcoming Board meeting.
25 The Board is going to meet in Anchorage May 18th through
26 the 20th and they'll be considering wildlife regulatory
27 proposals, like the sheep proposals we covered today.
28 But one of their agenda items at that meeting will be
29 items that the Regional Advisory Councils want conveyed
30 to the Board, so they're asking them to make a list of
31 topics that they want addressed under program
32 administration and operation policies, procedures, rules
33 and relationships.

34

35 This is an opportunity for the Council
36 actually if they have something that they want to bring
37 forward to the Board, we can make a list of items and
38 find out what is entailed in that item and carry it
39 forward. Actually, you would present those items to the
40 Board at the meeting when you attend. So, if the Council
41 has any concerns they want to bring forward, now would be
42 the time to address those.

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's your report?

45

46 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. On B, USFWS
49 Selawik Refuge. Lee Anne.

50

00117

1 MS. AYRES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
2 like to just touch on two topics from the refuge and the
3 first one is introducing some new staff to the Council.
4 I have Kevin Fox, who is filling the assistant manager
5 position. He's also going to be our law enforcement
6 officer on the refuge and working with our special use
7 permit holders.

8
9 Our other new addition is Lisa Fox, who
10 is filling the position of our outreach specialist.
11 Lisa's background is as a wildlife biologist and she's
12 been working with the Selawik IRA, Hannah Loon with NANA
13 and the school district on our science culture camp there
14 in Selawik and a number of other exciting projects, so
15 I'm real pleased to introduce them to you and I'm excited
16 about the thought of being able to support your work
17 here. I hope you'll find this new staff and old staff
18 valuable resources to your work.

19
20 Now I'd like Kevin to just touch on the
21 summary of our commercial operators from last fall.

22
23 MR. FOX: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and
24 Council Members. My name is Kevin Fox, as Lee Anne
25 pointed out. I know there's been quite a bit of interest
26 in commercial operators in our area, air taxis and
27 transporters that are taking out hunters that could
28 possibly be competing with subsistence users. I've put
29 together a little summary here. I've got enough copies
30 for everybody. I can pass that around.

31
32 In 2003, the number of transported
33 hunters equaled about 100 hunters in Selawik National
34 Wildlife Refuge. Now, I wanted to point out that those
35 100 hunters are just the ones that are being transported
36 by air taxis. That does not take into account other
37 hunters that are flying themselves in. So that's just
38 addressing that component of the hunting public.

39
40 There's a pretty good proportion of those
41 hunters that are actually Alaska residents that fly up to
42 Kotzebue and then get flown out into Selawik Refuge.
43 There are, I'd say, probably about 30% or so that are
44 non-residents that are flying out to moose hunt within
45 the refuge, but a lot of them are Alaska residents.

46
47 There were 44 moose taken by those 100
48 hunters, so their success rate is pretty high. There
49 were also 46 caribou taken. No grizzly bears last year
50 from those hunters. We had a total of four transporters

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1 that reported taking hunters out into the refuge. So
2 that's the summary.

3

4 The number of hunters transported is a
5 little bit lower than it was in 2001 and 2000 itself, so
6 it's actually decline a little bit, but the same amount
7 of hunters as there was last year. Let me pass these
8 around and see if anybody has any questions.

9

10 ATTAMUK: Attamuk here. I've got a
11 question. You said you were an enforcer. Are you going
12 to mainly worry about Selawik or are you going to worry
13 about all the Federal lands?

14

15 MR. FOX: Well, during the moose season,
16 during the hunting season in the fall, I'm primarily
17 going to be concentrating on Selawik itself, but I also
18 have authority for migratory waterfowl and marine
19 mammals, so I can cooperate with other Federal agencies
20 and do enforcement like on Park Service land if they need
21 assistance. I'm also a pilot, so I may be assisting them
22 too.

23

24 ATTAMUK: I've got a concern. We're
25 having problems here with our user conflict in the area,
26 but I've been talking to the few people that do fly and
27 how much they could cover in our region within a day with
28 the right plane. I'm scared of another incident that
29 will happen in our region, a young Native trying to
30 protect our hunting. Since you're going to be an
31 enforcer, that's why I asked this. With the right plane,
32 they could cover just about the whole unit in a day's
33 time. They might not be able to land inside everyone,
34 but if you fly and these transporters see you out there,
35 they will say -- you're coming in regularly and if they
36 see your plane with the right color and numbers in there,
37 you don't have to take the same route to fool them once
38 in a while. You know, what I'm trying to say is if they
39 know you're out there, maybe there wouldn't be so much
40 problems out there we're having.

41

42 MR. FOX: Yes, sir, that's a very good
43 point. We do cover a lot of area out there in the fall.
44 We had a couple other law enforcement officers assisting
45 us. I would really like to put out the request that if
46 you do hear of anything going on out there that we're not
47 aware of, especially wanton waste, that's really a big
48 concern of ours, and I've heard reports that there may be
49 trophy hunters out there just taking antlers or whatever.

50

00119

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Kevin, first of all, I want to thank you for the
5 presentation. Secondly, I think you're working for an
6 individual that's sitting next to you with some good
7 credibility. She's established that credibility and a
8 working relationship with leadership throughout this
9 region. I say that because I know she has.

10

11 I think some issues that are before us
12 are something that we all need to work on. A hundred
13 hunters into the Selawik Refuge, that's a lot. In
14 regards to wanton waste, I think that's something you
15 need to look at. Last fall, through a public radio
16 station, there was a message that if anybody wants the
17 meat, to come out to the airport and pick it up. That
18 operator was operating out into part of the refuge, I'm
19 sure. What the people were getting was green meat. So,
20 to me, that's wanton waste. I think it's something we
21 need to look at.

22

23 The same comments will apply to BLM
24 because I know some of these operators going to the BLM
25 lands just south of Selawik. I think it's something that
26 we need to concentrate and make sure that there's no
27 wanton waste. You're talking 44 moose taken. If you
28 multiply 44 by 900 pounds, that's 40,000 pounds of meat.
29 That's a lot of meat. Just imagine half of that probably
30 going to waste.

31

32 Last fall an individual was asked to see
33 if he could take that black bag and the individual said
34 no, I'm sorry, I can't take it. He said that's yours,
35 you came to get it, you take it home with you. That
36 individual happened to be a representative in the State
37 Legislature that was offered that green meat at the
38 airport. This individual went over to him and asked him,
39 is that your meat out there, and the guy wouldn't admit
40 it for a bit. He said, oh, yeah, that's my meat. He
41 said do you want it. He said, no, I ain't going to take
42 green meat. You see, these kind of things are occurring.
43 I think at some point in time we need to look at how we
44 concentrate and make sure that wanton waste doesn't
45 occur.

46

47 I think it's a message that we all need
48 to take seriously. If it means working more closer with
49 BLM. I'm disappointed that BLM don't have their staff in
50 here to appoint where they have their enforcement and

00120

1 they rely on the State and you folks. At some point, if
2 they're going to be an agency that's going to be the
3 landowners of this region, then they're going to have to
4 become responsible in making sure what you're trying to
5 do they do as well too as landowners and no only depend
6 on somebody else.

7

8 At some point in time I would like to sit
9 down to talk about some of the issues. I'm sure that if
10 we did call, we could talk about some other issues as
11 well, too. So, with that, I want to thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Lee Anne.

14

15 MS. AYRES: Thank you, Walter, for your
16 kind comments. I guess one thing I just wanted to add is
17 that we do realize that right now in the region that we
18 are short on law enforcement officers with fish and
19 wildlife protection. I guess I just want to say that I
20 think it's really important that we all coordinate the
21 resources we have, especially this coming fall. We're
22 certainly interested in working with the other agencies
23 that are having enforcement people out on the field and I
24 think we all kind of need to pull together and help and
25 do the best with what we have. I think working together
26 will be a key for getting more done.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

31

32 ATTAMUK: Yeah, what I'm going to say is
33 for all agencies. I know we need enforcers here in our
34 region and none of you could cover our lands for the
35 whole region, but I'm working on a plan that I'm ready to
36 approach you and say all land owners, BLM, Park Service,
37 Refuge, the Monument, KIC, NANA and Maniilaq, all put
38 money into the pie and we hire rangers. Our ranger could
39 cover all stockholders here and enforce. He's just
40 mainly to be seen and hopefully stop what's going on out
41 there. Everybody could e-mail me tomorrow. We need this
42 in our region. I would like to hear your comments of
43 what you think of it in the future if it could be worked
44 out. I would like to see contracts on things like this
45 happen. Thanks.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Lee Anne.

48

49 MS. AYRES: That's all we have. Thank
50 you.

00121

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you for the good
2 reporting.

3

4 MR. KRAMER: Can I say something real
5 quick? Pretty soon the geese are going to start to fly
6 and come back up this way. You're pretty new to this
7 area then Kevin?

8

9 MR. FOX: Yes, sir, I am.

10

11 MR. KRAMER: Okay. Has anybody debriefed
12 you a little bit of what Natives do in terms of their
13 hunting? It's a little bit different than even maybe
14 Nome. We do have to be strict on wanton waste, but then
15 again, as an enforcer, we also want to let you know not
16 be super legalistic on the little things, you know.
17 That's some of the things that we have problems with. I
18 brought that up yesterday with the Park Service and how
19 they got on my father's case and our case about him
20 hunting and their term for hunting was pointing and
21 looking with binoculars and they were just about to
22 indict us. So, as a new enforcer, I hope that maybe you
23 can learn a little bit of that or somebody can let you
24 know a little bit on how we do things up here.

25

26 MR. FOX: Yes, sir. I spent about 10
27 years over around Eagle working with a Native
28 organization over there, so I'm relatively familiar with
29 some of the techniques they use. Although I know it's
30 different over here and I'm looking forward to working
31 with folks and learning your way of life. It's really
32 interesting. This is a really nice area.

33

34 MR. KRAMER: All right, Kevin. Thank
35 you.

36

37 MR. FOX: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. It was a
40 good report. National Park Service.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Nothing, I guess.

45

46 MS. HOPKINS: Mr. Chair and Council
47 Members. I'm Julie Hopkins, superintendent of the
48 Parklands here. Just a quick comment on the transporter
49 issue. A couple years ago the previous superintendent
50 and staff started a commercial services plan and that's

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1 been kind of put on the shelf due to staff changes and
2 the previous superintendent being gone. However,
3 beginning next week, we'll be outlining a plan for
4 commercial services planning and beginning a public
5 planning process. I don't have any figures to present
6 right at this time, but we'll be working with Kotzebue
7 and all the villages and involving you in the plan.

8

9 Any questions on that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: Just a comment. Judy,
14 thank you for bringing that issue up. I think the
15 process in regards to the public process I'm referring to
16 is something we've been working on to become part of a
17 process, not to react to things. We've been reacting for
18 too long and it's time we become proactive in designing
19 of these things because it certainly has impact on the
20 daily lives of the residents of this region. So I'm glad
21 to hear the process will take you through a public
22 process to put together a good plan.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. HOPKINS: You're welcome. We realize
27 it's a big issue on a local level particularly right now.
28 The commercial services plan will encompass any
29 commercial activities on the public lands. Because the
30 transporter issue and the hunting guide area issue are
31 two concerns of the largest right now, those are the two
32 areas that we'll be focusing on. As we go out for public
33 planning, we'll be getting comments on any other areas of
34 interest that are related to that.

35

36 That's all we have then. Thank you very
37 much.

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. A good
40 report. BLM.

41

42 MS. COLE: Jeanie Cole of Bureau of Land
43 Management. I have a short report I'm going to give and
44 then Randy is going to go over a summary of the hunting
45 guide information.

46

47 The first handout I gave you is two pages
48 and that's what I'm going to be going over first. The
49 BLM is getting ready to start our new land use plan. It
50 will cover 13 million acres of public land in

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1 northwestern Alaska. It's going to be called the Kobuk-
2 Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan and it will
3 provide a comprehensive framework for managing and
4 allocating uses of BLM land and resources.

5
6 Our current plan for this area is about
7 23 years old. It was completed in 1983. We feel it's
8 necessary to do a new plan to address new issues that
9 have evolved since the MFP was approved, like the user
10 conflict issues and to address issues that are not
11 adequately addressed in the current plan. The new plan
12 would guide management of BLM lands for about 10 to 15
13 years and it will take about three years to complete the
14 plan. We're just starting the process.

15
16 There's three major issues that we want
17 to address in the plan. One is management of people's
18 uses and activities and that would include land disposal,
19 recreation, mining, reindeer grazing. Just any way that
20 people use the public lands.

21
22 The second would be protecting areas with
23 critical or unique values such as wild and scenic rivers
24 or a special designation we have is called areas of
25 critical environmental concern.

26
27 The third is management of natural
28 resources within the planning area such as fish,
29 wildlife, vegetation, fire management, soil, water and
30 air.

31
32 The planning process will follow the same
33 procedure as when you do an Environmental Impact
34 Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act and
35 the first step in planning is to conduct public scoping
36 meetings where you have the public come in and let the
37 BLM know what their concerns are and what the issues they
38 think the plan needs to address are. So that's the first
39 step that we're just getting ready to start.

40
41 We have public meetings scheduled in
42 Anchorage, Fairbanks, Shaktoolik, Nome, Koyuk, Kiana,
43 Kivalina, Kotzebue and Buckland. I'm hoping members of
44 the RAC will show up to those public meetings when
45 they're in their communities and express your concerns.
46 I'm hoping that this plan will be an opportunity for BLM
47 to try to address some of the concerns that this Council
48 has expressed, particularly the user conflict issue.

49
50 The second page is just a map of the

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1 planning area. The red outline on there is the outside
2 boundary and the plan will include all BLM lands within
3 that red line.

4

5 That's all I have to present unless
6 anyone has any questions.

7

8 MR. SWAN: I have a question. Are these
9 all for 2004?

10

11 MS. MEYERS: Yes. The plan itself we'll
12 be writing it 2004, 5 and 6, but the public meetings are
13 all coming up in March of this year.

14

15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

16

17 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Randy, who is
18 taking the lead on these public hearings.

19

20 MS. MEYERS: Actually, Jeanie is. She's
21 the planning team lead. Who is actually going to give
22 the presentation will be Bob Schneider and then Jeanie
23 and I and a few other people from the planning team will
24 be along for those public meetings.

25

26 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. I think it's
27 good to see that you're going through a process of
28 developing a plan for BLM lands. If I may suggest to
29 you, we've got people in some of the communities that
30 certainly would probably have an interest in listening to
31 presentations and be part of a discussion, but because of
32 the fact that some of these elderly folks do not speak
33 the English language nor understand the English language
34 nor write, I would suggest maybe you hire a consultant
35 who can fluently speak the Inupiat language to be part of
36 that team. I say hire a consultant because any time an
37 agency does something to do things, they hire consultants
38 anyway, so we shouldn't be treated no different than how
39 you do business in a real business world.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MS. COLE: Yes, we are planning on hiring
44 translators to attend the meetings and help us out in
45 that respect.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions.

48

49 MS. MEYERS: One thing I thought of with
50 respect to the planning process when Attamuk was talking

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1 about the list, the priorities that you were developing
2 and that you were having the villages review, I figured
3 something like that might come in useful to someone to
4 have it when they come to a public meeting just to sort
5 of prompt them for concerns that people might have that
6 we could include in the plan.

7

8 Switching gears a little bit, the second
9 item that we handed out is a one page and it just gives
10 you a quick little summary of the final figures for the
11 fall hunting season in the Squirrel River and at the base
12 of the Baldwin Peninsula. Tom Sparks is the new BLM
13 Natural Resource Program Manager down in Nome, so he now
14 has the primary responsibility for administering our
15 special recreation permits in the Nome area and also in
16 the Kotzebue area. I will still be working in that
17 program and be in the field talking to the permittee
18 holders, but he is going to be doing more of the primary,
19 working with the case files and that kind of thing.

20

21 He actually looked at some of their
22 annual reports and compiled some of these figures and I
23 had conversations with the permit holders, the guides and
24 their assistant guides and their hunters in the field
25 this fall and I also called some people up on the phone
26 that I didn't talk to in the field, so this is kind of
27 distilling down that information into just a few things,
28 a few figures.

29

30 So there are currently 14 valid Special
31 Recreation Permits within the Nome and Kotzebue areas.
32 Of those 14, there are nine up here in the NANA region.
33 Of those nine, there are seven that are currently active.
34 The first set you can see, one through nine, the people
35 who actually have the permits and then the last paragraph
36 just gives you brief information of how many clients they
37 had and the game they took.

38

39 I wanted to maybe say a few words on Mike
40 Vanning in the Buckland area because there were people
41 that were concerned about the level of activity there.
42 He did have 28 clients and he said when I talked to him
43 in early October of '03 last year and he said he had been
44 a little in over his head, that that was too many people
45 to ride herd on and he wanted to cut back this coming
46 year and he wanted to focus more on caribou hunters
47 rather than moose hunters, so his idea was still to take
48 out a few moose hunters but he wanted to stay later into
49 the season, later into October, so that he could get more
50 of the caribou migration coming down and ease up on the

00126

1 moose. He did say that he was seeing a number of moose
2 and seeing cows with twin calves and et cetera. But I
3 thought that he was being realistic. This was his second
4 year of operation and he really scaled up this year from
5 his first year and I think he's going to go back down in
6 the number of people that he's going to bring in.

7

8 Does anybody have any questions about
9 what's here?

10

11 ATTAMUK: You mentioned that Mike is
12 going to be here until October. They'll be in rut and if
13 he's there, he's just going to go for mainly probably
14 food. I'd like to see him eat them. What kind of face
15 he'll have when he's trying to chew on them because you
16 know by that time our bulls are in rut. Did he explain
17 he was going to go for the meat or trophy hunts?

18

19 MS. MEYERS: I'm sure it's a blend of
20 both, but that's a good point. I did want to say
21 something, but first I should let Calvin speak.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin's got his hand
24 up.

25

26 MR. MOTO: Yes, I was wondering do you
27 monitor with the State on how many moose are taken in our
28 region? This past year we were told that we took our
29 quota of moose and nobody in our village hunted moose and
30 then all of a sudden they told us that we got our quota
31 of moose. Is that independent or do you have a joint
32 work with the State?

33

34 MS. MEYERS: Our Special Recreation
35 Permit guides are licensed by the State to operate their
36 guide camps and so we expect them to abide by all of the
37 pertinent State regulations. So BLM doesn't have
38 jurisdiction there. What we would have authority to
39 enforce would be we do have a ranger who came out last
40 year and spent -- actually, he spent several days here,
41 but we were only able to fly one day. But he would look
42 for waste and things as small as litter in the camps, but
43 we would depend on the State to enforce the State game
44 regs.

45

46 And I did want to say because it has come
47 up in other discussions that right now BLM has
48 approximately 70 million acres in the northern part of
49 Alaska that we manage and we have two rangers for that
50 entire area. We, at one point, had four on the staff and

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1 through various reasons we're down to two.

2

3

4 MR. MOTO: The reason I brought that up
5 is a lot of people are implying the fact that BLM is
6 warning people about sport hunters and subsistence
7 hunters because a lot of the moose hunt has been done by
8 sportsmen and even on BLM and State lands and it's kind
9 of frustrating because a lot of times we wait until it
10 cools off a little bit before we go out and get our
11 moose, you know. By the time it got cool enough to go
12 out and get the moose, we couldn't get any. This is some
13 of the frustration that we have in our village because a
14 lot of times we don't have enough data on why it was
15 stopped. Maybe if you would explain more to our
16 villages, you know, of why these things are stopping, it
17 would look more favorable. A lot of times they say BLM
18 is more favorable to sportsmen. I know that's a
19 misnomer, but that's the perception they get.

19

20

21 MS. MEYERS: I know the Fish and Game
22 Advisory Committees, their recent meetings, that's where
23 some of the more recent moose regulations were crafted.
24 So, you know, Fish and Game, then northern Norton Sound
25 and southern Norton Sound and the Upper and Lower Kobuk.
26 All those committees met and worked on those moose regs,
27 so they were getting some public input.

27

28

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

29

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Randy, for the
32 information. Maybe you can give me a little more insight
33 in regards to -- where somebody from the Park Service and
34 regional office probably can do that. In regards to
35 different lands, I'm talking about BLM lands, Fish and
36 Wildlife lands, isn't there a Federal law that provides
37 for a report before any permits issued? I'm talking
38 about the reports in regards to resources of different
39 species within different land area. Is there such a
40 report that you have in place that you can provide us
41 with? I certainly would be interested in acquiring a
42 report that says based on the studies, this is what we
43 have within BLM lands within this certain area. I'm
44 going to ask this same question to Fish and Wildlife. I
45 should have raised that, but I certainly would be
46 interested in something like that if you do have one in
47 place.

47

48

49 MS. MEYERS: One thing that I think of is
50 before -- let's say if we had a person approach us who
51 wanted to guide in the Squirrel River and had not done so

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1 before and wanted a permit, then we would go through an
2 environmental assessment process with him. He would put
3 in an application and we would look at the situation and
4 write a report, perhaps like you're thinking about, where
5 we would lay it out, looking at what the current game
6 situation is. If there would be an expected impact on
7 wildlife populations or not by adding this additional
8 hunter and his clients.

9

10 So, if you wanted to see a copy of any
11 environmental assessments that we had done in the past
12 just to get an idea of what they look like and the
13 information that was in there, we could certainly provide
14 you with those.

15

16 MR. SAMPSON: Follow-up, Mr. Chairman.
17 Is that what they call it, an environmental assessment
18 prior to any permits issued to operators within Federal
19 lands? Is that what they call it? At some point I'd be
20 interested in getting a copy of that and I'll ask Fish
21 and Wildlife for the same report as well, too.

22

23 MS. MEYERS: Jeanie might have something
24 to add to what I said.

25

26 MS. COLE: Generally, in the past, we
27 have done environmental assessments on each individual
28 guide and they're usually for a five-year period because
29 we give a five-year permit. I don't know if you'd want
30 to see some of the past environmental assessments, but
31 when we do new ones, if you want to be on a mailing list,
32 we could mail them to you as we get new applications and
33 are considering them. That's an opportunity there.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: I guess maybe I'm not
36 making myself clear here. Maybe I'm misleading you with
37 the wrong question. I'm not interested in the
38 environmental impacts on what the operators have or would
39 have. What I'm referring to, if I remember, there's a
40 Federal law that would require a land manager to do
41 assessment of resources within their lands prior to
42 giving a permit.

43

44 MS. COLE: The National Environmental
45 Policy Act requires any action the Federal government
46 takes or funds we're required to make an assessment of
47 the impacts and that's the Environmental Assessment or
48 Environmental Impact Statement. I'm not sure if that's
49 what you're referring to or not.

50

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1 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe off record we could
2 sit down and talk and get this straightened out. I
3 certainly would be interested in something like that.

4
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it? Good
6 report. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

7
8 MS. GEORGETTE: Mr. Chair, we don't have
9 a formal report. We can pass at this time.

10
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

12
13 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like
14 to say that even though this is a Federal hearing, as a
15 representative to the Department of Fish and Game, maybe
16 you might want to relay a message to the Game Board that
17 certainly it's been a disappointing time and effort to
18 have the State Game Board not honoring a request to hold
19 a Game Board meeting here in Kotzebue when they have
20 allowed Game Board meetings in other sections of the
21 state. Twice the Game Board meetings were cancelled here
22 in Kotzebue and it's disappointing to see that. Now they
23 hold their Game Board meetings in Fairbanks and
24 Anchorage. That's an additional cost to some of the
25 people that would like to be part of the process in
26 public hearings and whatnot. The State is always talking
27 about creating an opportunity for the public, but yet
28 they take away that opportunity for the public when they
29 cancel the meetings in regional centers like that. So
30 you might want to relay that message to whomever makes
31 the decisions on Game Board meetings.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MS. GEORGETTE: I'll certainly do that.
36 It's been a disappointment to many of us and I appreciate
37 your comment, Walter.

38
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Other
40 reports.

41
42 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, there was a
43 report that came up after the book was printed and after
44 we've received notice that we were going to have reports
45 to do and Steve Klein will be giving an update on the
46 Safari Club litigation, so I'm going to ask Steve to come
47 up at this time.

48
49 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chairman and Council
50 Members. Under Office of Subsistence Management, there

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1 was several briefings listed for information only, but we
2 do have one that I think I need to bring to your
3 attention and that's the Safari Club litigation.

4

5 The Safari Club is an international
6 outdoor group that promotes sport fishing and hunting.
7 They had sued the Federal government five years ago and
8 in January of this year Judge Holland finally ruled on
9 the case after five years. I just wanted to cover the
10 two main components of that lawsuit and what it means to
11 you as a Council.

12

13 There was really two major portions of
14 the lawsuit. One, they challenged our customary and
15 traditional use determinations and their claim was that
16 the Board gives too much deference to the Councils and
17 that our process for making customary and traditional use
18 determinations was flawed. Fortunately, the judge did
19 not find that the plaintiff showed injury and he
20 dismissed all the claims dealing with customary and
21 traditional use determination. So what we've been doing
22 for the past 12 years has been all right.

23

24 The second part of that lawsuit
25 challenged the composition of the Regional Advisory
26 Councils and their claim was that the Councils are not
27 fairly balanced as required by FACA, the Federal Advisory
28 Committee Act. Of course, we took steps two years ago
29 that were implemented last year, the 70/30 rule, where
30 70% of the seats will be dedicated to subsistence users
31 and 30% to sport and commercial. What the judge found is
32 that we violated the Administrative Procedures Act when
33 we implemented that 70/30 rule and basically there's a
34 process where you do a proposed rule, it goes out for
35 public comment before it becomes a final rule. That
36 70/30 process, although we have review by the Councils,
37 we didn't follow the Administrative Procedures Act to the
38 T.

39

40 So what does this mean. We're looking at
41 nominations right now and for the current nominations
42 that will be going before the Board this fall, we cannot
43 use that 70/30 policy. That would be violating the
44 judge's order. But we will still be looking at
45 representing all user groups, so we will be looking at
46 sport and commercial users as part of the -- in addition
47 to subsistence users when the nominations are reviewed,
48 but we cannot formally implement that 70/30 process.

49

50 And the judge ordered us to initiate a

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1 rule-making process so that we could implement some
2 mechanism that gets subsistence and commercial users
3 represented on the Councils. That proposed rule has
4 already been drafted. It's back in Washington. In fact,
5 Drue Pearce has it right now and she's walking it
6 through. What we're hoping is that it will go through
7 Washington, we can publish the proposed rule this spring
8 and there will be a public comment period. That comment
9 period will probably occur during spring/summer, perhaps
10 early fall, and then a final rule will be published later
11 in the fall.

12

13 What it does mean is that the Council is
14 not going to meet again before the rule goes final, so
15 that's why I wanted to bring this to your attention, that
16 you can comment on the 70/30 rule. That is basically the
17 proposed rule you saw last year. The 70/30 rule is
18 recorded in the proposed rule. If you have comments on
19 that, we can take those now. There will be something for
20 you to review in a couple months. Not as a complete
21 Council, but we can facilitate a teleconference or to get
22 you all together or you could comment individually once
23 that is available. If you had comments now, I'd gladly
24 take those back.

25

26 Like I say, sometime in a couple months
27 you'll have a proposed rule to review. Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I kept
32 looking for that section that you're referring to in
33 regards to the litigation issue. Where is that in the
34 tab that you're referring to?

35

36 MR. KLEIN: It should be an extra sheet.
37 It was not in your book. It was called Court rules on
38 the Safari Club legal challenge.

39

40 MR. SAMPSON: The question I have is -- I
41 know you've already covered it. Now, will the Federal
42 Board be hearing and listening to comments in regards to
43 the issue, will they take public comments at that point
44 in time or what?

45

46 MR. KLEIN: Yes, there will be a public
47 comment period that will go to the Board as well as the
48 secretaries of interior and agriculture. So there will
49 be a comment period and those comments will go to the
50 Board, yes.

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1 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else from the
4 Council.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Other
9 business.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, 14, establish
14 time and place for next meeting.

15

16 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, the very last
17 page in your Council booklet does have the fall 2004
18 meeting window and we had selected, it looks like,
19 October 6 and 7 here in Kotzebue and we just need to
20 reconfirm that or see if the Council would like to change
21 the date. On the back side of that page there is also
22 the winter meeting window and we need to select dates for
23 next winter so we can cover the fall meeting first and
24 see if everybody is still fine with those dates. See if
25 the Council is still fine with that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: All right with the
28 Council for the next meeting?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It must be.

33

34 MS. CHIVERS: It's the very last page in
35 the book.

36

37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: What is the wish of the
38 Council for next meeting October 6th and 7th?

39

40 ATTAMUK: October 6th.

41

42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: October 6th and 7th?

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: What's the purpose of two
45 days?

46

47 MS. CHIVERS: What was the question?

48

49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Generally, Walter, we
50 discussed this before, just in case there's some other

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1 business, we have another day that could happen than just
2 one day. That's correct?

3

4 MS. CHIVERS: Yes. So you want to keep
5 those dates then?

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Do you want an action
8 on it, motion on it?

9

10 MS. CHIVERS: It doesn't have to be in
11 the form of a motion. I just need to make sure the
12 Council is fine with that date.

13

14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It's all right with the
15 Council for October 6 and probably 7?

16

17 ATTAMUK: I don't have a problem with the
18 date.

19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We'll see
21 everybody on October 6th in Kotzebue.

22

23 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Before we go, I
26 certainly want to thank the Council Members here for
27 participating in this meeting. I know it was a long day
28 for all of you. But you guys did accomplish lots. I
29 want to thank the staff from all agencies that was here
30 and worked so hard for all these proposals. Again, I
31 thank all of you.

32

33 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, we still do need
34 to take care of the winter calendar on the back side of
35 that page as I mentioned. We need to select a date for
36 our next, not this fall's meeting, but the winter
37 meeting. Last week Seward Peninsula met and they've
38 already selected their winter dates as February 24th and
39 25th in Nome. So, if you look on the very last page on
40 the back side, we need to select a date within that
41 meeting window for our window meeting.

42

43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Can we select that
44 during our next meeting because we don't know what our
45 schedule is going to be for those months?

46

47 MS. CHIVERS: That's up to the Council.
48 If that's your wish. Although I think it would be to
49 your benefit if you wanted to select dates early.
50 Otherwise the calendar gets filled up relatively quick

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1 and we need to make sure that we don't have any conflicts
2 with other regions where the team members travel to other
3 regions. So, if you guys want to set a tentative date,
4 we can do that and we can always change it if we need to,
5 but it would be best to go ahead and try to set
6 something. But it's up to the Council. If you guys want
7 to wait until the next meeting, that's fine, too.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, I'd like to wait
10 until our next meeting to decide because it's just so far
11 away. I think the rest of these guys are ready to walk
12 out the door right in the middle of the meeting.

13

14 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it. I know
17 we've been waiting for this. Do I hear adjournment.

18

19 MR. MOTO: Move to adjourn.

20

21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Moved by Cal. The
22 meeting is adjourned at exactly 25 to 5:00, 5:40. Thanks
23 for coming everybody and a safe trip home.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 134 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Nathaniel Hile on the 25th day of February 2004, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Kotzebue, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of March 2004.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04 _